

Be It Resolved

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A sermon preached by
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Text:
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

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Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

- ² a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
⁵ a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.
⁹ What gain have the workers from their toil?
¹⁰ I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. [God] has made everything suitable for its time; moreover [God] has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.
¹² I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; ¹³ moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.



Yesterday
A year shy of a day
Tomorrow
A day added to a year
And
God is there for it all,
God in it all.

A year flies by
Crawls by
Moves with our lives
Brings us along
Nudges us forward
Grows older with us,
Grows wiser with us
Or more so
We with it.

Eleven

An earthquake in far off Japan
A massacre in our own Tucson
A year starts shaky
What's up? What's down?
And where was God?
There ... right there ...
In the tears and the anguish
In the midst of terror and trauma.

People rose up
In a world of oppression
Oppression pushed back
Violence and hatred

People rose up
99 to 1
Economics and poverty
met with
insult.

Where is justice?

Where was God?
There ... right there ...
In the words of freedom
and the call for justice
In the outrage of the suffering
and the compassion of the world.

Is the world now
kill
or
be killed?
Bin Laden
Gaddafi
Troy Davis
Youngsters in Norway

Drones and IEDs
A war ends this year
4,800 soldiers;
100,000 civilians
Another goes on
2,800 soldiers;
100,000 civilians
And counting.
What does it matter?

When do we
stop
killing
the
other,
each
other?

And so where is God?

Would you have us
God
love our enemies?
Isn't it better
eye for eye
tooth for tooth?
Or does it leave us
blind to the killing?
Blind to each other

to relationships
to love
as you love us.

Yet
There is a season for all
Preached the Preacher.
To plant and to harvest
To weep and laugh
To seek, to lose
To love, to hate

A season
For us
By, yes, God
... God is real.

So news
This Eleven
also
is good news.
More so
than not so.
Good.
News.
Gospel.

Crime is down
Jobs are up
Divorce is down
Marriage equality is up
The rapture is a fake,
world economies didn't collapse.
Good news
God news
Good news.

We are new this day
For this season
For this lifetime
Starts again
Today
 This day.

God made all
for its time;
a sense
of
 today
 of
 tomorrow
 in our minds.

Can we not yet know
 what God has done?
News, news
A year made new
Before us.
 We are made new.
 We are made new.
A time for all

A royal wedding.
 Kim K's fiasco.
Earthquake at home
 Floods fill streets.
Sex abuse scandals
 DSK walks free
Childhoods stolen
 When predators prey

Tibetan monks
 afame
Tahrir
 Bahrain
 Tripoli

Yeman
 Sudan
Wall Street
 The Protestator
 Tear gas
 Rubber bullets
 Pepper spray

A presidential race
The Hermanator
The Book
 of Mormon
DesMoines
Flip flops abound.

Where do we go
From here?
To where?

There is nothing better
 than
 to be happy
 to enjoy
 as long as we live.

God's gift
 eat
and
 drink
and
 take pleasure
in life.

So do I resolve?
This first day
 of year Twelve
Do we resolve?
 To love more

To heal more
To embrace more
To know
God more
To know
my neighbor
To speak
Truth
To work
Justice
To pray
Compassion
To serve
God
in all.

Be it resolved.
This moment
This day
This year
This season
God-given.

It
Is
Mine
To
Do
With
As
I
Want.

Be it resolved.
Today
It begins
This new year
This new season
This new me.

To God
be
all glory.
To God
be
my life.
To God
be
it resolved.

Amen.