

2109-[02] A TIME for EVERYTHING+ REJOICE-Ecc 3.1-15

PRELIMS. Solomon has been stating loud and clear that life is meaningless - **without God!** He has **tried everything** himself: pleasure, music; success; work; intellectual study! All is **empty!** We are chasing the wind - and **struggling/striving** in doing so!

A TIME for EVERYTHING

Historians, even secular ones, say that if the Apostle Paul was born 30yrs earlier or later, the gospel would **not** have **spread** the way it did! He was born **exactly** at the **right** time for the gospel to spread!

So no wonder Sol wrote *there is a season and a time for every matter under the heaven* [1] even the movement of a cow, a spider! There is a **purpose** for every **little detail** of life! Because **God ordered** it so!

Solomon has just said how life seems to be in a **mess** without order or sense to it - as far as **man** can see! But **not** for God *known from of old* to Him! [Acts 15:18] Paul told the Athenian philosophers *in Him we live and move and have our being* [Acts 17, Isa 45:21] and he was **quoting** from a Cretian poet/philosopher 'Epimenides'!

There is a right time for everything to happen! You/I do **not know why** things happen, but God does. We only know a very little of why things happen! You and I can only tell in **retrospect!** *In 1871, half the inhabitants of Chicago were killed/burned in a fire started by a **cow** kicking over a **lantern!** *If Robert the Bruce did not look at the precise moment a spider made 7 attempts to climb a ledge in a cave, historians say Scottish history would have been 'oh so different'!!

Every one of us can look back on our lives and point out an incident which **changed** our **whole lives** which we did **not know** would bring about that change at that time! How many times '**If only....**'

The list that Sol has given us here, is a list of **contrasts**. Building/pulling down; laughing/crying; loving/hating; tearing/sewing. That contrast was not always in the world. Originally there was only **one positive element** in life. There was **only joy/fulfilment** in the world **initially!** Life, as it is now, is made up of **two** main elements - **CONstruction** and **DEstruction!** Sin having entered the world, has

added another dimension to life! **Originally**, before the fall, there was no need to 'get rid' of anything - although Adam was to **build** and **improve** the earth, there was nothing 'evil' or needing to be removed - but now there is! *There was **no** such thing as **illness** or **dying** before the fall, or a time to *pluck up what was planted* or a time to *heal* or a time to *break down* and a time *weep*!!

Sin has **changed** our world and made life much **more difficult**! We cannot just 'go ahead' and start doing some things - because sometimes things have to be **removed** first! You cannot just plant seed in a stoney field! There is a time to *cast away stones*!

There is now at work in the world an **evil principle** which can **ruin** many good constructions! (BBC News on Fri!) There also needs to be **preservatives** now. There might **not** have been any **decay** in the world through **ageing** before the fall! **New jackets** fade after 50years! Jesus told us there is a time to 'throw away an old garment'! **Why?** Because sin has entered the world and brought **decay**!

Sin has made life **more complicated**! That is why there are so many **social workers** who are unsuccessful in helping people. Many **start** off by **assuming** mankind is **good** at heart and all man needs is a good environment/upbringing! No! Man has a corrupt heart and has a **tendency** to evil! Obviously his upbringing/teaching will make a difference, but the **potential** and tendency is **always** there in man to do evil. So often we are **shocked** by such a good man killing! This **week**

So Sol starts off his list by reminding us, there is not only is *A time to be born* but now we must remember there is a time to *die*! That is important. We humans may feel we can **control life/death** by birth control, abortion, mercy killing, surrogacy, etc. Not so! God **does!** *just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned* [Rom 5:12]

Surprisingly there is a time to **hate**! Sol said elsewhere *the fear of the Lord is hatred of evil* [Pro 8:13] Sol said that the **whole object** of life is to **Fear God and keep His commandments**. *Have you wondered why the **only command** given to Adam was a **negative**? Have you ever wondered why **all** the 10 Commandments are **negatives** - apart

from Remember the Sabbath Day? Because sin **disrupts** the world! No sin, no sorrow! Sin is the problem! Thus: *The righteous hates falsehood/lying* [Pro 13:5] How often Xns think so little of lying/fibbing and a bit of deception! It doesn't matter for everyone does it!

