

# ECCLESIASTES 3 vs 1

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The Hebrew title of this book is Qoheleth – one who speaks at the assembly – the Speaker. Solomon is not specifically mentioned in this book written around 935 bc though all references point to him as author. Martin Luther seems to be the first to suggest Solomon might not have written the book; but that it was written sometime after the Babylonian exile.

The NASB outlines Ecclesiastes with the following divisions: The Author and the Thesis; The Thesis demonstrated; **God's Design for Life**; The Futility of Life; The Futility of Riches; Advice for Living, and Conclusion.



**<sup>1</sup> Everything has its appointed season, there is a purpose for everything under heaven:**

**<sup>2</sup> A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot what is planted;**

**<sup>3</sup> A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;**

**<sup>4</sup> A time to cry, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;**

**<sup>5</sup> A time to throw stones, and a time to gather stones; a time to embrace, and a time to let go;**

**<sup>6</sup> A time to acquire, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to toss;**

**<sup>7</sup> A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time for silence, and a time to speak;**

**<sup>8</sup> A time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.**

**<sup>9</sup> What profit is there to the worker in what he toils?**

**<sup>10</sup> I have seen the task, which God has given the sons of men to occupy them.**

**<sup>11</sup> He has made everything beautiful in its time: also eternity He has put in their heart, without which no one will fully find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.**

**<sup>12</sup> I know that there is nothing better, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life.**

**<sup>13</sup> Also that every man who eats and drinks, sees good in all his labor -- it is the gift of God.**

**<sup>14</sup> I know that, whatever God does, will remain forever:** nothing to add to it, and nothing to take from it: and God does it, that men should fear Him.

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<sup>15</sup> Whatever is, it already has been; and that which will be has already happened, for God is ever bringing back what has passed by.

<sup>16</sup> Once more I have seen under the sun that in the court of justice, there was wrongdoing; and in the place of rightness, there was inequity.

<sup>17</sup> And I said to myself, Yes, but God will judge both the right and the wrong: for it is He who sets a time for every purpose and for every work.

<sup>18</sup> And I said to myself concerning the state of the sons of men, that God is showing them, to let them see they themselves are no better than the beasts.

<sup>19</sup> For what befalls the sons of men befalls beasts; one thing befalls them both: as the one dies, so the other dies; yes, the same breath is in them; so that man is no better than a beast: for both are vanity.

<sup>20</sup> Both go to the same place; both are of the dust, and to dust, both will return.

<sup>21</sup> Who knows that the breath of man ascends, and the breath of the beast that descends to the earth?

<sup>22</sup> For this reason I perceive there is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion. For who will bring him to see what will occur after him?

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