

This passage of the Holy Scriptures became very famous in the world in a very odd way, way back in the 1960s.

A song using this text was written by a man named Pete Seeger in the late 1950s and first recorded in 1959. It was written as a war protest song.

Mr. Seeger confessed that he only wrote a few of the words; he credited most of the lyrics to the KJV Bible: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. The song became an international hit, and in December 1965, it rose to the Number 1 spot on Billboard Hot 100. It was sung by the Byrds.

How many millions have heard this song & loved this song who know NOTHING about God; who never considered the true meaning of these words of truth and soberness?

This passage OUGHT to be instructional to every one of us; we should learn from it that our lives in this world are transitory; brief moments of time in the history of the world; as James wrote in his epistle: each of our lives are like a vanishing/disappearing vapor that only appears for a short time.

Perhaps it is here that Solomon expanded on one of his opening thoughts:

(C1:4-5): One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth forever. The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose.

Days, months, and years have continued since the great flood of Genesis; since God commanded Noah to go forth from the ark. Since that time, the earth has continued through its seasons in fulfillment of God's covenant promise that He would never again destroy it, along with all flesh by the waters of a flood. Genesis 8:20-22, 9:8-17

That was the beginning of a new time; new days/seasons in the earth, but NOW, we are in the last days; the earth and the world has continued according to God's promise. But God will also keep His promise that Christ will return and judge of world. 2 Peter 3:3-7

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven (V1)

Season: Meaning a fixed and appointed time. Solomon's intention is to teach us that every season/time of your life; every circumstance is determined and appointed by God!

To YOU who are believers, this OUGHT to be a COMFORTING truth, and one that is consistently kept close to your hearts; we should ATTACH ourselves by faith to this truth!

For it is through the clear lens of this truth from God that we are able to rightly view everything that happens in our lives; from life & death, from trials, difficulties, & sicknesses, to laughing, rejoicing, and prosperity.

This passage characterizes human life in a fallen world; that God has appointed/determined YOUR TIME here, along with every SEASON of your life; that you might know and BELIEVE that nothing in your life comes to pass fortuitously or by happenstance. Psalm 31:15, Job 14:1-2, 5

Acts 17:26-27: God hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after Him, and find Him, though He be not far from every one of us

So, Qoheleth, or the Preacher uses 14 sets of contrasting events; (28 in all), times/seasons and things that will happen in our lives under the sun, some we will experience directly, some indirectly. I.e. You may never be killed; but you will die of natural causes or from a sickness or disease.

But know that everything under heaven/under the sun is changing! The new is becoming old, winter will soon yield to spring; the cold weather will soon be warm/hot weather; and I will never again see the age of 59; my youth is in the past. Are you being a good steward of your life and your time here?

Romans 13:11-12

Do you know what time it is? Do you realize today that you are passing away? Sinner, will you take this to heart and turn from your sins and be reconciled to God? Christian, are you living for Christ and for His glory and honor, and for that eternal season that shall never end; when time shall be no more? Or are you attaching yourself to this world and to TIME?

A time to be born, and a time to die (V2)

None of us chose the time or day of our birth. In fact, we chose nothing in regard to our coming into the world. We didn't choose our parents, (or the time when we would be conceived), we didn't choose the city or nation that we would be born in; nor our ethnicity or gender. Remember Psalm 31:15!

While previous generations have passed by death into eternity and sleep in the dust of the earth, and while future generations await their time; THIS is the time that God has appointed TO US. Remember: Ecclesiastes 1:4

This is our time, our season, our generation! God and God alone DETERMINED and CHOSE this period of time in the world for us to be born.

Little Jack Turner was born PRECISELY when God determined that he would be born. As he is beginning life; my life is waning. But how often do we consider that God appointed each of our births (as our deaths)?

Psalm 127:3: Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is His reward

Then of course, there is the time and APPOINTED season of death. A time to be born, and a time to die Hebrews 9:27

Every aged man or woman whom we see lying in death in a coffin in a funeral home was only a few years earlier wrapped in a soft blanket; held by their momma thriving in the beginning of life. Now they lie in death; the season and time of life has passed!

Death is the consequence of man's fall into sin; it is the wages and penalty of our sins. It is passed on to every one of us. Romans 5:12

This truth (that there is a time to die) should lead and shape the way each of us live in this present world. We should awake to every day knowing that THIS DAY is a gift from God; but also, that this could very well be our last day in this life under the sun. And so, we should live it in accordance with Ecclesiastes 9:10:

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave whither thou goest

This truth should help us to keep within our minds a RIGHT VIEW of this life, our death, and of our approaching eternity. As children of God, we should ALWAYS be looking forward to our eternal future in heaven; although we are to enjoy our lives here, our lives in this fallen world must never eclipse our thoughts and desires for heaven, nor steal our affections away from Christ, who is our first love. Let us learn from the wise ant.

Proverbs 6:6-8, 30:24-25, 1 Timothy 6:19

And so, consider (living one) the time of your birth is passed, and the day and hour of your death approaches. Are you ready for YOUR appointed day when you will pass away and die; are you preparing for the time when you will depart the generation of the living and lie in dust of the earth? When at your appointed death day, you will be among former and past generations.

To so many, that day will come suddenly; in a day & hour that was not expected. Ecclesiastes 9:11-12

The time of your birth came at God's appointed time, you knew nothing of it; but you are aware of the fact that you will die. Like your birth, you don't know the time; unlike your birth; you MUST prepare for death.

APPLICATIONS for us:

1st: Remember that every season of your life; every circumstance and event; everything in your life has been determined by God.

Christian: Romans 8:28, 18

Sinner: If you're here, it's because God determined that you would be here to hear His Word and the gospel of Christ! You are responsible to believe it. God is, at this moment being good/gracious/merciful to you; He is commanding you to repent! Are you being a good steward of your life?

2nd: You knew nothing of your birth into this life; you were NOT involved in it any way; you didn't decide when, where, or to whom you would be born.

You had no consciousness at all of it.

Your spiritual birth is different; just as you had no power over your birth into this life; you have no power to BIRTH yourself into the Kingdom of God; and yet, as one who is alive and responsible for your life; you are commanded and compelled by God to repent of your sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of your never-dying soul. Has THAT time come to you? A TIME to be BORN-AGAIN? Have you irresponsibly neglected God's call/command for you to repent? Have you squandered that TIME?

John 3:3-7, 5:24-25

3rd: The day of your death is also appointed by God; none you who are young are guaranteed a long life; none of any of us is guaranteed one more day! What we are promised from the Word of God is that our lives will go no further than what God has appointed to us. In Acts 17, this is what Paul called; the bounds (or boundaries) of our (earthly) habitation. David, in 1 Samuel 20:3: *There is but a step between me and death*

Psalms 39:4, 90:12

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2a: To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die