





Perhaps the most famous part of Ecclesiastes – made famous by the Byrds' Song, 'Turn, Turn, Turn'
 Not prescriptive but just a reporting of life's activities (descriptive)

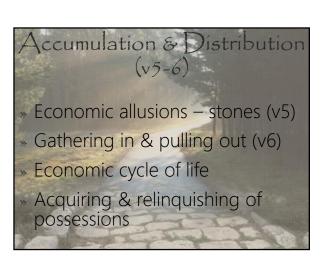
A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

- a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
 a time to seek, and a time to lose;
 a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
 a time to tear, and a time to sew;
 a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
 a time to love, and a time to hate;
 a time for war, and a time for peace.

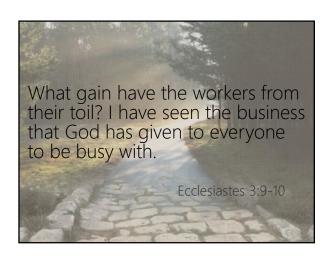
 Ecclesiastes 3:2-8
- Birth & Death (v2a)

 » A time to be born and a time to die frames the entire poem

 » The totality of life shown followed by various aspects between the two poles
- Rooting & Uprooting (v2b-4)
 Times of establishment & times of disruption
 Times for construction & dismantling
 All part of human existence each in its proper time









What Gain?

- » A question is restated about the nature of gain (3:9 & 1:3)
- » But the system is now framed as open the name 'God' used 6x (v9-15)
- » We are busy in life before God (v10)

He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he 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. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live;

Eternity in our Hearts (v11)

- » God places 'eternity in our hearts' (NIV); 'past and future' (NRSV)
- There is a sense of searching but we can't figure it all out
- "You have made us for Yourself, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in you." (Augustine)

Contentment & Goodness (v12)

- » Nothing better ... to be happy
- » Finding rest in simple joys of life (food, drink, friendship, etc.)
- » The word 'good' (tob) is highlighted – 'enjoy themselves' (NRSV v12); 'do good' (NIV v12)
 - See 2:24 'good' 2x

moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. I know that whatever God does endures for ever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by.

Ecclesiastes 3:13-15



The Sovereignty of God What God does endures forever (v14) contrasts with 'eternity in our hearts' (v11) As a result we should worship (awe) and live our days in relationship with God



» Stay on track
» Keep persevering in your relationship to God
» Note: Solomon turned away from God in his later life (1 Kings 11:4,9)
» "If God is for us, who is against us" (Romans 8:31)