

Ecclesiastes

*& the Quest for Elusive Happiness:
Why Everything is Never Enough*

**The Tyranny of Time:
Eternity is in our Timebound Hearts**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

Rev. Dr. Jason Carter, Lead Pastor

THE BYRDS

TURN! TURN! TURN!

The Times They Are A-Changin'
It Won't Be Wrong
Set You Free This Time
Lay Down Your Weary Tune
He Was a Friend of Mine
The World Turns All Around Her
Satisfied Mind
If You're Gone
Wait and See
Oh! Susannah
Turn! Turn! Turn!



Turn! Turn! Turn!

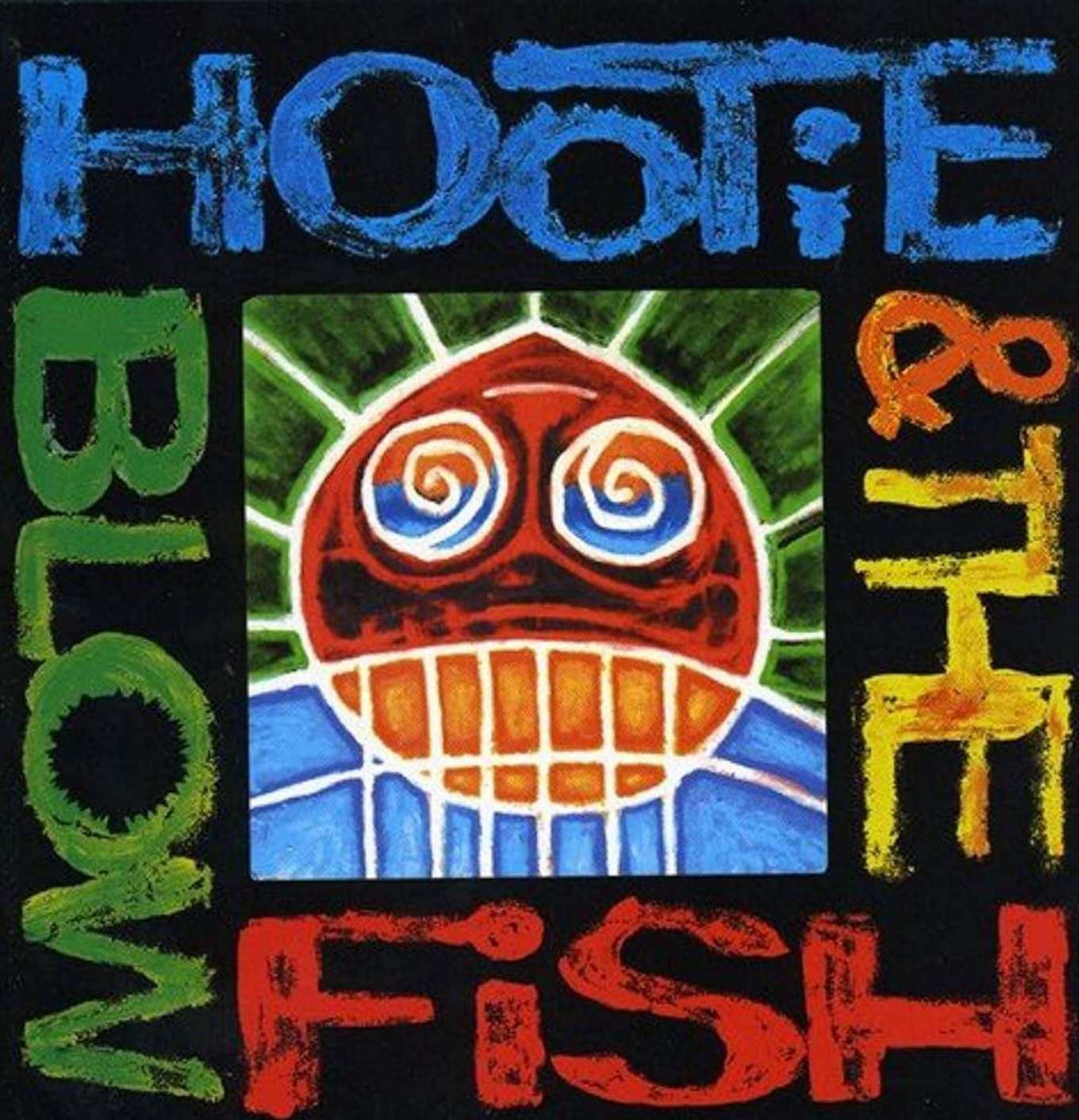
