

The season for rebuilding

There's a reason why God included Ecclesiastes in the scriptures.

It was written by Solomon who, aside from Jesus, was the wisest man ever to walk the earth.

He was so wise that when the Queen of Sheba came to visit him, she literally lost her breath for a while as she saw the vastness of his kingdom and experienced the wisdom that flowed from his mouth.

We must remember that his wisdom came from God.

When he was offered anything he wanted from God, Solomon asked for wisdom.

I have begun by endorsing Solomon, because I'd like you to take note of something wise that Solomon wrote, because I believe God wants us to hear it today.

In Ecclesiastes 3:1 Solomon writes that *"there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:"*

Verse 2 then goes on to say *"a time to be born and a time to die,"* and Solomon goes on to give examples of different seasons in our lives. There's *"a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance".*

The underlying and important message is that we must respond correctly in the season we find ourselves in.

Don't mourn when it's time to celebrate. Don't celebrate when it's time to deal with loss and process grief.

Seasons are important.

More importantly, we must read and respond to the season.

There's also a time to plant and a time to harvest. The farmer who tries to plant at harvesting season will be in trouble. Equally, the farmer who tries to harvest without waiting for his crops to grow will end up digging out roots.

We must read the season and respond accordingly.

What about us, right now?

What season are we in?

We have come through a time of war. No matter what you believe about the pandemic, the world has been at war. This war, like any war, has left devastation and ruin for many. No nation on earth has been left untouched by this pandemic.

Solomon says in Ecclesiastes that there's a time for war. There was a time for us to be in our homes and allow the frontline health workers to do what they do best.

They read the season correctly and they knew it was their time to shine. They knew that it was their time to be brave, to make personal sacrifices and to fight for all of us and our loved ones. They embraced their season of war against this invisible enemy and did what needed to be done.

Now the season is changing. Solomon said that there's a time for war, but then there's a time for peace.

There's a time to build up, a time to mend and time to heal.

I believe we find ourselves in such a time. Now it's time for the rest of society to emerge, examine the ruins and begin building again.

Now is time for entrepreneurs to put their heads together and use their God-given talents to build businesses that will create employment.

Now is the time for church leaders to inspire their congregations to rise up again and play their part in mending society. I read a sign outside a local business recently. It said that *"We refuse to participate in the recession"*.

I think that's a fantastic attitude to have. It's not a time to hide and wait for better days, but to be someone who helps create better days.

Don't worry, I'm not suggesting we look at this unrealistically. We are not going to solve the problems overnight, but it's important to do the right thing in the right season.

A farmer plants his seeds and waits for many months before harvesting, but he knows that unless he works hard in the planting season, he won't have a harvesting season to look forward to.

This is a new season. We must read it and embrace it.

It will take courage. It will take risk, but if we all embrace this new season and plant again, we can all enjoy a time of harvesting again.

Use whatever has been placed in your hands and plant, build, mend and heal.

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