



# A time for everything



Glance at the day's headlines and you can see fleeting records of momentous and mundane events. As I write, I can see that a 'Historic Iran nuclear deal' is hailed; the SNP forces a rethink on hunting; Nasa's New Horizons spacecraft has sped past Pluto, and the Greek PM is in a race to pass key reforms. These are snapshots of events which will be important to some, and to others indifferent. It reminds me of this poem in the book of Ecclesiastes, which speaks about the breadth of human experience. I wonder how it makes you feel?

### *Out of control?*

Does your life seem to be running away from you? Perhaps events take over, and what you do seems to be dictated by other people.

### *Determined?*

Or perhaps the parallel pairs in the poem feel to you more like options, and you may be determined to

- 1 There is a time for everything.  
There's a time for everything that is done on earth.
- 2 There is a time to be born.  
And there's a time to die.  
There is a time to plant.  
And there's a time to pull up what is planted.
- 3 There is a time to kill.  
And there's a time to heal.  
There is a time to tear down.  
And there's a time to build up.
- 4 There is a time to weep.  
And there's a time to laugh.  
There is a time to be sad.  
And there's a time to dance.
- 5 There is a time to scatter stones.  
And there's a time to gather them.  
There is a time to embrace someone.  
And there's a time not to embrace.
- 6 There is a time to search.  
And there's a time to stop searching.  
There is a time to keep.  
And there's a time to throw away.
- 7 There is a time to tear.  
And there's a time to mend.  
There is a time to be silent.  
And there's a time to speak.
- 8 There is a time to love.  
And there's a time to hate.  
There is a time for war.  
And there's a time for peace.

choose the one you want. Is now a time to throw away, or have I missed the Spring Cleaning urge?

### *Uncomfortable?*

Some of the alternatives don't feel like places I want to go to. Is there really a time to hate? Or does that just mean that we should hate evil acts, while trying to love the people perpetrating them?

### *Time-bound*

I think the writer of the poem would want us to take on board three things:

- 1) our transience. We won't be here on earth doing our thing for long
- 2) Life's variety. We may be in a dark patch at the moment, but things will change.
- 3) God's timelessness. This is his conclusion: I know that everything God does will last forever. Nothing can be added to it.

And nothing can be taken from it.

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