

# REALITY CHECK

AUG 28  
WEEK 4

Discovering life's meaning  
in the book of Ecclesiastes

## It's Time to Rethink Time

"We're never satisfied with the present. We anticipate the future as if we found it too slow in coming and we're trying to hurry it up, or we recall the past as if to stay its too rapid flight. We are so unwise that we wander about in times that do not belong to us, and do not think about the only time that does."

- Blaise Pascal, *Pensées* (1670)

### Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 *Turn, Turn, Turn!*

- <sup>1</sup> There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:
- <sup>2</sup> a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
  - <sup>3</sup> a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,
  - <sup>4</sup> a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,
  - <sup>5</sup> a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
  - <sup>6</sup> a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,
  - <sup>7</sup> a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,
  - <sup>8</sup> a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

### Ecclesiastes 3:9-15 *Fear that Fulfills*

<sup>9</sup> What do workers gain from their toil? <sup>10</sup> I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. <sup>11</sup> He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

<sup>12</sup> I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. <sup>13</sup> That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil— *this is the gift of God.*

<sup>14</sup> I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear him. <sup>15</sup> Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account.

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings. Proverbs 25:2

God's voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding. Job 37:5

"God has 'set eternity on our hearts.' This means that the things of this world (*under the sun*) will never really satisfy us. Therefore, we must trust God's will for our lives and let Him 'mix the ingredients' according to His purpose."

- Warren W. Wiersbe, *Outlines of the OT* (1993)

### Ecclesiastes 3:16-22 *More Hevel, More Problems*

<sup>16</sup> And I saw something else under the sun: In the place of judgment—wickedness was there, in the place of justice—wickedness was there...

<sup>22</sup> So I saw that there is nothing better for a person than to enjoy their work, because that is their lot. For who can bring them to see what will happen after them?

They gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you **at this time** going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority." Acts 1:6-7