

“God’s Impressions on Time”

- A timeless time at a prayer cabin in northwestern Wisconsin.
- “But time is the space between me and you.” – Seal

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

- I. Two Hebrew words for time: *zem-awn*’ and *ayth*
 - a. *Zem-awn*’ means an appointed time (*Chronos* in Greek)
 - b. *Ayth* is a more general period of time (*Kairos* in Greek)
 - c. *Zem-awn*’ appears only in verse 1; *Ayth* 28 more times!
- II. The canvas of time and the brushstrokes of God
 - a. The Genesis 1:1-ness of Ecclesiastes 3:1
 - b. The Genesis 1:31-ness of Ecclesiastes 3:1
 - c. Gen. 3 mixes the palette for vv. 2-8 (cf. Rom. 8:19-22)
- III. It is the best of times, it is the worst of times...*

...it is the age of wisdom, it is the age of foolishness, it is the epoch of belief, it is the epoch of incredulity, it is the season of Light, it is the season of Darkness, it is the spring of hope, it is the winter of despair, we have everything before us, we have nothing before us, we are all going direct to Heaven, we are all going direct the other way—in short, this period is so far like all the periods that have come before, since the noisy authority of the devil insisted on being received, for the supposed knowledge of good and evil, to reach the superlative degree of God. (* A paraphrase of Charles Dickens’s opening line in *A Tale of Two Cities*)