***Becoming a People of Understanding – God’s Perfect Timing***

The scripture is what gives us the framework for reality.

Solomon follows his catalog of human experience with the statement that God, in His sovereignty, has made everything beautiful in its time. That is, He optimizes the outcome of all things, both what He has made and the products of mankind’s activity—even the more challenging aspects of human suffering. He does this in a way that is not only glorifying to Him but healing to those who look to Him for peace, purpose, and salvation. In the words of commentator Joseph Benson, God will work all things out “so that, all things considered, it could not have been better” (Commentary on the Old and New Testaments).

There are a multitude of scriptural passages that indicate the perfection and beauty of God’s timing:

* When the set time was fully come, God sent His son (Galatians 4:4).
* Jesus introduced his ministry with the words, “The time has come” (Mark 1:15).
* And we have the promise that “God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them” (Romans 8:28 NLT)

From a human perspective, God’s timing often does not seem perfect, and it’s hard to see how the events of the world can ever be made “beautiful.” Consider the disappointed reactions of Mary and Martha when Jesus arrived four days after their brother died—after He deliberately delayed His arrival (John 11:1-44).

We are admonished repeatedly in the Bible to “wait on the Lord” (Psalm 27:14, Hebrews 6:15).

Peter tells us to not forget that “with the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness” (2 Peter 3:8).

If we are patient and wait on the Lord, we will eventually see the beauty of God’s handiwork—all in His perfect timing.

A proper time for everything.   
Ecclesiastes helps us to understand timings.   
To trust God is key to yielding to His leadership.

For our time right now, war is ensuing in Israel. Because of the centrality of Israel in the grand plan of God and the return of Jesus we have to understand the timing of war.

In this passage, the Preacher says that there is a time for every matter in life. He illustrates this truth by juxtaposing opposites: fourteen pairs of contrasting activities as examples of how life is comprised of various seasons. A straightforward reading of the passage reveals several concepts:

First, the timing of our activities is important. Killing someone (Ecclesiastes 3:8) is generally considered evil and a crime, but that may change during a time of war, when defending one’s country can be considered a noble act.

Dancing (verse 4) may be appropriate during a time of celebration, but it would not be appropriate for a funeral. Both our actions and the timing of our actions are important to God.

Second, these seasons in which certain pursuits are proper are appointed by God. His plan for life involves a variety of experiences and activities. Weeping may be part of life, but life is not all weeping; laughter has a place, too (Ecclesiastes 3:4). Construction is good in its time, but sometimes deconstruction is necessary (verse 3).

A key to this passage is found a few verses later: “He has made everything beautiful in its time” (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

The proper activity at the right time, bringing about God’s purposes, is a beautiful part of God’s overall plan. A tapestry, viewed from the back, seems a chaotic and unlovely work; but the maker of the tapestry has a wise purpose for the placement of each thread.

Third, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 serves as a bridge between the first two chapters and the section that follows. People are to accept each day as a gift from the hand of God (2:24–26).

Why? Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 explains it is because God has a reason and a time for all things. People may be ignorant of God’s timing (3:9–11), but they are called to enjoy life in the present (3:12–13) and trust in God’s sovereignty (3:14–15).

Again, let us be intentional in understanding the importance of TIMING, how failure to discern TIME can cause deeper trouble than we can imagine and ever can handle.