

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

¹For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:
² a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant,
and a time to pluck up what is planted;
³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
⁵ a time to throw away stones,
and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace,
and a time to refrain from embracing;
⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.
⁹ What gain have the workers from their toil?
¹⁰ I have seen the business
that God has given to everyone to be busy with.
¹¹ [God] has made everything suitable for its time.
Moreover, [God] has put a sense of
past and future into their minds,
yet they cannot find out what God has done
from the beginning to the end.
¹² I know that there is nothing better for them
than to be happy and enjoy themselves
as long as they live.
¹³ Moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and
drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

Adapted from the New Revised Standard Version