



*A BIBLE STUDY SERIES ON ECCLESIASTES 3:1-8*

# **A TIME FOR EVERYTHING**

*A PUBLICATION OF RAY REYNOLDS RAP*

***BIBLE STUDY GUIDE***

*Prepared by Ray Reynolds, Ph.D.*



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## **LESSON #1: OUR PERSPECTIVE**

**TEXT:** *There is a time for everything and everything on earth has its special season (Ecclesiastes 3:1).*

**INTRODUCTION:** You are probably familiar with the phrase “*Timing Is Everything*” and realize its significance. In **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**, Solomon tells us that life is really a matter of timing. If timing is everything, how should we live? Over the next two months we will discover how to live on God’s time. In this first lesson we will gain context as a foundation for the rest of our study. The wisdom of Solomon can bless us. Let’s study together...

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### ***I. Expect Changes Ahead***

- A. Why do these changes occur? (**Genesis 1:1-31**)
- B. When do these changes occur? (**Ecclesiastes 3:11**)
- C. How do these changes occur? (**Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31, 2:18**)
- D. What are these changes that occur? (**Ecclesiastes 3:2-8**)

#### ***II. Prepare For The Seasons***

- A. Consider the whole picture (**Psalms 23**)
- B. Consider God’s plan (**Isaiah 41:10**)
- C. Consider everlasting peace (**Philippians 4:6-7**)
- D. Consider your spiritual power (**II Timothy 1:7**)

**CONCLUSION:** Our theme for this year is **I Timothy 4:12-16** which says, “*Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.*” It’s time to G.R.O.W. up! Don’t give up. Don’t get discouraged. Remember that “*Timing Is Everything*” and God is always on time.



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## **LESSON #2: OUR LIFESTYLE**

**TEXT:** *There is a time to be born and a time to die. There is a time to plant and a time to pull up plants. (Ecclesiastes 3:2).*

**INTRODUCTION:** You are probably familiar with the phrase “*Timing Is Everything*” and realize its significance. In **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**, Solomon tells us that life is really a matter of timing. If timing is everything, how should we live? In these verses, he makes twenty-eight statements (14 pairs of contrasts). What do these words mean? The wisdom of Solomon can bless us. Let’s study together...

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### ***I. Birth vs. Death***

- A. God gives life (**Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7**).
- B. God preserves life (**John 3:16, II Corinthians 3:6**).
- C. God records life (**Revelation 3:5, 20:15, 21:27**).
- D. God concludes life (**Job 7:6-7, Psalm 90:12**).

#### ***II. Sow vs. Reap***

- A. Don’t be ignorant (**II Corinthians 9:6-8**).
- B. Don’t be weary (**Galatians 6:7**).
- C. Don’t be unfruitful (**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**).
- D. Don’t be stingy (**Luke 6:38**).

**CONCLUSION:** If we want to be prepared for death, and know when to sow and reap, we need to take a good look at our lifestyle. You can tell a lot about people by what they sow. What words and actions do you sow in your life? Remember that “*Timing Is Everything*.” Have you given God the time He deserves? Are you obeying Him? Will you surrender your life to Him? What are you willing to give up for Christ?





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## **LESSON #3: OUR ACTIVITIES**

**TEXT:** *There is a time to kill and a time to heal. There is a time to destroy and a time to build.*  
**(Ecclesiastes 3:3).**

**INTRODUCTION:** You are probably familiar with the phrase “*Timing Is Everything*” and realize its significance. In **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**, Solomon tells us that life is really a matter of timing. If timing is everything, how should we live? In these verses, he makes twenty-eight statements (14 pairs of contrasts). What do these words mean? The wisdom of Solomon can bless us. Let’s study together...

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### ***I. Kill vs. Heal***

- A. The purpose of God (**Psalm 34:18**).
- B. The people of God (**Matthew 9:35-36**).
- C. The plan of God (**Acts 13:18-21**).
- D. The perfection of God (**II Timothy 4:8**).

#### ***II. Destroy vs. Build***

- A. Consider your foundation (**Matthew 7:24-27**).
- B. Consider your feuds (**Matthew 10:34**).
- C. Consider your faith (**Hebrews 11:1, 6**).
- D. Consider your future (**Revelation 21:4**).

