

We will be in Ecclesiastes 3:9-11, as we have just finished (V2-8) in those 14 sets of contrasting times and seasons set forth by Solomon that we all experience.

Remember that Solomon was the wisest man to ever walk the planet, save Christ, whose wisdom transcended Solomon's Wisdom.

Solomon applied his heart, by wisdom, to find out the meaning of life in this world, and to study and see what was at the end of all of man's earthly labors.

Solomon restrained his heart from nothing in seeking answers to his questions about life in this world, he also applied himself by wisdom to find out why things happen THE WAY THEY DO in this life, under the sun?

In Chapter 3, Solomon taught us that life in this world is full of changes; but what we should know (as Christians) is that every one of these changing times and seasons of our lives were appointed to us by God.

Our constantly changing lives began when we were birthed into this world, and they will end the moment we die and pass into eternity.

Solomon described these changing times and seasons in (V2-8); they include what WE WOULD CALL the good and prosperous times, and the bad and difficult times.

Times of birth and planting and building up, times of laughing and dancing and embracing, times of gaining and keeping, and times of love and peace. But then there is the time to kill, to pluck up, and to break down, times of weeping and mourning, times to refrain from embracing, times of loss and times to cast away, times of hate and war, and a time to die.

You might ask, why must God appoint these difficult times to us in this life? Why must there be breaking down and plucking up? Why must there be sorrow, war, and hatred?

The first reason is answered in Genesis 3; our lives are full of labor and travail and sorrow because, in Adam, we have all sinned against God. All of our sorrows and weeping and mourning in this life are the result of the fall of man into sin; our sins. *Genesis 3:16-19*

I hope to expand upon (why) the changing times and seasons of our lives INCLUDING THE DIFFICULT TIMES AND SEASONS, before I am finished with this message.

What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboreth? I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it.(V9-10)

Here in (V9): Solomon takes us back to his opening question of the Book:

What profit hath a man of all this labour which he taketh under the sun?Ecclesiastes 1:3

I believe Solomon is asking each of his readers, (US), to again, consider and answer that question; and in reality, God

is asking us to answer it. What is the PROFIT, or what are you GAINING from all of your labors in this life? What are you laboring for? What do you hope to gain? It is a question of introspection for each of us. Ecclesiastes 2:11, 2:22-23 All of your labors will not prevent the changing times and seasons of your life; you will experience good and prosperous times, but you will also be confronted with difficult and hard times.

And as hard as you labor and work to make LIFE in THIS WORLD good and pleasant and long; the time will come when God will RECALL your soul, and EVERY EARTHLY THING that you labored and wearied yourself for, FOR THIS LIFE, will STAY in this world; nothing of your earthly labors will follow you into eternity. But still, many will continue to weary themselves to find complete and absolute satisfaction in the perishing things of this world and of this life, but that satisfaction never comes! Isaiah 55:2-3, John 6:27

Solomon's answer: Ecclesiastes 3:10: I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it

He hath made everything beautiful in His time: also, He hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.(V11)

(GOD) has made everything beautiful in (HIS) time. God, at times, allows us to SEE (the result) of His providence, or His active Governing Hand in our lives, AFTER we have come through a certain time and season, (or circumstance) that happened in our lives; a situation or trial, perhaps, that was very difficult and distressing, and something that we did not and could not yet understand; but often, at the latter end, God allows us to look back and to SEE HOW/WHY He worked every last detail of that time and season of our life for our good!

YES, life is full of changes; we never know what a day may bring forth, we might be rejoicing and laughing one minute, and the next minute we find ourselves weeping and mourning. But, beloved, we must know and believe that God has appointed it and is actively directing/governing every time and season of our lives, and every circumstance by His wisdom and providence. This should be an ever-present and consistent comfort to our souls!

This MUST be the ground zero of your Christian life; this is where your faith MUST rest in the LORD; yes, life is going to change, yes there will be things that will happen in your life that you cannot, and do not understand.

You will even, at times, find yourself saying within your heart: What is God doing? Or praying and confessing to God: I don't understand!

