

## Old Testament

### A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

3:1-8

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

A time to be born,  
and a time to die;  
A time to plant,  
and a time to pluck *what* is planted;  
A time to kill  
and a time heal;  
A time to break down,  
and a time to build up;  
A time to weep,  
and a time to laugh;  
A time to mourn,  
and a time to dance;  
A time to cast away stones,  
and a time to gather stones;  
A time to embrace,  
and a time to refrain from embracing;  
A time to gain,  
and a time to lose;  
A time to keep,  
and a time to throw away;  
A time to tear,  
and a time to sew;  
A time to keep silence,  
and a time to speak;  
A time to love,  
and a time to hate;  
A time of war,  
and a time of peace.

**the Word of the Lord**