



[Ecclesiastes 3:1-10](#)

(1) There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under heaven: (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, (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 does the worker gain from his toil?
(10) I have seen the burden God has laid on men.

New International Version

Because [God](#) is sovereign over time all the time, He will be overseeing and working to make the most and best of every situation for us. Time is important to us, but with God, it is not an overriding issue. There is time because He is involved and wants the most and best for us.

In listing the merisms (pairs of contrasting words used to express totality or completeness) in verses 2-8, Solomon is not saying everybody has to go through each of the fourteen pairs, though that would do us no harm. They do, however, give us an overview of major events of virtually every life. Once they are listed, verse 9 asks, "What is to be gained by experiencing these events?" The question is rhetorical at this point. Answers are to be gathered from what Solomon teaches within the larger context of the book.

By way of contrast, understanding verse 10 is quite important to our well-being. Solomon assures us that God is deeply involved in these issues and events of life. In fact, he writes that they are God-given, implying that God has assigned them as

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Ecclesiastes 3:1-10 (<http://www.theberean.org>) disciplines for our development as His children. The dominant fact here is not whether God personally put us in them, since we may have gotten ourselves into them through our choices. The important factor is that we are indeed in them, and God is involved in them with us because at the very least He allowed us to fall into them.

We must not allow ourselves to forget that He is our Creator ([II Corinthians 5:17](#)); we are not creating ourselves. Thus, we can be encouraged that He has most assuredly not abandoned us ([Hebrews 13:5](#)). Are we accepting and [patiently](#) rising to meet these challenges, or are we resisting them in despair and frustration?

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[Ecclesiastes and Christian Living \(Part Three\): Time](#)

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