

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

Bible Study - June 8, 2023

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Title: 'What Time is it in Your Life?'

Scripture Reference: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

I. Introduction

A. Solomon tells us that God has appointed a time for everything. As we go through life, we experience many things and recognizing that there are seasons in our life, will let us know what time (i.e., where we are) both spiritually and emotionally.

B. We are living in a physical body on a spiritual journey and each day that God gives us, is another opportunity to experience spiritual growth. This fact will prayerfully bring clarity to where we are on this journey of life, and you will recognize what time it is in your life.

C. Life is full of changes and challenges and these two truths will allow us to grow.

D. Life transitions are important changes that occur throughout the life cycle from birth to death. Although some transitions come easy, others come at us like an angry tidal wave, leaving devastation in its path.

E. The seasons of life (i.e., transitions) can be as simple as leaving your comfortable bed to begin a new day. Transitions can also be as painful as having to learn to face life alone after losing a lifetime mate.

F. We can allow the seasons of change to transform us, or we can

resist them. I believe that having an awareness of the season you are in (in your life), will enable you to continue to trust the Lord, who will see you through and give you His peace in the journey.

G. In the earliest stages of life, we are probably not consciously aware of the changes that are occurring and the transitions we are making.

H. As we continue our development, we become more conscious of the changes (i.e., an awareness of what time it is in our lives).

II. Exposition [Part I] - Everything Has its Time (Vv 1-8)

A. There is a rhythm of opposite seasons recorded in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. Without opposites, how do we know the reality of any experience?

B. For example, how would we know darkness without light? How would you (personally) know what it feels like to be well if you have never been sick? Ecclesiastes 3:1 says - "To every thing there is a season, ..."

C. The four seasons of the year, established by God and on the certainty of His Word, their timeframes are generally predictable. What is absolutely certain is that there will be the seasons of the year. "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." (Genesis 8:22).

D. The Word of God, man's observations and recordings of weather patterns have established for us certain timeframes of the year when winter, spring, summer, and fall will begin and end.

E. However, none of us can predict our seasons of weeping and

laughter or our season of death. Personal crisis, such as divorce or loss of a job, can suddenly move any one of us into an unexpected change (or season) in our life.

F. Never-the-less, Solomon says - there is "a time to every purpose under the heavens." (Eccl. 3:1b).

G. Solomon followed his general statement with a poem of 14 opposites, each of which happens in its time.

H. The fact that Solomon used polar opposites in a multiple of seven and he began his list with birth and death, is definitely significant. The number seven suggests the idea of completeness and the use of polar opposites, a well-known poetical device called **merism** - suggests totality (cf. Psalm 139:2-3).

I. Solomon's intent was to affirm that all of a person's activities, both constructive and destructive, and all of his responses to people, objects, and events happen in their times.

III. Exposition [Part II] - (Vv 1-8 Continued)

A. Verses 2-3. The list begins with a reference to the beginning and the end of a person's life; two events over which we really have no control.

B. Vs 2 (Continued) - Solomon continued by referring to the deliberate acts of one who begins and ends vegetable life - "a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;"

C. Vs 3 - Giving and taking life are God's prerogatives (Deut. 32:39). God has, however, given man corporate responsibility to carry out capital punishment in the case of murder (Gen. 9:6; Heb. 9:27).

D. Vs 4 - From the concept of death and destruction, Solomon

wrote of the human responses to those events. People experience weeping and mourning, and these opposites, laughing and dancing, are two activities by which joy is expressed.

Point: Though everything is under God's control, the accomplishment of His purpose includes man's efforts.

E. Vs 5a - "A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;" In order to clear land for planting or in order to build, the clearing of the land was necessary.

F. Solomon then spoke of the display of affection (V 5b). "a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;" This probably refers to a man and woman,

G. He then wrote about searching for a thing or giving it up as lost and about keeping a thing or throwing it away (Vs 6).

Note: All the opposites in Verses 5-6 seem to involve man's interest in things or affection for people.

H. Vs 7 - "A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;" To tear one's clothes was done as a sign of bereavement (cf. Gen. 37:29), and sew them up again when the period of mourning was over.

I. Vs 8 - Solomon cleared his list of opposites by referring to life's two basic emotions, love and hate, and the most hostile expression of hate, War, and its opposite, peace.

Comment: It is very interesting that the list closes somewhat as it began, with a set of opposites (war and peace).

"What Time is it in Your Life?"

I is once again interactive time. Please fill in the blank spaces. Each passage of Scripture has been taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

"Thou knowest my _____ and mine _____, thou _____ my thought afar off. Thou _____ my path and my lying down, and art _____ with all my ways. For there is not a word in my _____, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it _____."

[Psalm 139:2-4]

"See now that I, even I, and he, and there is no god with me: I _____, and I make _____; I _____, and I _____: neither is there _____ that can _____ out of my hand."

[Deuteronomy 32:39]

"The wicked are _____, and are not: but the house of the _____ shall stand."

[Proverbs 12:7]

"There is a way which _____ right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

[Proverbs 14:12]

"For I know the _____ that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of _____, and not of _____, to give you an _____ end."

[Jeremiah 29:11]

Thank you for being a part of another Bible Study session and my prayer is that you have been blessed.

Again - What Time is it in Your Life?

Earnestly Contending for the Faith,

Pastor Austin