

THE SEASONS OF LIFE



"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."¹

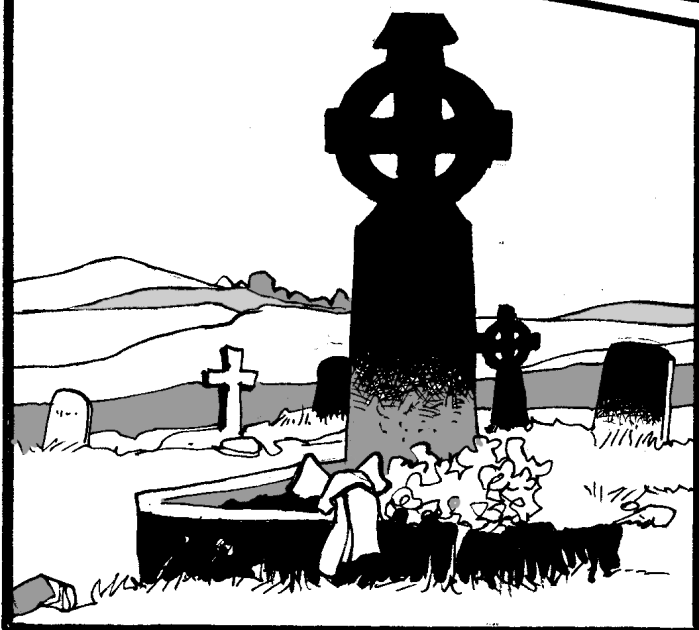
Some other beautiful promises also given in this same chapter are:

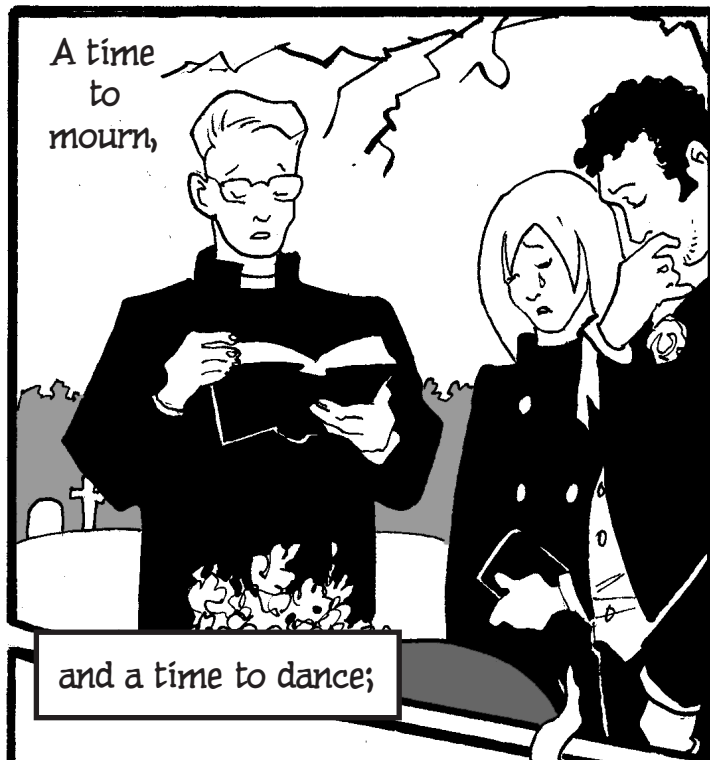
"He has made everything beautiful in its time." Whether you're in a good or a difficult season, you can be sure that it's all part of it becoming beautiful within.

"He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end."² You may have some idea of what you want your life to look like. But you can't fathom all that God will do for you from the beginning of your life until the end of it.

Regardless of how you may feel at the moment, or what season of life you are currently living through, you can probably expect a change at some point, because seasons come and go.

When Solomon wrote the preceding scripture, he gave a lot of examples of the seasons and ways our lives can change:





A time
to tear,



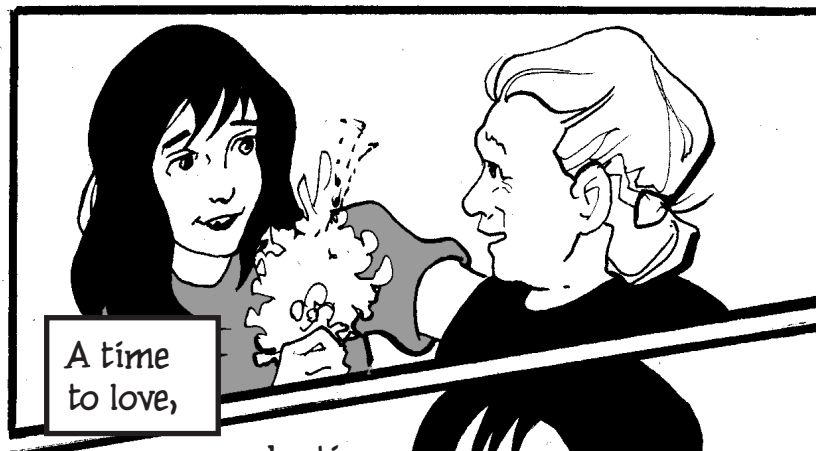
A time to
keep silence,



and a time
to speak;



A time
to love,



and a time
to hate;



A time of war,



and a time of peace.³

These seasons will also repeat themselves, and sometimes they come in a cycle. For example, each year a farmer plants his crops in the spring and harvests them in the fall. He doesn't get upset that he's planting again another year. He doesn't scream out in frustration, "I just did this last year! Why again?" In the fall when it's time to gather in the crops, he doesn't tell himself, "Yay! I'll never have to do that again!" The farmer knows the cycle will repeat every year, and he's okay with that.

Footnotes

¹Ecclesiastes 3:1 NIV

²Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIV

³Ecclesiastes 3:2-4, 6-8 NKJV

When you go through the seasons of the year, and you are going through, let's say, summer, you can forget just how cold it can become in winter. It's the same with the seasons of life. When the sad times come, sometimes it's hard to remember that there's usually a lot of happiness in your life. When things disappoint, it's easy to forget about all the things that have worked out well.

To God, one season isn't more precious than another. He can use each season in our lives to bring about His design.

Your life is no exception to the high and low seasons. And neither is it an exception to the promise that it will be beautiful in His time.



S&S link: Character Building: Values and Virtues: Patience-2c

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