

# *Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship*

Every word inspired.



Every word proclaimed.

***“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” Col 1:28***

***“Timing Is Everything”***

***Eccl. 3:1-8***

April 12, 2020

## **Ecc1 2:18-26**

- 18 Thus I hated all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun, for I must leave it to the man who will come after me.
- 19 And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the fruit of my labor for which I have labored by acting wisely under the sun. This too is vanity.
- 20 Therefore I completely despaired of all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun.
- 21 When there is a man who has labored with wisdom, knowledge and skill, then he gives his legacy to one who has not labored with them. This too is vanity and a great evil.
- 22 For what does a man get in all his labor and in his striving with which he labors under the sun?
- 23 Because all his days his task is painful and grievous; even at night his mind does not rest. This too is vanity.
- 24 There is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and tell himself that his labor is good. This also I have seen that it is from the hand of God.
- 25 For who can eat and who can have enjoyment without Him?
- 26 For to a person who is good in His sight He has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, while to the sinner He has given the task of gathering and collecting so that he may give to one who is good in God's sight. This too is vanity and striving after wind.

## Introductory remarks:

- You have two choices when you come to this passage. You can either believe that these 8 verses are the result of chance and the random operation of nature, or they are the result of fate and blind determination. If you believe that, there *is* no meaning in life. You are not unique but only a statistic existing in a meaningless universe.
- If we as individuals are not unique, then we are not important. If we are not important, then life has no meaning. If life has no meaning, then life is not worth living.
- The second choice you have is what Solomon is saying in these 8 verses, that we will look at closely.
- This passage is not giving us commands to be obeyed. It is no agenda. Rather, this is a description of God's determinations.
- Solomon is saying to us "Life is empty". If you think you are missing out what life has to offer, you're not! Just relax. Enjoy life and what you have been given.
- This is all so fascinating because there is nothing that touches our lives every day more than the sovereignty of God.

## **Ecc1 3:1-8**

**1 There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven —**

2 A time to give birth and a time to die;

A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted.

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 weep and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn and a time to dance.

5 A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones;

A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing.

6 A time to search and a time to give up as lost;

A time to keep and a time to throw away.

7 A time to tear apart and a time to sew together;

A time to be silent and a time to speak.

8 A time to love and a time to hate;

A time for war and a time for peace.

# Turn! Turn! Turn!

To everything (turn, turn, turn)  
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)  
And a time to every purpose, under heaven

A time to be born, a time to die  
A time to plant, a time to reap  
A time to kill, a time to heal  
A time to laugh, a time to weep

To everything (turn, turn, turn)  
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)  
And a time to every purpose, under heaven

A time to build up, a time to break down  
A time to dance, a time to mourn  
A time to cast away stones, a time to gather stones together

To everything (turn, turn, turn)  
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)  
And a time to every purpose, under heaven

A time of love, a time of hate  
A time of war, a time of peace  
A time you may embrace, a time to refrain from embracing

To everything (turn, turn, turn)  
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)  
And a time to every purpose, under heaven

A time to gain, a time to lose  
A time to rend, a time to sew  
A time for love, a time for hate  
A time for peace, I swear it's not too late

- On December 12th 1965 the Byrds performed "Turn! Turn! Turn!" on the CBS-TV program 'The Ed Sullivan Show' Two months earlier on October 17th it entered Billboard's Top 100 chart; and on November 28th it peaked at #1 (for 3 weeks) and spent 14 weeks on the Top 100.
- “Oldest song of history to make it to #1 on the charts.”

**1 There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven —**

**“appointed”** - זֶמַן - zemawn – season, has a definite beginning and has a definite end.

**“time”** - רֶעַת - eth – proper, appropriate, specific (31x’s)

**“event”** - חֶפֶץ - chephets – purpose

Who appointed and who determined the purposes?

## **Ecc1 3:11**

11 He has made everything appropriate in its time.

- Here you have a great statement and explanation of the sovereignty of God.
- The events of our lives do not randomly happen by chance; God has a purpose behind them.
- Very few people really believe in the sovereignty of God.
- Let’s use an illustration to explain what the sovereignty of God is and why it is important.
- The artist and their painting.

















