

SEASONS – GOD’S PLAN

Bible study presentation

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Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 (NET)

- For everything there is an appointed time and an appropriate time for every activity on earth:
 - ² A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot what was planted;
 - ³ A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
 - ⁴ A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

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- ⁵ A time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
- ⁶ A time to search, and a time to give something up as lost; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
- ⁷ A time to rip, and a time to sew; a time to keep silent, and a time to speak.
- ⁸ A time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

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- ⁹ What benefit can a worker gain from his toil?
¹⁰ I have observed the burden that God has given to people to keep them occupied.
¹¹ God has made everything fit beautifully in its appropriate time, but he has also placed ignorance in the human heart so that people cannot discover what God has ordained, from the beginning to the end of their lives.

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- ¹² I have concluded that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to enjoy themselves as long as they live,
¹³ and also that everyone should eat and drink, and find enjoyment in all his toil,
for these things are a gift from God.
- ¹⁴ I also know that whatever God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it, and nothing taken away from it. God has made it this way, so that men will fear him.
¹⁵ Whatever exists now has already been, and whatever will be has already been;

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- The chapter commences by informing us that “Everything has its own time, and there is a specific time for every activity under heaven:” (*God’s Word Translation*) This is described by commentators as the thesis statement of the chapter. This informs us that no matter what happens around us or with us, time is ascribed to it all.

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Ellicott’s Commentary for English

Readers

- **To everything**) לַכֹּל lak·kōl)

Preposition-1, Article | Noun - masculine singular

Strong's Hebrew 3605: The whole, all, any, every

there is a season,) זֶמַן zə·mān)

Noun - masculine singular

Strong's Hebrew 2165: An appointed occasion

- **and a time**) וְעַתָּה wə·‘êṭ)

Conjunctive waw | Noun - common singular

Strong's Hebrew 6256: Time, now, when

for every) לְכָל־lə·kāl)

Preposition-1 | Noun - masculine singular construct

Strong's Hebrew 3605: The whole, all, any, every

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- **Purpose**) רָצוֹן hê·pēs)

Noun - masculine singular

Strong's Hebrew 2656: Pleasure, desire, a valuable thing, a matter

- **under**) תַּחַת ta·ḥat)

Preposition

Strong's Hebrew 8478: The bottom, below, in lieu of

- **heaven:**) : הַשָּׁמַיִם haš·šā·mā·yim)

Article | Noun - masculine plural

Strong's Hebrew 8064: Heaven, sky

Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers

- (1) **A season.**--The word is only found in later Hebrew (Nehemiah 2:6; Esther 9:27; Esther 9:31), and in the Chaldee of Daniel and Ezra.

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- **Purpose.**--The use of the word here and in Ecclesiastes 3:17; Ecclesiastes 5:8; Ecclesiastes 8:6, in the general sense of "a matter," belongs to later Hebrew. The primary meaning of the word is "pleasure" or "desire," and it is so used in this book (Ecclesiastes 5:4; Ecclesiastes 12:1; Ecclesiastes 12:10).
- To every *thing there is* a {a} season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
- (a) He speaks of this diversity of time for two causes first to declare that there is nothing in this world perpetual: next to teach us not to be grieved, if we have not all things at once according to our desires, neither enjoy them so long as we would wish. (**Geneva Study Bible**)

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- **The Four Seasons:**

- Spring –
- Summer -
- Autumn -
- Winter -

- **The 7 Ages of Man (Richard J Needham)**

- Spills of life –
- Drills of life -
- Thrills of Life -
- Bills of Life -
- Ills of Life -
- Pills of Life -
- Wills of Life -

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- Each season carries a particular characteristic that differentiates it from the next.
- The definitive factor that affects all is the Sun. We are well aware of the issues with global warming. The ozone layer being depleted due to harmful emissions circulating in the atmosphere. This causes the Sun to have a greater impact on our earth than it was meant to have.
- We find that our weather and time zones are affected by the external impact of the Sun.
- Richard Needham in his attempt to categorize to stages or has he puts it ‘Ages’ came up with seven to describe our journey through life.
- He begins at the beginning with the ‘spills’ which describes a child and the many challenges one has as an infant. He ends with the ‘wills’ which describes the end of life or ending where one prepares for a departure from life.
- There are similarities between what is Solomon looks at in Ecclesiastes 3 and Richard Needham ‘Ages of Man/Life’.

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- It’s difficult for us as human beings to fully grasp all of God’s plan (Romans 8:28). This is where the pain registers in our experiences in our walk with God when we go through our seasons.
- God hears us without a doubt. His word says our prayers are stored in “*golden bowls*” Revelations 5:8. However his response though sometimes hard to fathom is His way to get us to focus on Him and not on our situations.
- Paul wrote, “*And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*”