

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under heaven:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

What does a worker gain from his or her toil ?

I have seen the burden God has laid on his people.

God has made everything beautiful in its time,

also he has put eternity into the human mind,

yet even still we cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

I know that there is nothing better for a person than to be happy and to do good while they live.

That everyone may eat and drink and find satisfaction in all their work - that is the gift of God.

The word of the Lord.