

## ***Wisdom for the Seasons and Storms of Life***

### **1. Eutropius had fallen into disgrace...**

- a. We're so conditioned to believe that true happiness is a result of life circumstances...
- b. But Solomon, had won the Lottery of Life, and he was still empty and searching...
- c. Now he wants to give us the Big Picture...

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**True Happiness is not based on Life Circumstances—It is based on Living in Harmony with God and His Will through life's Circumstances**

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## **I. BETWEEN TIME & ETERNITY: The Seasons & Storms of Life**

### **A. WE ALL FACE THE SEASONS AND STORMS OF LIFE**

#### **1. Whether you Rich or Poor, Young or Old...**

- a) Extrovert or Introvert... Believe in God or Don't... Have Faith or Not...
- b) Everyone Faces the Seasons and Storms of Life

#### **2. Between Time & Eternity there are Events outside our control (9:2)**

- a) For example, no matter how rich and powerful a person may be,  
he cannot prevent sorrow, sickness and death

#### **3. Time and Chance Happens to Us All—in Every Generation... (9:11-12)**

### **B. THE SEASONS & STORMS OF LIFE IN EVERY GENERATION (3:1-8)**

***Literary device of listing polar extremes to include everything in between: (Heaven & Earth)***

#### **1. There is: A time to be born — and a time to die...**

- a) "Birth and death, the boundaries of life under the sun, are mentioned first." (Wright)
- b) Our Birth was outside our control — and our Death cannot be prevented...
- c) But God Knows everything about us from birth to death (Ps. 139:16, NIV)

#### **2. A time to plant — and a time to pluck what is planted...**

- a) The cycles of seasons that are not in our control
- b) Farmers have to work with the cycles and laws of nature and not against them...  
there is a time for sowing and for reaping
- c) Spiritually—Now is the Time to Sow, Eternity is the time to reap what is sown
- d) *Jesus said "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted."*

#### **3. A time to kill — and a time to heal...**

- a) Capital Punishment was ordained by God in OT—A life for a life...
- b) But Another Provision was Ordained by God in OT—Animal Sacrifice
- c) There was a time to kill an innocent animal because of the moral sin of man
- d) God allowed this form of substitutionary blood atonement for sin
- e) But in the fullness of time God provided a perfect lamb... Jesus the Lamb of God
- f) to bring the healing of forgiveness & grace

#### **4. A time to break down — and a time to build up...**

- a) It's called the 2nd law of thermodynamics: everything is breaking down...
- b) Jesus referred to the wise man as the one who built his house on the rock of truth, and who withstood the storms of life...
- c) The time comes when a life built on sand must break down, otherwise it cannot be built again on truth before it's too late

#### 5. **A time to weep — and a time to laugh**

- a) These are matters of the heart—Two extremes of human emotion that remind us
- b) life is filled with tears and with laughter, Joy and Sorrow, Weddings and Funerals...
- c) Sometimes we fight this and try to deny reality...
- d) we try to suppress our emotions—so we can only be happy and never sad...
- e) Some suppress their emotions to only be sad—and never happy! They've convinced themselves that to admit happiness would take away their leverage/power
- f) It can take years for some married couples to be able to talk openly about their emotions without using their emotions to manipulate one another
- g) There is a time to weep and a time to laugh (**Romans 12:15**)

#### 6. **A time to mourn — and a time to dance**

- a) A time to Weep and a time to Laugh — A time to Mourn and a time to Dance  
These are emotional extremes we all experience at times
- b) To dance in Ancient Israel was different than modern dancing...  
In Israel it was a spontaneous expression of joy, like when David danced when the Ark was brought back to Israel... [even then his wife thought it inappropriate]
- c) A Spontaneous Dance Today is when a favorite sports team wins a big game :)
- d) But Mourning is a Natural and Necessary part of our human experience.
- e) Our Heart Grieves when we experience loss or heartbreak.
- f) If we can't express it in words—it comes out in tears: Words that can't be spoken

#### 7. **A time to cast away stones — And a time to gather stones**

- a) some projects require the clearing of stones from the land, such as preparing a field for planting, or clearing a lot for building.
- b) Other jobs require the gathering of stones together, for example, when a person is building a house or a wall, Pathway or fence.
- c) An Ancient form of sabotage was fill an enemies field / well w/ stones (2 Ks 3:19, 25)
- d) Stones are neither good nor bad; it all depends on what you do with them.

*"If your enemy fills your land with rocks, don't throw them back.*

*Build something out of them!" (Wiersbe)*

#### 8. **A time to embrace — and a time to refrain from embracing**

- a) In Middle East, Embracing was a Greeting: To Say Hello or Goodbye
- b) At certain times, in our culture, it is appropriate to embrace or hug others.
- c) But there are other times when it's inappropriate to do so.
- d) Each has its appointed season in every human being's life.

