

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Our relationship to time: interplay of personal acts & divine providence.
2. 2 views: hedonist & man who fears God - eternal perspective Ecc 3:1-11

**1st: Every Event Is Appointed By Our Sovereign God - v1**

1. The vocab is all-encompassing: *everythg, every event - under heaven*
2. The timing: *appt'd = a definite time* [Neh 2:6]. KJV: *to everythg there is a season & a time to every purpose under heaven.* chronos & kairos

**2nd: God is Sovereign in All of Life's Ebbs and Flows - v2-8**

1. 14 couplets - each couplet uses kairos [moment of time]. Some concern God's acts & some man's acts - all under God's sovereignty [v1].
2. *a time to give birth & a time to die:* [Ps 90:12; Hb 9:27; A 13:36].
3. *A time to plant & a time to uproot what is planted:* [Jer 18:7-10]
4. *A time to kill & a time to heal:* [Dt 32:39]
5. *A time to tear down & a time to build up*
6. *A time to weep & a time to laugh*
7. *A time to mourn & a time to dance:* [Ps 126:5-6]
8. *A time to throw stones & a time to gather stones*
9. *A time to embrace & a time to shun embracing*
10. *A time to search & a time to give up as lost*
11. *A time to keep & a time to throw away*
12. *A time to tear apart and a time to sew together*
13. *A time to be silent & a time to speak:* [Pro 15:23] - Eph 4:29 [Mt 7:6; Psa 39:1; Jms 3] Elihu - Job 32ff; *we cannot stop speaking* [Peter in A 4:20].
14. *A time to love & a time to hate:* [vocab of covenant] - Mt 5:43-44; Psa 119:113; 139:20-22]
15. *A time for war & a time for peace:* [Isa 2:4]

**Applic #1: Let Us Be Faithful In Our Stewardships - v9-10**

1. Embrace our place & engage in assigned tasks - be faithful - a *task* w/ wh/ to *occupy* ourselves. We each have a job to do. v12-13. What does it mean for you *to do good in your lifetime?*
2. Thru all changing scenes of life - each of us has stewardships

**Applic #2: Let Us Have Faith in our Sovereign God and Cultivate an Eternal Perspective - v11**

1. v11a = summary of v1-10 -> v1 accompl'd *in it's time*. God is punctual & nothg occurs apart from His providential purpose.
2. Recall periods of time set in OT: return from Exile; Christ's 1st coming; Christ's 2nd coming.
3. This life is a porch & death is door that opens to eternity.
4. *Appropriate:* beautiful, attractive - used of art - your life is a brush stroke

**Applic #3: Be Comforted by God's Beautiful Sovereignty**

1. Comfort in the midst of chaos.
2. With God, there are no chance happenings - only purpose.

**Applic #4: Be at Peace as You Look Over the Past**

1. Walk by faith [2 C 5:7]. Ps 138:8.
2. "Why Question" - [Dt 29:29]. Ours are the precepts; His is providence.
3. The sow-reap principle alongside Solomon's *vanity*.
4. WHY? - Psa 73:17. Better is WHO? *I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you* [Heb 13:5]

**Applic #5: Be at Peace as You Look Forward to the Future**

1. God's sovereignty incompasses "secondary causes" & effects.
2. You will never be anywhere where Christ will not be w/ you. Ps 139:7-12
3. Ps 31:14-15 *But as for me, I trust in You, O Ld, I say, "You are my God." My times are in Your hand.*
4. What is your Father doing in 2020? He is weaving your life into His beautiful, Christ-glorifying tapestry of time.