



DANUBE  
INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

# Ecclesiastes

LIFE IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY





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**Life on God's Clock**

**Ecclesiastes 3:1-15**



# ECCLESIASTES

## LIFE IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY

FOCUS	THEESIS: “ALL IS VANITY”	PROOF: “LIFE IS VAIN”	COUNSEL: “FEAR GOD”
REFERENCE	1:1	1:12	7:1 12:14
TOPIC	ILLUSTRATIONS OF VANITY	PROOF FROM EXPERIENCE    PROOF FROM OBSERVATION	
	DECLARATION OF VANITY	DEMONSTRATION OF VANITY	FROM VANITY
LOCATION	UNIVERSE: “UNDER THE SUN”		
TIME	c. 935 B.C		



# Life on God's Clock

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

## Thesis

- 2 **Vanity of vanities**, says the Preacher, **vanity of vanities! All is vanity.**  
3 What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?

**Hevel**



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Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

## Thesis

**2 Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.**

**3 What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?**



## **Ecclesiastes 3:1-15**

**1 For 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 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 seek, and a time to lose;**

**a time to keep, and a time to cast away;**

**7 a time to tear, and a time to sew;**

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**8 a time to love, and a time to hate;**

**a time for war, and a time for peace.**



## **Ecclesiastes 3:1-15**

**9 What gain has the worker from his toil? 10 I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.**

**12 I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; 13 also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man. 14 I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him. 15 That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.**



# Life on God's Clock

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

**I. The Times We Cannot Control (3:1–8)**

**II. The Longing We Cannot Satisfy (3:9–11)**

**III. The Trust We Must Learn (3:12–15)**



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# Life on God's Clock

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

## The Big Idea

**Life becomes livable not when we control time,  
but when we trust the God who holds it.**



# Ecclesiastes 2:12-21

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1:12–2:11

**What if I achieve everything... and it turns out to be empty, vanity?**

- **Wisdom sees clearly—but cannot fix what is broken**
- **Pleasure soothes briefly—but cannot heal the ache**
- **Achievement impresses greatly—but cannot justify the self**



## Ecclesiastes 2:12-21

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2:12–2:21

What if none of it ultimately matters because I die?

- Death erases distinction 2:18-21

**16 For of the wise as of the fool there is no enduring remembrance**, seeing that in the days to come all will have been long forgotten. **How the wise dies just like the fool!** **17 So I hated life**, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind.

## Ecclesiastes 2:12-21

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2:12–2:21

**What if none of it ultimately matters because I die?**

- **Legacy cannot be controlled 2:18-21**

**18 I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, 19 and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity.**

**20 So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, 21 because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil.**