But listen to me child of God; you don't have to understand; you just need to know and believe God through whatever providence He has appointed for you. Romans 8:28, Philippians 2:13

Christian: God (is going to make) everything (that He is doing in your life) beautiful in His time by His loving providence.

The truth is, we don't know what God is doing in our lives; but what we do know is, it is for our good and edification, and it is for His glory.

No man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end (V11)

In God's time, you will have a (BETTER) understanding of WHY certain things happened in your life, and WHY they happened WHEN they happened.

And so, in God's time, you will SEE the perfection and beauty of God's wisdom and providence in your life. I won't say that you will understand every time and season of your life, but at the latter end, you will understand more.

Consider the life of Joseph, one of Jacob's 2 sons of Rachel:

Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children, and because of this, Joseph's brothers hated him: Genesis 37:1-5, 10-11

After this, Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers and their flocks; to see how they were doing; but when they saw him coming, they wanted to kill him, but Reuben prevented them from doing so. So, they roughed him up, stripped him of his special coat/cast him into a pit.

When a band of Ishmeelites came along, Judah said, let's sell him to them; so, Joseph was sold and brought to Egypt!

Genesis 37:29-35

In the middle of all of this hatred, scheming, and lying by the sons of Jacob; God was ACTIVELY working in the life of Joseph, and Jacob, and in all of Jacob's lying and hateful sons!

For the sons of Jacob, it was a time to rend and cast away, and a time of hatred; for Jacob it was (what appeared to be) a time to lose a son, and a time to weep and mourn; for Joseph, it was a time to be plucked up from his family, and planted in Egypt.

Joseph was then sold to Potiphar, one of the Egyptian Pharaoh's Captains.

In all of what Joseph suffered, he kept his good testimony and continued to trust in his God; he became Potiphar's trusted overseer for his entire household. Genesis 39:4-6

But then, here comes Potiphar's wife: Genesis 39:7-9

But she continued pressing him day after day to lie with her; until he had to run from her. Then, in her anger, she falsely accused Joseph of trying to force her, and Joseph was thrown into prison.

Once again, Joseph kept his good testimony and his faith in God, even as a prisoner. Genesis 39:21-23

Eventually, Pharaoh's Baker/Butler were imprisoned for angering him, while imprisoned they had dreams, which Joseph interpreted.

Baker executed; the Butler was reinstated. Genesis 40:14-15,

23, 41:1

Joseph has now been a slave/imprisoned in Egypt for 13 years. That's a long time to suffer through a trial. But through it all, even though I am sure he didn't understand what was going on, Joseph continued to trust his circumstances to His God, and to maintain his testimony.

Then Pharaoh had a dream that troubled him, and Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream when no one else in Egypt could.

Joseph's exaltation over all the land of Egypt, he was subordinate ONLY to Pharaoh. Genesis 41:40-46, 1 Peter 5:6-7

The famine began and Jacob heard that there was food in Egypt; and NOW the providence of God begins to come into view.

Genesis 41:56-42:2, 6, 36

We know that eventually, Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, who feared him greatly, but Joseph revealed himself to them, he fell on their necks and wept with them.

All of their hatred and sin was found out. But listen to Joseph's answer to them as to WHY it all happened! Genesis 45:1-8

It was now a time to gather, to heal, to embrace, and to love; ALL in God's perfect timing! Can you see the beauty of God's providence?

What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. John 13:7

Beloved, God is working in your life; you MUST trust it to be so; we don't know what God is doing, but we do know that He is actively working in our lives for our good no matter what the present circumstances are!

Therefore, in every circumstance of your life and in every time and season:

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto your own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths (or make your paths straight). Proverbs 3:5-6

If you're listening to me and you're lost, it's no accident that you are listening:

If you haven't turned from your sins to Christ in repentance and faith, God has brought you to this TIME/SEASON in your life to do so.

Seek ye the LORD WHILE He may be found, call ye upon Him WHILE He is near, let the wicked forsake His way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. Isaiah 55:6-7

Don't let the day of salvation pass you by; you may never have another opportunity to be reconciled to God!