

## The Book of ECCLESIASTES

### Chapters 3 & 4

#### *"A Time For Every Purpose Under Heaven"*

##### Chapter 3- "A Time & A Purpose"

###### **(v1-8) A time for everything**

-To everything there is a Season- "Winter, Spring, Summer & Fall- All you got to do is call & I'll be there, be there, yes I will, you've got a friend"- JESUS!

-A time for life & death (v2)

-A time for protection (kill) & a time heal (wounded); A time to break down (evaluation)—build up (restoration) (v3)

-A time for sorrow & enjoyment (v4)

-A time for clearing—A time for security; A time for embracing & refraining from embracing (v5)

-A time to win—A time to lose; A time to be sentimental & A time to clean house (v6)

-A time to tear (change out)—A time to sew (something new); A time to silence & a time to speak (v7)

-A time to love—A time to hate (Love one another—hate sin); A time of war & peace (v8)

**Timeless lessons from the New Testament- Rom 13:8-14-** *Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. And do this, knowing the time that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. Rom 12:9-18-* *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.*

###### **(v9-22) A Purpose for everything: -A purpose for work (v9-10)**

-A purpose for God's beauty & He put eternity in our hearts (v11)- Jesus speaks to us about eternity in John 10:27-28- *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. God will make us beautiful- Phil 3:20-21-* *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*

-A purpose for life (v12-13)- Rejoice in life, do good and enjoy the fruit of your labor, which is a gift from God.

-A purpose for God's work & man's accountability (v14-15)- **We are accountable to His Word- Heb 4:12-13-** *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. We are accountable for our time & talents- Matthew 25:14-30; We will get rewarded for all that we do- 2 Cor 5:10-* *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 1 Cor 3:12-15-* *Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

-A time & purpose for God's judgment (v16-22)- Wickedness & righteousness, man & animal, life & death.

##### Chapter 4- "Oppression, Opportunity & Opine Thoughts"

###### **Oppressions of man (v1-8)**

(v1-3) The way of the human oppression- Is a way without comfort for the oppressed and the oppressor.

(v4-6) The way of the material oppression- Is the vanity of envy.

(v7-8) The vanity of self-centeredness- Working for self and no one to share it with.

###### **Opportunity in unity (v9-12)**

-Two together = teamwork & reward! (v9)

-Two together = helping & healing! (v10)

-Two together = Love & compassion (v11)

-Two together = Strength & Security (v12)

("A threefold cord is not quickly broken" = Christ in the center of our relationship!)

**Opine thoughts (v13-16)** The poor & wise youth compared to a foolish king. (v13); ? (v14); A possible self analogy of Solomon's life (v15-16)