

16 February 2020

A time to kill, and a time to heal

Ecclesiastes 3:3: A time to kill, and a time to heal

A time to kill (a time to put to death): When it is a time to kill and to take another human life? How can this be a time appointed by God when God commanded us in the 6th commandment: Thou shalt not kill? Of the many times and seasons appointed to us by God in this life, this is a time of great difficulty. The intentional taking of a human life should never be looked upon or taken lightly; because in that moment a never dying soul has been catapulted into an eternity from whence, they cannot return.

When someone is killed, (dies suddenly), it is undoubtedly much more difficult to deal with for those that are left behind, than when they die naturally or after a long bout with a terminal illness or disease.

BUT, what we must always remember is that God has appointed the bounds (or boundaries) of our habitation in this life; (from beginning to end); understand therefore, that, as each of us HAD an appointed day/time to be born into this world, so we MUST not forget that each of us HAS an appointed day/time (in our future) when we shall depart this life in death; and, God has also determined HOW each of us shall depart from this life.

Even as difficult as it is to consider, some will depart this life by being killed or slain by the wicked hands of a murderer(s); some regrettably by taking their own life. Still some will be killed in what is called a terrible accident or disaster. (Remember our friend Ken)

This is where we enter into a doctrine of great difficulty for many, MANY people (some, even being professing Christians), who have a problem with the doctrine of God's determinate counsel and foreknowledge.

How can it be, say they, that God determined and allowed that one be killed at the hands of a murderer? They say things like, God wouldn't allow that to happen! I don't think God would. and fill in the blank. There are multitudes of people in the world who go through life creating a god of their own imagination, a god that they created in their own minds, and a God who ONLY behaves in ways that please them.

BUT every one of the people that say these things know absolutely nothing about God or the Lord Jesus Christ, nor do they know anything of the truth of God's Word. 1 Samuel 2:6, Deuteronomy 32:39

Consider that in the death of the Lord Jesus, it was òa time to killò; a time appointed by God! The crucifixion of Christ is the most famous killing in the history of humanity. Acts 2:22-23, 3:12-18, 4:28, Daniel 9:26, Mark 9:30-31

There are two (2) things to see in these cross references; God determined that the Lord Jesus would be killed by wicked men; BUT ALSO, understand that those that killed the Lord Jesus

were responsible for His death. Peter, in preaching, put the responsibility of the death of Christ SQUARELY on the murderous Jews:

The Romans carried out the crucifixion and execution of the Lord, but YOU (Jews) are the ones responsible for His death; He was crucified and slain; killed by YOUR wicked hands.

The determinate counsel of God did not excuse their sin; they were responsible and accountable before God for their actions. Do you remember what the Jews said after Pontius Pilate washed his hands and said, I am innocent of the blood of this just person?

Matthew 27:25: Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children

Here in the death of the Lord Jesus, it was a time to kill; it was the will of God; it was by His determinate counsel and foreknowledge! If the Lord Jesus had not willingly given Himself to be crucified/killed, none of us would be saved! Hebrews 12:2-3; His soul an offering for our sins!

Understand that it is absolutely true that God decreed/determined every event and/or act that shall take place in time in our lives; but it is also true that God is not the author of sin, God forces no one's hand to sin or commit the heinous act of murdering or killing another man or woman.

When you hear of the killing of another human at the hands of a murderer; as difficult as it is to grasp in your minds; know that, THAT was the manner in which God determined that, THAT person would depart from this life. But that does not take away the responsibility of the killer!

Back to our text, and a time to kill as it applies to us in our everyday lives.

We will get to a time of war (V8), but in war, it is no doubt a time to kill. We have seen this in recent days when our military has deliberately hunted down and killed terrorist leaders and dictators in rogue nations.

They were killed because they were killers/oppressors of their own people; deemed to be dangerous to both their nation and the world.

Example: Consider a time to kill when the Philistines came up against Israel at Shiloh, (1 Samuel) in the time when Hophni and Phinehas (Eli's sons) were the priests of the LORD. They were very oppressive and wicked as priests of the LORD, and they were tyrants toward the people of God.

They would not heed Eli's reproof, because God had determined to kill them both. 1 Samuel 2:22-25, 4:10-11.

Consider that God is a Man of war! Exodus 15:3, Isaiah 42:13
The LORD of Hosts: Of Armies!

Next consider: A time to kill as punishment for those that deliberately take someone else's life; answering the 6th commandment, Thou shalt not kill.

You might say, how can there be an appointed time to kill when God has commanded us NOT to kill. To kill here means to murder in a premeditated way; to violently and sinfully take the life of someone else. Matthew 19:18

Those that were tried and found to be guilty of intentionally murdering someone else would be put to death (executed/killed) for their intentional taking of someone else's life.

Yes, God commands us thou shalt not kill; but when a wicked person commits premeditated murder and takes the life of another; God commands the sentence to be death. Life for life.

The taking of the life of a murderer for his crime is not murder; it is the punishment and penalty for his sin.

Genesis 9:1-6, Exodus 21:12-17, Romans 13:1-4

Finally, in regard to an appointed time to kill, consider Christian that you are commanded to kill the old man every single day of your Christian life under the sun. Romans 8:13, Colossians 3:5

A time to heal Deuteronomy 32:39: God said: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal

As God commands both the giving and the taking of life; so, God also commands healing to those to whom He has appointed healing.

There are many examples of bodily healing in both the OT and NT; every one of those instances were designed to point those that were healed to the Great Physician and Healer, the only living and true God.

Understand that when you are healed of any sickness or disease, know that God is the One that actively healed you! Oh, we look to our medicines and antibiotics, but apart from God actively strengthening our bodies against diseases and illnesses we would not be healed by those medicines.

As God has appointed a time to kill, so He has appointed a time to heal. Famous examples of God healing; Naaman of Syria & King Hezekiah:

2 Kings 20:1-7, 2 Kings 5:1-4, 15-19

And of course, numerous examples in the NT; the Lord Jesus cleansing leprosy and healing all manner of sicknesses.

As there is often healing from God for our bodies, so, there are often times in which we are in need of spiritual healing for our souls from God!

In fact, when our hearts are cast down, everything about us is affected. Our bodies and our countenances are affected!

Psalms 38, 42:5-11, Proverbs 12:25, 15:13, 18:14.

God is the only One who can send healing to our hearts when we need it.

Psalms 51:7-13

In closing, let us never forget that God is the giver and taker of life; He has appointed the bounds of our habitation.

He appointed the day/time that you would be conceived and born

into this world, and He has appointed the day/time, and also the manner in which you will depart from this life.

Deuteronomy 32:39

In regard to healing; this is why we pray for it when we are sick, or when we receive a diagnosis from a doctor that we have a disease.

In praying, we are making our request to the Creator & Giver of life, and if God is pleased to do so, the Healer of our lives.