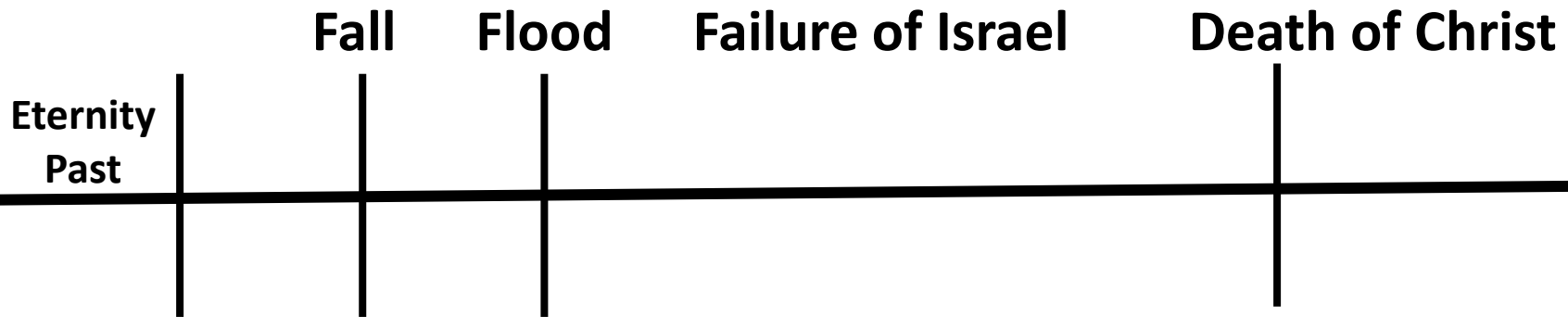








**At what point was God not sovereign?**



**He was sovereign over it all!**

## **Acts 2:23**

23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

## **Acts 4:27-28**

27 "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,

28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.

## **1 Peter 1:19-20**

19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world,



**Definition of Sovereignty:** to be free, independent, autonomous, to have supreme power or authority, not subject to the rule or control of another, to be in absolute control.

**SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD** - He is the highest ruler in the universe and is the source, the means, and the goal (Rom. 11:36) of all events, actions, decisions, and all else that affects man in his existence. Nothing happens without His direction or permission. God works not just some things but all things according to the counsel of His own will (Eph. 1:11). His purposes are all-inclusive and never thwarted (Isa. 46:11; Ps. 33:11); nothing takes Him by surprise. The sovereignty of God is not merely that God has the power and right to govern all things, but that He does so, always, and without exception.

- There is absolutely nothing that happens in the universe that is outside of God's influence and authority. As King of kings and Lord of lords, God has no limitations.
- God is above all things and before all things. He is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end. He is immortal, and He is present everywhere so that everyone can know Him.

## **Rom 11:36**

36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

- God created all things and holds all things together, both in heaven and on earth, both visible and invisible (Colossians 1:16, Heb 1:3).
- God knows all things past, present, and future. There is no limit to His knowledge, for God knows everything completely before it even happens (Romans 11:33).

- God can do all things and accomplish all things. Nothing is too difficult for Him, and He orchestrates and determines everything that is going to happen in your life, in my life, in America, and throughout the world. Whatever He wants to do in the universe, He does, for nothing is impossible with Him.

## **Jer 32:17-18**

17 'Ah Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You,

18 who shows lovingkindness to thousands, but repays the iniquity of fathers into the bosom of their children after them, O great and mighty God. The Lord of hosts is His name;

- God is in control of all things and rules over all things. He has power and authority over nature, earthly kings, history, angels, and demons. Even Satan himself has to ask God's permission before he can act.

## **Amos 3:5**

If a calamity occurs in a city has not the Lord done it?

## **Isa 45:7**

7 The One forming light and creating darkness,

Causing well-being and creating calamity;

I am the Lord who does all these.

## **Lam 3:38**

38 Is it not from the mouth of the Most High  
That both good and calamities go forth?

## **Ps 103:19**

19 The Lord has established His throne in the heavens,  
And His sovereignty rules over all.

## **1 Chron 29:11-13**

11 "Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the  
glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that  
is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O Lord,  
and You exalt Yourself as head over all.

12 "Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over  
all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your  
hand to make great and to strengthen everyone.

13 "Now therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your  
glorious name.

And finally God is sovereign over nothing.

You may not like the plan  
that God is executing  
in the world  
BUT  
if you were God  
you would do it exactly the same way.

## **Ecc1 3:1-8**

1 There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven —

2 A time to give birth and a time to die;

A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted.

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 weep and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn and a time to dance.

5 A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones;

A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing.

6 A time to search and a time to give up as lost;

A time to keep and a time to throw away.

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A time to be silent and a time to speak.

8 A time to love and a time to hate;

A time for war and a time for peace.

# **Born — Die**

- God appoints both our birthday and the day of our funeral. He knows exactly when they will occur; He always has.
- Every eleven seconds somebody dies and every eight seconds someone is born.



The clock of life is wound but once,  
And no man has the power.  
To tell just when the hands will stop,  
At late or early hour.  
To lose one's wealth is sad indeed.  
To lose one's health is more.  
To lose one's soul is such a loss,  
That no man can restore.