**CONCLUSION:** Passages like **Matthew 25:46**, **Romans 2:6-11**, **Hebrews 9:27**, etc. remind us that we will be judged by our actions. The words of Solomon remind us that even a child is known by his actions whether his conduct is good and right (**Proverbs 20:11**). Have you repented of your sins? Are you walking in Christ? Have you given God the time He deserves? Are you obeying Him? Will you surrender your life to Him? What are you willing to give up for Christ?



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## **LESSON #4: OUR EMOTIONS**

**TEXT:** *There is a time to cry and a time to laugh. There is a time to be sad and a time to dance.*  
**(Ecclesiastes 3:4).**

**INTRODUCTION:** You are probably familiar with the phrase “*Timing Is Everything*” and realize its significance. In **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**, Solomon tells us that life is really a matter of timing. If timing is everything, how should we live? In these verses, he makes twenty-eight statements (14 pairs of contrasts). What do these words mean? The wisdom of Solomon can bless us. Let’s study together...

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### ***I. Cry vs. Laugh***

- A. Emotion follows more emotions (**Psalms 30:5**).
- B. Emotion can flood our soul (**Psalms 122:1**).
- C. Emotion can fill our heart (**Ecclesiastes 9:9-10**).
- D. Emotion can cause pain to fade (**Philippians 3:7-11**).

#### ***II. Sad vs. Dance***

- A. Inaction is the result of sadness (**Proverbs 12:25**).
- B. Action is the result of happiness (**Jeremiah 31:13**).
- C. Eternity reveals two extremes (**Matthew 8:12, Revelation 21:4**).
- D. The return of Jesus brings joy and sadness (**Luke 12:35-40**).

**CONCLUSION:** Solomon shows us that what affects us does not affect God. He knows what has happened, what is happening, and what will happen. Our seasons may change, but our God stays the same (**Numbers 23:19, Hebrews 13:8, James 1:17**). Our emotions can often get in the way of doing the right thing or they can lead us to do the right thing. What is your heart telling you right now? Have you given God the time He deserves? Are you obeying Him? What are you willing to give up for Christ? Give Him your life while you still have the time.



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## **LESSON #5: OUR RELATIONSHIPS**

**TEXT:** *There is a time to throw away stones and a time to gather them. There is a time to hug and a time not to hug. (Ecclesiastes 3:5).*

**INTRODUCTION:** You are probably familiar with the phrase “*Timing Is Everything*” and realize its significance. In **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**, Solomon tells us that life is really a matter of timing. If timing is everything, how should we live? In these verses, he makes twenty-eight statements (14 pairs of contrasts). What do these words mean? The wisdom of Solomon can bless us. Let’s study together...

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### ***I. Throw Away vs. Gather***

- A. What God Has Created (**Genesis 1-2, 6-9**)
- B. What God Has Commanded (**Genesis 12:1-7, 13:15-16, 15:18-21, 17:6-8, 35:11-12**)
- C. What God Has Concluded (**I Corinthians 7:3-5, Ephesians 5:22-33**)
- D. What God Has Condemned (**Revelation 21:7-8**)

#### ***II. Hug vs. Not To Hug***

- A. Building Relationships (**Job 2:12-13, Ecclesiastes 4:10-11**)
- B. Binding Relationships (**Proverbs 15:1, 16:28, 17:17**)
- C. Burdensome Relationships (**I Corinthians 15:33**)
- D. Broken Relationships (**Galatians 6:1-2, Ephesians 2:21-22**)

**CONCLUSION:** In our last lesson we noted that “Our seasons may change, but our God never changes.” We also need to remember that God’s plan is ALWAYS good. He created everything with a wholesome purpose. God has even created us to be good and we found all kinds of ways to be evil (**Ecclesiastes 7:29**). Our relationships can often get in the way of doing the right thing or they can lead us to do the right thing. How is your relationship with God? Are you giving God the time He deserves? Are you obeying Him? Will you surrender your life to Him? What are you willing to give up for Christ? Give Him your life while you still have the time.



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## **LESSON #6: OUR POSSESSIONS**

**TEXT:** *There is a time to look for something and a time to stop looking for it. There is a time to keep things and a time to throw things away. (Ecclesiastes 3:6).*

**INTRODUCTION:** You are probably familiar with the phrase “*Timing Is Everything*” and realize its significance. In **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**, Solomon tells us that life is really a matter of timing. If timing is everything, how should we live? In these verses, he makes twenty-eight statements (14 pairs of contrasts). What do these words mean? The wisdom of Solomon can bless us. Let’s study together...

