

# *Famous Chapter 3's in the Bible*

## *Ecclesiastics 3: The time chapter*

### What's up with this chapter?

Imagine lying under a tree and thinking deep thoughts. Maybe you would wonder why the apple on the tree above you will fall. There is a bird pushing their youngling out of the nest. A kid is climbing the tree above you. Then you notice the rot at the base of the tree. A farmer has come to cut the tree down before it falls. In many ways that is just what Solomon was thinking when he wrote Ecclesiastics 3. This is a famous chapter in the Bible because it is the ramblings of King Solomon as he dreams about time.

I know we know. Solomon knows we know too. People understand that time moves forward. That all things happen here under the heavens. This chapter in the Bible is famous because it reminds us to remember time. They say time heals all wounds. They say there is enough time if we let it. The sayings of Solomon are not unique, yet, they are his.

This book begins with

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,  
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

3 What do people gain from all the toil  
at which they toil under the sun?

4 A generation goes, and a generation comes,  
but the earth remains forever.

Solomon is just pondering his existence. What is the relationship between God and people? How do people and work go together? Is time for us or against us? Each one of us has pondered their existence in time. I have always felt that time was a road. We begin our time on that road somewhere. We pass people and fall behind others. Time has been there all along and

will continue infinitely. Yet, here we find ourselves on this road called time. The bigger question might be: what do you do with the time given you?

Ecclesiastics 3 begins with “**For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.**” People interact with the heavens and the earth. For many of us there is time to be something. I like Carlyle in the Twilight series saying “You just have to do something with what you are given.” That is so true. Solomon’s chapter is famous because it is you and me. We all ponder time. We ponder our moves past and future. What do you want to happen with the time you have?

I love this chapter and the whole book. It helped me to see time in a different light. I guess there is a time to live and a time to die. Life is a cluster of events that we call history as they pass by. What will happen in your life? How will what you say and do affect the time of others? Read this chapter and ponder it under a tree possibly. I believe that there is time to read Ecclesiastics 3 before your time ends under heaven.

### **Exodus 3. What makes it famous?**

I have asked many non-believers in God “who butters your bread.” What I meant was who do you give credit for the life you have? It’s sad when they say they are free people and not constrained by a God. There is this concept that God’s will is done no matter what. Another concept is that of predestination. Is there a set plan of God? If you read this chapter, it should be clear that Solomon comes down the middle on this one. He says we are free to choose but that things also have a way of working out as they were planned to from the beginning. Maybe it is vanity to believe we are our own God.

This chapter ponders so many questions. I think that is why it's so famous. Will things just happen because it was set up that way? Is toiling in work something different than we think? I think Solomon thought so. We work to eat or have a roof over our heads. We could work to make something or gain money. What if working is so much more. Solomon hints that work is what happens where we are. What we do in work and in time and space is more important. It's about our character with what God has given.

Look at verse 22 **“So I saw that there is nothing better than that all should enjoy their work, for that is their lot; who can bring them to see what will be after them?”** There it is right before our eyes. We are not commanded to work, but we will. We are not commanded to love but we should. Solomon says he saw evil in good and bad things. He saw unfair advantages to the wicked. He saw justice for the righteous. He mentions that things will happen to wicked and good people. In all things people, should know that it's God who butters their bread. It's God's choice why, who, and where.

This chapter is famous because it makes us think. If God is real, then how do we fit into his plan. Is it a good plan? If we take this for being God's words to us, then it changes things. God might be saying to look to him for answers. Look to him for direction. Maybe what seems one way is really another. I know we see that often enough. Vanity is to assume we understand and know. How often are we surprised by people and events in our lives. I think it's quite a bit. Maybe this chapter is famous because we are in time. What will we do with what's been given?

### **What we can learn?**

Time has its place. That seems like a weird saying. If the big bang happened, then is that where our time began? Where does human time begin? Somehow an explosion needed to happen

for us to exist. Somehow a God picked a certain time to create us. At some point within something there was a time to create or explode. Was it perfect timing? If the Big Bang happened three years later would we not exist. How much does fate or dumb luck play in our existence.

Solomon says there is a time for everything under the heavens. What can we take from his insights? I like to look at chapters from a top down view. I look at what the whole chapter and those around it are saying. They say that Solomon owned everything. He had a thousand concubines and several wives. He owned land, horses, and treasure. He was King of a nation. His father was the famous King David. In a way, he was Prince George born of Kate and William in London. I guess you could say he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth.

Why care about life and death. Several times in the Bible we hear the saying *eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die*. I read that it seems unbiblical because we are asked by God to do good things while we are here. Is that saying just asking us to exist because we are all going to die sooner or later. *Under heavens, no!* It's a very good thing to see injustice in the work place. It's very good to be worried about death. We need to be pushed to be better. I think this chapter is famous because it pushes us to not just exist.

We can make work a better place. We can do far more good than evil. We can ponder our existence and ask all the right questions. Far too many people just exist. There is a time for everything, but again, what will you do with what has been given. The Serial killer Son of Sam was raised Christian. Rick Hanson ended up stuck in a wheelchair. Both men took what was given and made the best and worst of it. Solomon was given everything but he realized that time does not care. Who are we and why are we here. There is only so much time to answer those questions.