

Ecclesiastes 3

Chapter 3 of 12 · 22 Verses · Authorized King James Version

A Time for Everything

- 1** To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
- 2** A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which 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 cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
- 6** A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
- 7** A time to rend, 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 of war, and a time of peace.
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- 9** What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?
- 10** I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it.
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God's Works Are Eternal

- 11** He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

- 12 I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life.
- 13 And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.
- 14 I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.
- 15 That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.
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Injustice and the Judgment to Come

- 16 And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there; and the place of righteousness, that iniquity was there.
- 17 I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work.
- 18 I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts.
- 19 For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity.
- 20 All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.
- 21 Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?
- 22 Wherefore I perceive that there is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion: for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

God — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

Heaven — שָׁמַיִם (Shamayim)

Heaven, sky

The Hebrew **shamayim** (שָׁמַיִם) means heaven or sky—God's dwelling place and the realm above earth. 'The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's' (Psalm 115:16), yet 'the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him' (1 Kings 8:27).

Judgment — מִשְׁפָּט (Mishpat)

Judgment, justice

The Hebrew **mishpat** (מִשְׁפָּט) means judgment or justice—God's righteous decisions and ordinances. God is the Judge of all the earth who 'shall do right' (Genesis 18:25), executing perfect justice.

Love — אַהֲבָה / חֶסֶד (Ahavah / Chesed)

Love / Loyal-love

Hebrew uses **ahavah** (אַהֲבָה) for love generally, but the covenant term **chesed** (חֶסֶד) describes God's steadfast, loyal love—faithful covenant commitment beyond mere emotion.

Righteous — צַדִּיק (Tzaddik)

Righteous one

The Hebrew **tzaddik** (צַדִּיק) describes one who is righteous, just, or lawful—conforming to God's standard. From the root tzedek (צֶדֶק), meaning righteousness or justice.

Spirit — רוּחַ (Ruach)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Hebrew **ruach** (רוּחַ) means spirit, wind, or breath—invisible but powerful. It describes both the Holy Spirit and the human spirit. God's Spirit gives life and empowers His people.

CROSS REFERENCES

Ecclesiastes 3:1 **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 1:13; 2:3; 2:17; 3:17; 7:14; 2 Kings 5:26; 2 Chronicles 33:12; Proverbs 15:23; Matthew 16:3

Ecclesiastes 3:2

Parallel theme: Job 7:1; 14:5; Isaiah 38:1; 38:5; 54:1; Matthew 15:13; Luke 1:20; John 16:21; Galatians 4:4; Hebrews 9:27

Ecclesiastes 3:3 **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 32:39; 1 Samuel 2:6; 2:25; Isaiah 44:26; Jeremiah 31:28; 33:6; 45:4; Ezekiel 13:14; Zechariah 1:12

Ecclesiastes 3:4 **Parallel theme:** Genesis 21:6; Exodus 15:20; 2 Samuel 6:16; Psalms 30:5; Matthew 9:15; 11:17; Luke 1:58; Romans 12:15; 2 Corinthians 7:10; James 4:9

Ecclesiastes 3:5 **Parallel theme:** Joshua 10:27; 2 Kings 3:25; Joel 2:16

Ecclesiastes 3:6 **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 11:1; 2 Kings 5:26; Psalms 112:9; Matthew 19:29; Acts 27:19; 27:38

Ecclesiastes 3:7

Parallel theme: Esther 7:4; Lamentations 3:28; Joel 2:13; Amos 5:13; Micah 7:5; Acts 4:20

Ecclesiastes 3:8 **Love:** 2 Chronicles 19:2; Ezekiel 16:8; Ephesians 3:19; 5:25; Titus 2:4.
Parallel theme: Joshua 11:23; 1 Kings 5:4; Psalms 139:21; Luke 14:26; Revelation 2:2

Ecclesiastes 3:9 **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 1:3; 2:11; 5:16; Proverbs 14:23; Matthew 16:26

Ecclesiastes 3:10 **Parallel theme:** Genesis 3:19. **References God:** Ecclesiastes 2:26

Ecclesiastes 3:11

References God: Ecclesiastes 8:17; Deuteronomy 32:4; Job 11:7; Romans 1:28; 11:33. **Parallel theme:** Job 5:9; Mark 7:37. **Creation:** Ecclesiastes 7:29; Genesis 1:31; Psalms 104:24

Ecclesiastes 3:12 **Good:** Psalms 37:3; 1 Timothy 6:18. **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 3:22

Ecclesiastes 3:13

Parallel theme: Psalms 128:2. **References God:** Ecclesiastes 9:7. **Good:** Ecclesiastes 2:24

Ecclesiastes 3:14

Parallel theme: Psalms 33:11; Proverbs 21:30; 30:6; Romans 11:36; James 1:17. **References God:** Acts 5:39; Titus 1:2

Ecclesiastes 3:15 **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 6:10

Ecclesiastes 3:16 **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 4:1. **Righteousness:** Ecclesiastes 5:8.
Judgment: Acts 23:3

Ecclesiastes 3:17

Judgment: Ecclesiastes 11:9; 12:14; 2 Corinthians 5:10. **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 3:1; Matthew 16:27. **Righteousness:** Psalms 98:9

Ecclesiastes 3:18

Parallel theme: Psalms 49:12; 73:22; Romans 9:23; Hebrews 9:27; 2 Peter 2:12

Ecclesiastes 3:19 Parallel theme: Psalms 49:12; 49:20

Ecclesiastes 3:20

Parallel theme: Ecclesiastes 6:6; 9:10; 12:7; Genesis 3:19; Job 7:9; 34:15; Psalms 104:29

Ecclesiastes 3:21 Spirit: Ecclesiastes 12:7. **Parallel theme:** John 14:3; 2 Corinthians 5:1; Philippians 1:23

Ecclesiastes 3:22 Parallel theme: Ecclesiastes 2:24; 6:12; 8:7; 10:14; 11:9

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