

### THE STORY OF STORIES

- Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 -

"Ecclesiastes is not the place we find answers. It's in the rest of the Bible that we find answers. This man's job is to push you to the logical conclusion of your position. This man's job is to lay bare the foundations of your life. To push you to the boundaries of your thought. To say, 'Why do you believe that? Why do you believe that? And if you believe that, do you see what that leads to?' To push you because he knows that none of us have got the spiritual or intellectual guts to really look and ask the question, 'Why, why, why' about everything we do and everything we believe."

— Tim Keller

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

- Ecclesiastes 1:2

### What does a man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?

- Ecclesiastes 1:3

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

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a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.
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#### CREATION

FALL

REDEMPTION

RESTORATION

And I will leave under the cover
Of summer's kiss upon the sky
Like the stone face of your lover
Just before she says goodbye
And I was certain that the season
Could be held between my arms
But just as summer's hold is fleeting
I was here but now I'm gone.

Dashboard Confessional

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"Instead of a gray world of matter and motion and chance, in which anything can happen, but nothing much ever does, the world is the artistic creation of the greatest mind imaginable, with a dazzling beauty and fascinating logic. It is a history with a drama, a human interest, a profound subtlety and allusiveness more illuminating than the greatest novelist could produce. That divine history has a moral grandeur that turns all the world's evil to good."

— John Frame

"Jesus Christ redeemed us from the vanity that Pastor Solomon so wrestled with and suffered under by subjecting himself to our temporary, meaningless, futile, incomprehensible, incongruous, absurd, smokecurling-up-into-the-air, mere-breath, vain life. He was born under the sun. He toiled under the sun. He suffered under the sun. He died under the sun. But in his subjection to the curse of death by his own death on the cross, this Son of God 'redeemed us from the curse' (Gal. 3:13). By his resurrection, he restored meaning to our toil. And by his return, he will exact every injustice and elucidate every absurdity as he ushers those who fear the Lord in the glorious presence of our all-wise, never-completely-comprehensible God."

#### - Douglas Sean O'Donnell

