

[Ec 3:1](#) There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

[2](#) a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,

[3](#) a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,

[4](#) a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,

[5](#) a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,

[6](#) a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,

[7](#) a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be 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.

[9](#) What do workers gain from their toil?

[10](#) I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race.

[11](#) He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

[12](#) I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live.

[13](#) That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

[14](#) I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear him.

[15](#) Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account.

[Ec 3:1](#) For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

[2](#) a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is 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;

[5](#) a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

[6](#) a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

[7](#) a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

[8](#) a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

[9](#) What gain has the worker from his toil?

[10](#) I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with.

[11](#) He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

[12](#) I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live;

[13](#) also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

[14](#) I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him.

[15](#) That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.

[16](#) And I saw something else under the sun: in the place of judgment—wickedness was there, in the place of justice—wickedness was there. [16](#) Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness.

[17](#) I said to myself, ‘God will bring into judgment both the righteous and the wicked, for there will be a time for every activity, a time to judge every deed.’ [17](#) I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work.

[18](#) I also said to myself, ‘As for humans, God tests them so that they may see that they are like the animals.’ [18](#) I said in my heart with regard to the children of man that God is testing them that they may see that they themselves are but beasts.

[19](#) Surely the fate of human beings is like that of the animals; the same fate awaits them both: as one dies, so dies the other. All have the same breath; humans have no advantage over animals. Everything is meaningless. [19](#) For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity.

[20](#) All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return. [20](#) All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return.

[21](#) Who knows if the human spirit rises upward and if the spirit of the animal goes down into the earth?’ [21](#) Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into the earth?

[22](#) So I saw that there is nothing better for a person than to enjoy their work, because that is their lot. For who can bring them to see what will happen after them? [22](#) So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot. Who can bring him to see what will be after him?