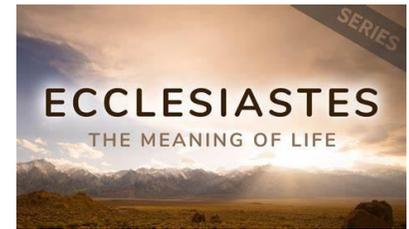


Questions Through Ecclesiastes

Lesson 13: What does it mean that there is a time for war and a time for peace?

Ecclesiastes 3:8b



- * In the final couplet, Solomon states that there is “*a time for war and a time for peace.*” In the original language, the term for “_____” refers to “the waging of armed conflict against an enemy.”
- * “_____” (shalom) is the state of “harmonious relations and freedom from disputes, especially during the absence of war.”
- * In general, “*a time for war and a time for peace*” could represent the spectrum of _____ concerns and sociopolitical conditions humans confront in life.
- * In ancient times, people did not wage war during _____ season. Soldiers went to battle only at specific times of year (2 Sam. 11:1).
- * While war can never be classified as _____, Scripture reveals that God has an appointed purpose for it (Ps. 144:1; 2 Sam. 22:35). In the Old Testament, the Lord at times commanded His people to go to war to bring _____ on sinful nations (Deut 20:1–4; Num 31:7; Jos. 8:1, 10:40; Isa. 13:3–4).
- * War is part of the _____ of living in a fallen world (Exo. 17:16; 2 Sam. 3:1; 2 Sam. 3:1). Humans are flawed and sinful (Rom. 3:10–18), and war results from _____ and _____ (James 4:1–2; Ps. 140:1–2; Prov. 10:12; 29:22).
- * “A time for war” is also associated with _____ (Matt. 24:3–14). On this earth, perfect peace is only found in _____ and preserved through having a close relationship with Him (Phil. 4:6–7).
- * “A time for peace” is the opportunity and _____ of every believer in all circumstances (Rom. 5:1–5; John 16:33; Phil. 4:11–13), life in the _____ offers righteousness, joy, and peace (Rom. 14:17–19; 8:6; Gal. 5:22), is the _____ of those who love and obey God’s Word (Ps. 119:165–167; Phil. 4:8–9).
- * Jesus is the _____ of Peace (Isa. 9:6), and, ultimately, it is His will that wars cease to exist on earth (Ps. 46:9; Isa. 2:4; Micah 4:3).
- * A future “time for peace” is promised in the _____ when God Himself will make His home among His people (Rev. 21:1–4; 22:3–5, Isa. 11:6–9).
- * The fact that there is “*a time for war and a time for peace*” reminds us that we are utterly _____ on God to make it through the ever-changing, often turbulent seasons of this life.