

## GOOD NEWS FROM KING SOLOMON

**“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. What does the worker gain from his toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on men. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in his toil-this is the gift of God.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-13)**

King Solomon is the one who wrote these passages from the Bible that speak about different aspects of life. It declares that there is time for everything under heaven. King Solomon presented a long list that we can put up together:

- A. Joyful times:** These are the days of celebration, proclamation, dancing, victory, peace, love, success, winning and passing obstacles. These are the moments that every people want to be in, eager to experience or to pass through.
- B. Sad times:** These are the times of death, killing, tearing down, weeping, mourning, war and loss. These are the days that are most hateful for people to pass through. Everyone wants to escape this kind of moments or events in life. But, it's a fact that sad times are inescapable.
- C. Difficult times:** These are not the sad moments but times of silence and struggle. Times when more effort and resources are consumed. Like a time to plant, to search, to build, to tear or to wage war. It is also the time of decision-making. Like a decision to embrace although it is pleasing but we have to decide carefully before doing for as well the time to refrain is difficult. It is difficult to throw away, to hate, to uproot, and to keep silent.
- D. Wasted times:** These are the times of idleness or the period of scattering stones and gathering them. These are the long hours that human is wasting or spending aimlessly for watching TV, reading newspaper, drinking, playing cards, strolling in malls, sitting or laying down. Or, in certain occasion time, money and effort is wasted while collecting lots of unnecessary things like gold, finery, and other possessions that someday is just to be left behind or be given away.

King Solomon was honest in his writing. He mentioned more difficult, hard and unpleasant times in human lives than the easy and beautiful ones. While speaking to the people who knew and believed in God, King Solomon was not only honest but realistic: **“I have seen the burden God laid on men.”** These are narrow ways and dark valleys, the difficult and sad times that we cannot escape. Although as God's people we are under the canopy of God's protection and grace still we have to pass through hard times and sometimes more frequently than through easy times. **“What does the worker gain from his toil?”** What do we gain from this life and what is the outcome of

our suffering? Although facts are difficult to hear, hard to understand and accept, the Bible says, **“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:32)** God has planned and set things in order to happen and to appear at certain right time. In the mid of the chapter King Solomon challenged the people with the truth that:

- 1. God has made everything beautiful in its time:** It maybe that we have been long time with sickness waiting to be healed, in long poverty to be relieved, with needs to be satisfied, wanting a baby to be born, a house to be built, a marital life to be restored, a tree to produce fruit, or a ministry to accomplish. The time awaited is yet long and far. It may be hard but remember, God is godly at His timing. He has His own time frame for every good and perfect gift. **“God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.” (Hebrews 11:40)**
- 2. God has set eternity in the heart of men:** God does not only give man material things that perish but He gives eternity which is life forever. Only God through believing in Jesus Christ's death on the cross and resurrection can give salvation and eternal life to humankind. This is the essence of Christian faith. Eternal life is set by God in human hearts that gives hope and peace. And the joy of salvation will make us pass all the difficult or hard times mentioned above, as we experience a life full of grace and truth. **“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)**
- 3. God's work is incomprehensible:** No one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. God had created the heaven and earth and He provided to man all things and put them under his authority. But man sinned and was separated from God. Yet God's true love was manifested when He sent His Son Jesus to the world and died for mankind. He took our sins and gave His Son Jesus to the world who died for mankind. He took our sins and gave eternal life to everyone who believed in Him. Jesus suffered a lot for our sake. He was mocked, spitted on face, beaten, nailed, hanged on the cross and died so that we will be saved and enjoy life. This is good news but only few understand accept and appreciate. There is nothing better for men than to have the joy of salvation and share the good news so that everyone will eat and drink and enjoy life with God's presence and find satisfaction.

**My Dear and Beloved:** This is now the time for you to forget your hard and difficult times, and to concentrate on the eternity that God has set in your heart.

**My Prayer:** *Father God in heaven I come to you in the name of Jesus, asking for your forgiveness to my sins, and to comfort me in my difficulties. At this time I wholeheartedly believe in Jesus who can save me from sin, sickness, poverty, death: and can give me eternal life. Holy Spirit, I invite you to set eternity in my heart so that in me there is always joy and satisfaction that flow. This is my prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.*