### Ecclesiastes

## Chapter 3

1‘For all that’s under the sky  
 There’s a season and time…  
  
 2‘There are times to give birth and times that bring death;  
 There are times to plant and to harvest;  
  
 3‘There are times to heal and times to destroy;  
 There are times to build and tear down;  
  
 4‘There are times to laugh and to cry;  
 There are times for mourning and dancing;  
  
 5‘There are times to pick stones and to throw them;  
 There are times to hug and times to reject;  
  
 6‘There are times to lose and to find;  
 There are times to collect and discard;  
  
 7‘There are times to plant and times to rip out;  
 There are times to speak or be quiet;  
  
 8‘There are times to love and times to show hate;  
 There are times for peace and for war…  
  
 9‘So, what can your efforts accomplish?  
  
 10‘I’ve seen the amusements God’s given  
 To the sons of men to distract them…  
 11Yes, all that God’s made is good in its time.  
 And although He’s put the ages into our hearts,  
 No man can know all that’s been done  
 From the most ancient times to the present.  
  
 12‘I knew that there’s nothing good in [his efforts],  
 Unless they please [him]  
 And do him good in life;  
 13So, when a man has it all  
 (All that he needs to eat and to drink),  
 He will know that his ways have been blest,  
 And he’ll know that these gifts came from God.  
  
 14‘All that God does lasts through ages;  
 So to them, you can add nothing more,  
 Nor can you take it away.  
 For, all that God has accomplished  
 Was done so we’d live before Him in fear.  
 15And all that is, has been before…  
 Yes, it’s all happened before,  
 And God searches to see what we’ve chosen.  
  
 16‘I’ve also noticed that under the sun,  
 There’s a place where the godless are judged  
 And a place where the righteous are judged.  
 17So, in my heart, I’ve concluded  
 That both the unrighteous and just will be judged.  
 Yes, there’s a season for all,  
 And for every deed, there’s a right time.  
  
 18‘I said in my heart what sons of men say…  
 That God views us like we’re cattle.  
 19For, man’s outcome is the same as his herds…  
 As this one dies, so dies the other,  
 Since we all share the very same breath.  
  
 ‘So, how are men better than cattle? They aren’t,  
 And it’s all just a joke!  
 20For we all return to the very same place…  
 We come from the dust and return to the dust.  
 21So, who knows if man’s breath goes upward,  
 Or the breath of his cattle goes into the ground?  
  
 22In all of this, I saw [little] that’s good,  
 Except to find joy in the things that we do…  
 Yes, this is all we’ve been given.  
 For, who’ll lead us to see  
 The things that will happen after [we’re gone]?