Ephesus was **praised** *this you have, you hate the works of the Nicolaitans* [2:6] You see, **righteousness** by its very **nature - must hate evil!** By hating evil, you are **confirming** your **love** for righteousness! It is **because** there is **justice** and **rightness** which needs to be **preserved**, that there is *a time for war!* [8]! There is a duty now to **protect innocents** - because evil is lurking! The whole 'economic' **system** in Israel was built around protection of goodness and truth and those who promoted it. Punishment was the **removal** of protection and the **exposure** to all the evils and wildness of mankind.

There is a time to *keep silence* [7] Its a time when things **could** be said but **ought not** to be said! It takes **grace** to keep quiet when we would love to 'spill the beans' but we know it would only do harm and there is **no need** to spread bad things about people! The world have discovered that 'The least said, the least mended'!!

Conversely there is a *time to speak* [7] Duties required in the **9th Command**: '**defending** the **innocency** of our neighbour', but also '**promoting** the good name of our neighbour' and having a '**charitable esteem** of our neighbour' + '**covering** their **infirmities**'!!

REJOICE

Xnity is **not** a **kill-joy**!! There is a time to *laugh* and *dance* [4] God wants us all to be **happy**! God appointed at least **3 Festivals** in Israel - to **celebrate**, not to mourn! What kind of Book do you think Deut is? Is it about **Law, warnings, punishments?** Well there are over **10** 'you shall **rejoice**' in Deut - and **2 God** rejoices over you! *Rejoice and again I say 'Rejoice'*! Sol **concludes** 'For all the negatives, nevertheless, for believers 'Life is a **gift** from **God**[13c,5:19]

Sol implies that life **should** be **enjoyable** - but it usually is not! *What gain has the worker from his toil?* [9] He **should** have gain! But if we **trust** God to work out things **His** way, there **will** be blessings! *God has made everything beautiful in its time* [10] **Story**: a man in

car with wife and child - **crash** - child killed! They cursed God! He visits the scene, 'cursed place, cursed place, cursed place'! But the 'accident' **made** them both think seriously about the **uncertainty** of life and the **certainty** of death! **Both** of them were ultimately **converted**! They returned to the scene of the crash 'Beautiful place, beautiful place, beautiful place'! *he has made everything beautiful in its time!* [11] *'Not till the loom is silent, and the shuttles cease to fly, shall God unroll the canvas and explain the reason why, the **dark threads are as needful** in the skillful **Weaver's** hands, as the threads of gold and silver, in the pattern **He** has planned'!

God has *put eternity into man's heart* [11a]! We are to live as long as God lives - and that is **forever**! We do not really die at all! God turned that couple's sadness to gladness and their mourning to dancing as [Psa 30:11] It is *all things work together* [not in isolation] *for good* to those who love God!

Sol's conclusion is that *there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live...that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil - this is God's gift to man!* [13] God **gifted** to man **happiness**! Christ **purchased** happiness on the Cross for all His people! That was part of **joy** set before Him! We **ought to make** life **happy** for everyone we meet!

Note **where** our **security** comes from? Not simply from a weak **whimpish** God who is crushed by the wickedness of the world and who is **weakened** by events in the world! Strength comes from the **unchangeable** God who rules the universe! The God who **endures** forever! The God who **fulfils** His plans - not like Governments/EU when circumstances alter! Even the wicked **Zeresh** recognised that! [**Read Esther 6:13**]! But *whatever God does endures forever* [14] **Nothing** from 'outside' of God **affects Him**! Circumstances affect us! Tunisia's crime/Decapitating affect us. We can be **horrified** by **extraneous** events! **Nothings** affects God - yet He within Himself, He **suffers/loves** because of a beautiful principle within Himself!

That is why He sent His only begotten Son Jesus Christ to the Cross - because of His '**inbuilt**' love *which endures forever*! His plan *from of old* will never change. His **eternal love** in Jesus Christ!