# Ecclesiastes 2:12-21

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

## EXPERIMENT VS EXPERIENCE

**1:12–2:11 - What if I do everything?**

**2:12-2:21 - What does it all mean in the end?**

**“The tragedy is not just that we must die, but that what we have built may fall into careless hands.”**

**- Derek Kidner**



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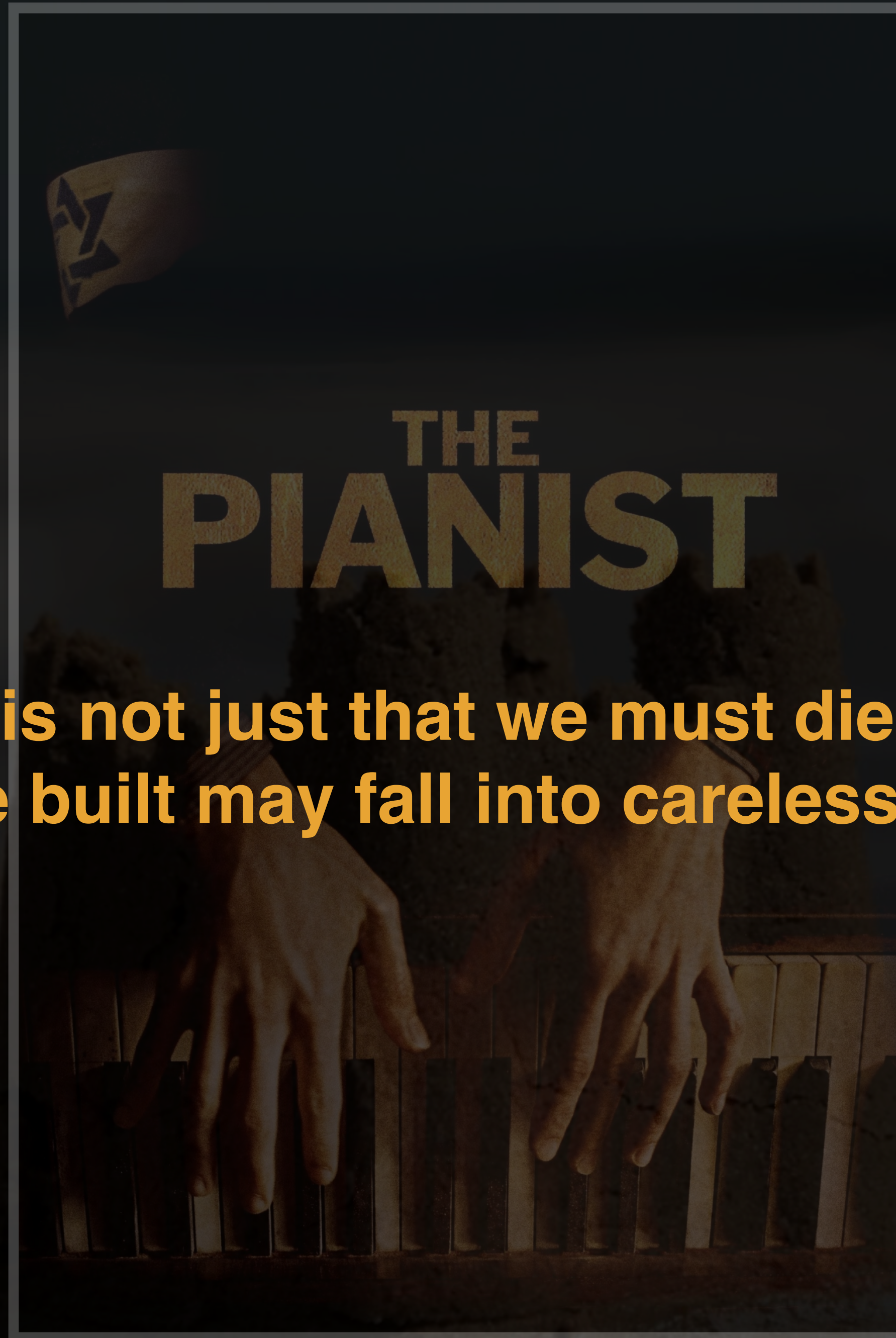


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# THE PIANIST

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# Ecclesiastes 2:12-21

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### SUMMARY

**Chapters 1–2 ask: What if I live as though everything depends on me?**

**Chapter 3 answers: Life makes sense only when I accept that everything depends on God.**



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# Life on God's Clock

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

## I. The Times We Cannot Control (3:1-8)





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# Life on God's Clock

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## I. The Times We Cannot Control (3:1–8)

What if the problem in your life is not the season you're in—but your refusal to trust the God who appointed it?



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## I. The Times We Cannot Control (3:1–8)

What if the problem in your life is not the season you're in—but your refusal to trust the God who appointed it?

*“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:”*

**Eccl. 3:1**



## **Ecclesiastes 3:1-15**

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Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

## I. The Times We Cannot Control (3:1–8)

### APPLICATION:

*“Faith holds on, not because it sees the outcome, but because it remembers the character of the One who does.”*

Martyn Lloyd Jones



# Life on God's Clock

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

## I. The Times We Cannot Control (3:1–8)

### APPLICATION:

#### Practical Steps

- Name the season you are in without editing it
- Refuse premature conclusions
- Ask better questions: not “How do I escape?” but “How do I walk faithfully here?”

**God has veto power over my life**



# Life on God's Clock

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

## II. The Longing We Cannot Satisfy (3:9–11)

**9 What gain has the worker from his toil?** 10 I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.



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Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

## II. The Longing We Cannot Satisfy (3:9–11)

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## II. **The Longing We Cannot Satisfy** (3:9–11)

*God gives us enough longing to keep us from settling for this world, but not enough clarity to tempt us into playing god.*

*Enough dissatisfaction to keep us searching, but not enough control to let us save ourselves.*



# Life on God's Clock

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

## APPLCIATION

**HOW— How do we live with this longing faithfully?**

### **Practically**

- Stop demanding that finite things satisfy infinite desires
- Let moments of beauty awaken worship, not desperation
- Name your longing without trying to numb it

### **Spiritually**

- Pray prayers that lean into hope, not control
- Saturate yourself in Scripture that lifts your eyes beyond time
- Stay close to God's people who remind you what your heart was made for



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## III. **The Trust We Must Learn** (3:12–15)

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## III. The Trust We Must Learn (3:12–15)

The world says: *You'll have peace when you understand.*  
Ecclesiastes says: *You'll have peace when you trust.*



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## The Big Idea

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## APPLCIATION

### What Do We Do?

- 1. Release control:** Stop demanding outcomes God never promised you.
- 2. Receive your season:** Not as punishment—but as purposeful.
- 3. Revere God:** Let awe replace anxiety.
- 4. Rest in Christ:** Your life is not off schedule. God is not late. Eternity has already broken into time.



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## APPLCIATION

**Remember:**

**You are not living on your clock.**

**You are living on God's clock.**

**And in Christ, that clock is moving—slowly, faithfully, surely—toward glory.**



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