## **Born — Die**

- God appoints both our birthday and the day of our funeral. He knows exactly when they will occur; He always has.
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## **Plant —Uproot**

- God ordains when something is planted.
- God also determines when it will be uprooted.
- God determines what will be the cause of the uproot — harvest, wind, weather, armies of destruction that plow through a field with heavy equipment.
- God is the one who has in eternity past determined the lifespan of the plants and everything in between.

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# Kill – Heal

**Kill** - **הָרַג** - harag – broad term for killing. Includes murder.

**תִּרְצַח** - ratsach – murder (Ex. 20:13)

## **God has ordained a time to kill:**

- Cain killed Abel
- David killed Goliath
- Roman gov't & Jews killed Jesus Christ.
- Israel killed countless enemy soldiers.
- Stephen was killed.
- God killed nearly the entire world by drowning in the Flood.
- Men commit murder.
- Armies kill enemies.
- Men are killed in capital punishment
- God appoints armies, generals, soldiers, police, criminals, and evil people.
- Every sword, every arrow, every bullet, every bomb, every missile, follows the path ordained for it before the worlds were made.

# Heal

## God has ordained a time to heal:

- Jesus healed.
- God heals.
- God has appoint doctors, nurses, the building of clinics, hospitals, medical centers to heal the sick.

## Tear Down – Build Up

- God has ordained that there will be appointed times to tear down.
- God has ordained that destruction will take place through appointed tornados, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes.
- God has also ordained that there will be times to build back up. Buildings that were torn down, God has ordained in eternity past are rebuilt.
- If it torn down, then God was in the tearing down of it. If it is built up, then the God was in the building up of it.

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## **Weep – Laugh**

- God has ordained that there will be times when we will cry. Those times will continue until we reach heaven when “there will be no more tears.”
- Tears indicate sadness, disappointment, frustration, hurt, pain.
- What brings weeping into our lives is the hand of the Lord.
- When laughter comes, it is God who appoints the laughter.

## **Mourn – Dance**

- God has ordained that there will be times of mourning at funerals.
- God has also ordained that there will be times of dancing at weddings.

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## **Throw Stones – Gather Stones**

- God has ordained that stones should be thrown to stone people (sins in OT, or for persecution in NT).
- God has ordained that at the proper time stones would be thrown into an enemy's field.
- God has ordained that stones be gathered at the appropriate time to build a wall, a fence, or a house or to clear a field to cultivate it to raise crops.

## **Embrace – Not Embrace**

- God has ordained that we will embrace others to show our love and support for them.
- At other times God has ordained that we will not embrace others. It would be wrong. It may be even evil.
- Euodia and Syntyche (Phil 4:2) once were close but then had a falling out and were not embracing. Now no longer under the sun, they are together again embracing.
- The time for friendships and the time for quarrels are all appointed.

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## **Search – Stop Searching**

- God has appointed for us to search for something.
- He ordained that it be lost. It may not be easily found.
- He has also ordained that we will stop searching for something and resign ourselves to the fact that it is lost.

## **Keep – Throw Away**

- What do we do with possessions?
- God has ordained that at one time we will keep them.
- He has also ordained that we throw them away (a garage sale verse). We buy clothes we sell clothes or give them to Goodwill. We keep a car and then we get rid of it as a “clunker.” All appointed by God.
- We invest in the stock market and we gain.  
We invest in the stock market and we lose.
- God has ordained it all.

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## **Tear apart – sew together**

- To tear or rend a garment occurred in a time of mourning and fasting and then to sew them up when it is over.
- God has appointed times when we will mourn and appointed times when our mourning will end.

## **Be silent – speak**

- There are times God has appointed us to remain silent.
- There are also times when God has appointed for us to speak.

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# Love - Hate

- **Ps. 97:10** You who love the LORD, hate evil.
- **Prov.8:13** The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.
- **Amos 5:15** Hate evil, love good.
- We may hate the act of abortion, but we have compassion and love on both the aborted and the aborting.
- We may hate the ravages of alcohol, but we love those who struggle with alcoholism, and we want to do whatever we can to help them.
- God has ordained in eternity past that you will love at appointed times and you will hate at appointed times

# War - Peace

- In a fallen world, war is necessary to thwart the advance of evil.
- When tyranny runs roughshod over the rights of mankind, war is necessary.
- What we all enjoy in America came at a price and the necessity to fight and win just wars.
- Tribulation (time of war) – Millennium (time of peace).
- God has ordained one and the other.



Take some time today and think about the  
sovereignty of God as it relates to you.  
Name 10 “sovereign timings” where God  
accomplished His purpose in the events  
He brought about in your life.