#### 9. **A time to gain — and a time to lose...**

- a) The economy fluctuates up and down... with forces out of our control

- b) In the time of Joseph there were 7 bad years and 7 good years  
and we've seen that happen in our lifetime.
- c) At times we gain income—but other times we lose it.
- d) It's wise to prepare for ups & downs because we don't know when they happen

#### **10. A time to keep — and a time to throw away**

- a) When we're younger we are trying to accumulate possessions...  
As we get older we try to get rid of them! **(I brought home a VW fender)**
- b) There's a time to keep, without becoming hoarders!
- c) And a time to let things go, so it does not become an anchor around our neck
- d) Here is Bible authority for garage sale! or give it to a young couple just starting out...

#### **11. A time to tear — and a time to sew**

- a) In ancient Israel, to tear or rent clothes was a deep expression of grief or repentance
- b) We sorrow in tragedy & loss—but not like unbelievers who have no hope!
- c) The time comes when we must get up and sew things up and move forward...  
Each has its appropriate time and season

#### **12. A time to keep silence — and a time to speak...**

- a) There is a time to be silent—like when your wife is talking!
- b) Old saying: "He who says too much, says nothing at all." It's just background noise
- c) But there is a time to Speak...
- d) Queen Esther prayed and asked for prayers to know what and when to speak...
- e) She spoke the Truth and she was right! Ask God for help and for His Timing

#### **13. A time to love — and a time to hate**

- a) Is it possible to love and to hate? (Ps 97:10)
- b) If You Love Someone, You Would Hate anything that is harmful to them (Prov 6:16ff)
- c) Love what is good and hate what is evil, Love the sinner but hate the sin

#### **14. A time of war — and a time of peace**

- a) Every generation experiences war and peace, which is totally outside our control
- b) There are aggressor nations and there are peaceful nations
- c) This is the Reality of the broken world we live in

## **II. WISDOM FOR TIME & ETERNITY: Preparing for Eternal Life**

### **A. HAPPINESS IS NOT BASED ON LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES—IT'S BASED ON LIVING IN HARMONY WITH GOD THROUGH LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES**

#### **1. The Seasons and Storms of Life are Beyond Our Control...**

- (1) the era one was born into; (2) the Country one was born in; (3) the ability, wealth, or even the health of their parents; (4) whether their parents believed in God or did not (5) whether there was war or peace, social upheaval, (6) Physical Health or Handicaps (7) all kinds of accidents which may either enhance or hinder one's efforts to succeed.

#### **2. But If We Trust God and Live in Harmony with His Will...**

##### **We Can Have Peace and Happiness Despite Life Circumstances**

- a) Paul Was in Prison awaiting Trial that would condemn him to death...

- b) Yet he could experience the peace that surpasses all understanding, even in prison!
- c) Because He Knew He was Saved from a far worse prison for eternity!
- d) He Knew the Love of God and the Peace of God and Could Live in Thankfulness  
Because God saved Paul from His Sins (**Philippians 4:6–7**)

## **B. WE MUST WAIT FOR GOD’S TIMING—HE MAKES ALL THINGS BEAUTIFUL IN HIS TIME (3:11)**

### **1. But We Are Not Able to Appreciate the Beauty of God’s Purposes and Plans Because We Cannot See the Finished Product**

- a) I was in a dept. store looking at some giant rugs and tapestries hanging on a rack... and I looked at one and thought why would anyone want to buy this
- b) hanging threads, no pattern, messy... But as I slide it to the side to see the next one I saw the most beautiful pattern and needlework.
- c) I Had been looking at the wrong side!

### **2. The Seasons and Storms of Life are Beyond Our Control...**

**But God is in Control and working behind the scenes to bring His plans to completion! He Will Make All Things Beautiful in His Time!**

- a) The Literal Hebrew Means: Beautiful, Also translated, good, proper, appropriate

### **3. I Think of this verse as the Romans 8:28 of the OT...**

- a) Joseph was Falsely Accused and put in an Egyptian Prison for 2 yrs
- b) He didn’t Know he would go from a Prison in Egypt to the Palace of the Pharaoh
- c) God Can Turn a Bad Situation into a Beautiful Outcome—IN HIS TIME!

## **C. GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US IN WHATEVER SEASON OR STORM WERE IN**

### **1. When Daniel’s finds were thrown into the fiery furnace—who was there?**

**The Lord was with them in the Furnace!**

### **2. The Lord was with Joseph in Prison and He was with Paul in His Prison and He is With You in Your Prison!**

### **3. We Don’t Have to Face the Seasons and Storms of Life Alone! (**Matt 28:20**)**

## **CONCLUSION:**

- 1. The Time will come when time will be no more**
- 2. We were not created for this life only—but also for eternity**
- 3. We Must Make Wise Use of Our Time Now (**Ephesians 5:15–16 ESV**)**
- 4. True Happiness is not a result of Circumstances—  
It is only by Living in Harmony with God and His Will**