

Ecclesiastes: Finding Purpose (4)

Jesse Berthold / January 31, 2024

Ecclesiastes: How God Shapes Me (4)

HOW GOD SHAPES ME

Psalm 8:4–8 (NLT) “what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? ⁵ Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. ⁶ You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority— ⁷ the flocks and the herds and all the wild animals, ⁸ the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and everything that swims the ocean currents.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1–8 (NLT)

¹ For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.

² A time to be born and a time to die.

A time to plant and a time to harvest.

³ A time to kill and a time to heal.

A time to tear down and a time to build up.

⁴ A time to cry and a time to laugh.

A time to grieve and a time to dance.

⁵ A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones.

A time to embrace and a time to turn away.

⁶ A time to search and a time to quit searching.

A time to keep and a time to throw away.

⁷ A time to tear and a time to mend.

A time to be quiet and a time to speak.

⁸ A time to love and a time to hate.

A time for war and a time for peace.

The first thing that Solomon tells us is that...

There is a time and season for every activity under heaven!

Verse 1 = For everything there is a **season**, a time for **every activity** under heaven.

Romans 8:28 (NLT) "... God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."

Four things that we need to take note of:

The first thing that we need to take note of is that...

- **In verses 2 thru 8 Solomon lists fourteen couplets of activities...**

The second thing that we need to take note of is that...

- **In verses 2 thru 8 Solomon used a common literary device of his day by listing two extremes...**

The third thing that we need to take note of is that...

- **In verses 2 thru 8 is that there are seven verses listed...**

The fourth thing that we need to take note of is that...

- **In verses 2 thru 8 in each pair of life experiences the words are opposites...**

Verse 2 = A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest.

Verse 3 = A time to kill and a time to heal. A time to tear down and a time to build up.

Verse 4 = A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance.

Verse 5 = A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones. A time to embrace and a time to turn away.

Verse 6 = A time to search and a time to quit searching. A time to keep and a time to throw away.

Verse 7 = A time to tear and a time to mend. A time to be quiet and a time to speak.

Verse 8 = A time to love and a time to hate. A time for war and a time for peace.

LIFE POINT: God has a purpose for our lives and God's Holy Word tells us what His purpose is: That we be conformed to the image of His Son, Jesus Christ!

Romans 8:28–30 (NLT) And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. ²⁹ For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.

LIFE POINT: God accomplishes His plan for us even when others oppose us and do evil against us!

Genesis 50:20 (NLT) You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.

Intended = Chashab = To weave or to Plait...

- The word was used for *braiding hair or weaving different threads together to make a fabric...*

Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT) For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.