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### ***I. Look For Something vs. Stop Looking***

- A. Lost By Accident (**Luke 15:1-7**)
- B. Lost By Neglect (**Luke 15:8-10**)
- C. Lost By Rebellion (**Luke 15:11-32**)
- D. Lost & Found (**Luke 19:9-10**)

#### ***II. Keep Things vs. Throw Things Away***

- A. Throw Aside the Wrong Burdens (**Matthew 5:29-30, Hebrews 12:1**)
- B. Keep the Right Priorities (**Matthew 6:33, 7:7**)
- C. Throw Aside the Pain of the Past (**Ephesians 4:22, Colossians 3:8-9**)
- D. Keep the Vision of the Future (**Philippians 3:13, I Peter 1:2-4**)

**CONCLUSION:** When we purge our lives of excess baggage it helps us to relieve anxiety (**Matthew 6:25-34**). What do you need to drop at the foot of the cross? Will you give it to Jesus? What is your heart telling you right now? Have you given God the time He deserves? Are you obeying Him? Will you surrender your life to Him? What are you willing to give up for Christ? Give Him your life while you still have the time.





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## **LESSON #7: OUR STRUGGLES**

**TEXT:** *There is a time to tear apart and a time to sew together. There is a time to be silent and a time to speak (Ecclesiastes 3:7).*

**INTRODUCTION:** You are probably familiar with the phrase “*Timing Is Everything*” and realize its significance. In **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**, Solomon tells us that life is really a matter of timing. If timing is everything, how should we live? In these verses, he makes twenty-eight statements (14 pairs of contrasts). What do these words mean? The wisdom of Solomon can bless us. Let’s study together...

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### ***I. Tear Apart vs. Sew Together***

- A. Light Disperses The Darkness (**Ephesians 5:11, Philippians 1:5**)
- B. Walking Prepares The Pathway (**I John 1:6-7**)
- C. Tearing Describes A Division (**I Corinthians 5:1-13**)
- D. Sowing Reattaches A Relationship (**II Corinthians 2:1-11**)

#### ***II. Be Silent vs. Speak***

- A. Silence Is A Sign of Integrity (**John 18:19-24**)
- B. Silence Is A Sign of Maturity (**John 19:9**)
- C. Silence Is A Sign of Judgment (**John 19:10-11**)
- D. Silence Is A Sign of Strength (**John 19:25**)

**CONCLUSION:** Jesus teaches a valuable lesson to the religious leaders with the woman caught in adultery (**John 8:1-11**). Are you carrying stones? What do you need to drop at the foot of the cross? What is your heart telling you right now? Have you given God the time He deserves? Are you obeying Him? Will you surrender your life to Him? What are you willing to give up for Christ? Give Him your life while you still have the time.



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## **LESSON #8: OUR VALUES**

**TEXT:** *There is a time to love and a time to hate. There is a time for war and a time for peace. (Ecclesiastes 3:8).*

**INTRODUCTION:** You are probably familiar with the phrase “*Timing Is Everything*” and realize its significance. In **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**, Solomon tells us that life is really a matter of timing. If timing is everything, how should we live? In these verses, he makes twenty-eight statements (14 pairs of contrasts). What do these words mean? The wisdom of Solomon can bless us. Let’s study together...

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### ***I. Love vs. Hate***

- A. Jesus Loved (**John 13:34-35**)
- B. Jesus Hated (**I John 3:7-10**)
- C. We Should Love (**I John 4:7-10, 20**)
- D. We Should Hate (**Proverbs 8:13**)

#### ***II. War vs. Peace***

- A. The Lord is a Warrior (**Exodus 15:1-18, Matthew 10:34-39**)
- B. The Lord is Wise (**John 12:13, Matthew 28:18-20**)
- C. The Lord is Sovereign (**Proverbs 14:34, Romans 13:1-2**)
- D. The Lord is Coming (**Matthew 24-25, Revelation 22:17-21**)

**CONCLUSION:** Jesus teaches that we need to seek God first (**Matthew 6:33**). Our morals and values are based upon His perfect will. What is your heart telling you right now? Have you given God the time He deserves? Are you obeying Him? Will you surrender your life to Him? What are you willing to give up for Christ? Give Him your life while you still have the time.