



# *THE SEARCH FOR MEANING*

**A JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE'S QUESTIONS**

**A STUDY ON THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES**



The teacher's observations are from an earthly perspective because throughout the book, God is *silent*.



- <sup>1</sup> For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.
- <sup>2</sup> A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest.
- <sup>3</sup> A time to kill and a time to heal. A time to tear down and a time to build up.
- <sup>4</sup> A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance.



- <sup>5</sup> A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones.  
A time to embrace and a time to turn away.
- <sup>6</sup> A time to search and a time to quit searching. A time  
to keep and a time to throw away.
- <sup>7</sup> A time to tear and a time to mend. A time to be quiet  
and a time to speak.
- <sup>8</sup> A time to love and a time to hate. A time for war and  
a time for peace.



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***Time*** is a fundamental feature of “life under the sun.” Even so,  
it can only be ***managed*** at best, for God alone ***controls*** it.

Ecc. 3:1-8 NLT



<sup>9</sup> What do people really get for all their hard work? <sup>10</sup> I have seen the burden God has placed on us all. <sup>11</sup> Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end. <sup>12</sup> So I concluded there is nothing better than to be happy and enjoy ourselves as long as we can. <sup>13</sup> And people should eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of their labor, for these are gifts from God.



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We experience the cyclical nature of time,  
but what we crave is timelessness.



<sup>14</sup> And I know that whatever God does is final. Nothing can be added to it or taken from it. God's purpose is that people should fear him. <sup>15</sup> What is happening now has happened before, and what will happen in the future has happened before, because God makes the same things happen over and over again.



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**Not** fearing God easily leads to **injustice** and **disregard** for human **dignity**.



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For the Teacher, time is meaningless because it's just another word for *death*.