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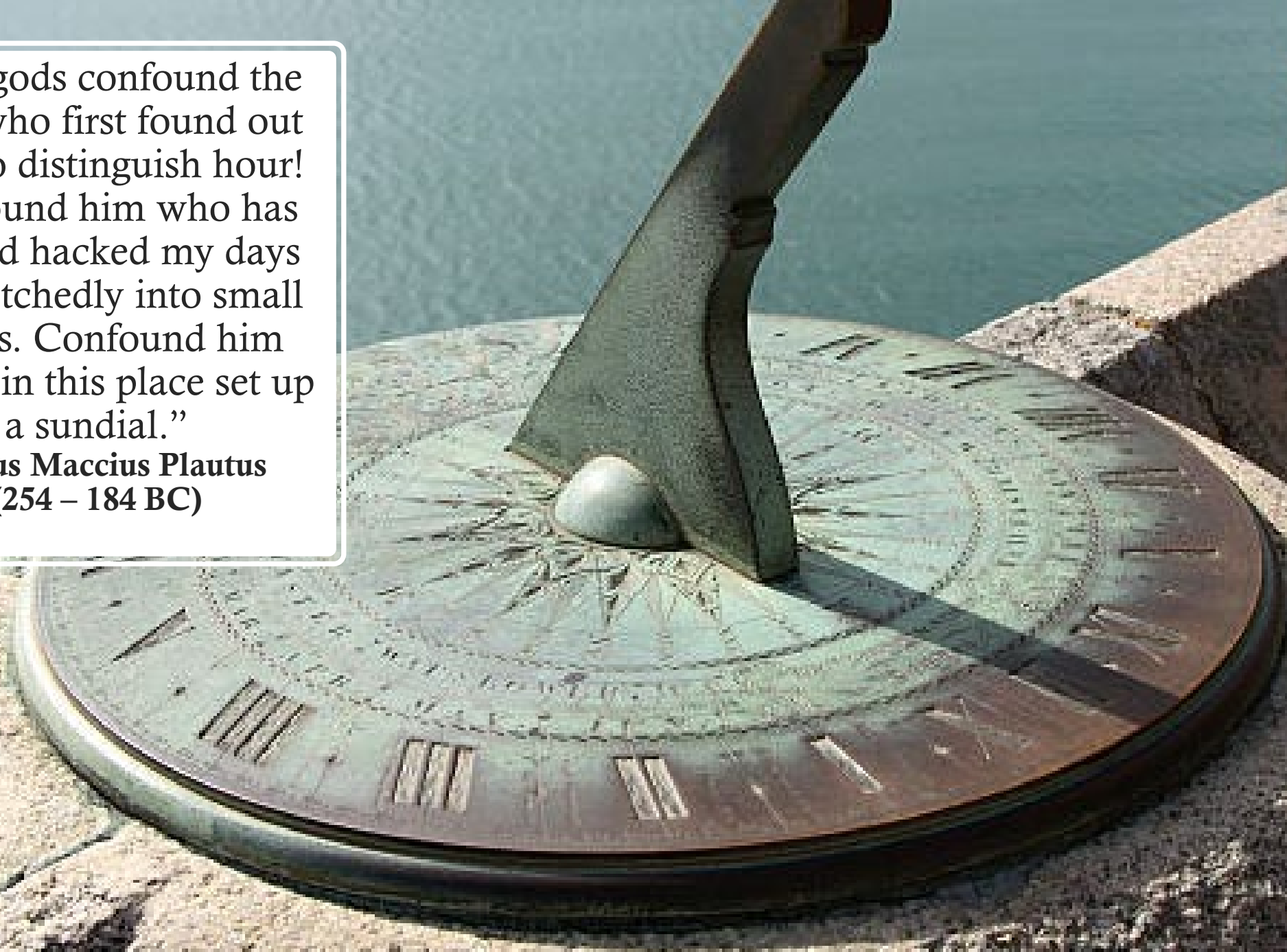
Song: "Time"

- *Time why you punish me*
Like a wave bashing into the shore
You wash away my dreams
- Time why you walk away
Like a friend with somewhere to go
You left me crying
- Time is wasting time is walking
You ain't no friend of mine
I don't know where I'm goin'
I think I'm out of my mind
Thinking about time



“The gods confound the
man who first found out
how to distinguish hour!
Confound him who has
cut and hacked my days
so wretchedly into small
pieces. Confound him
who is in this place set up
a sundial.”

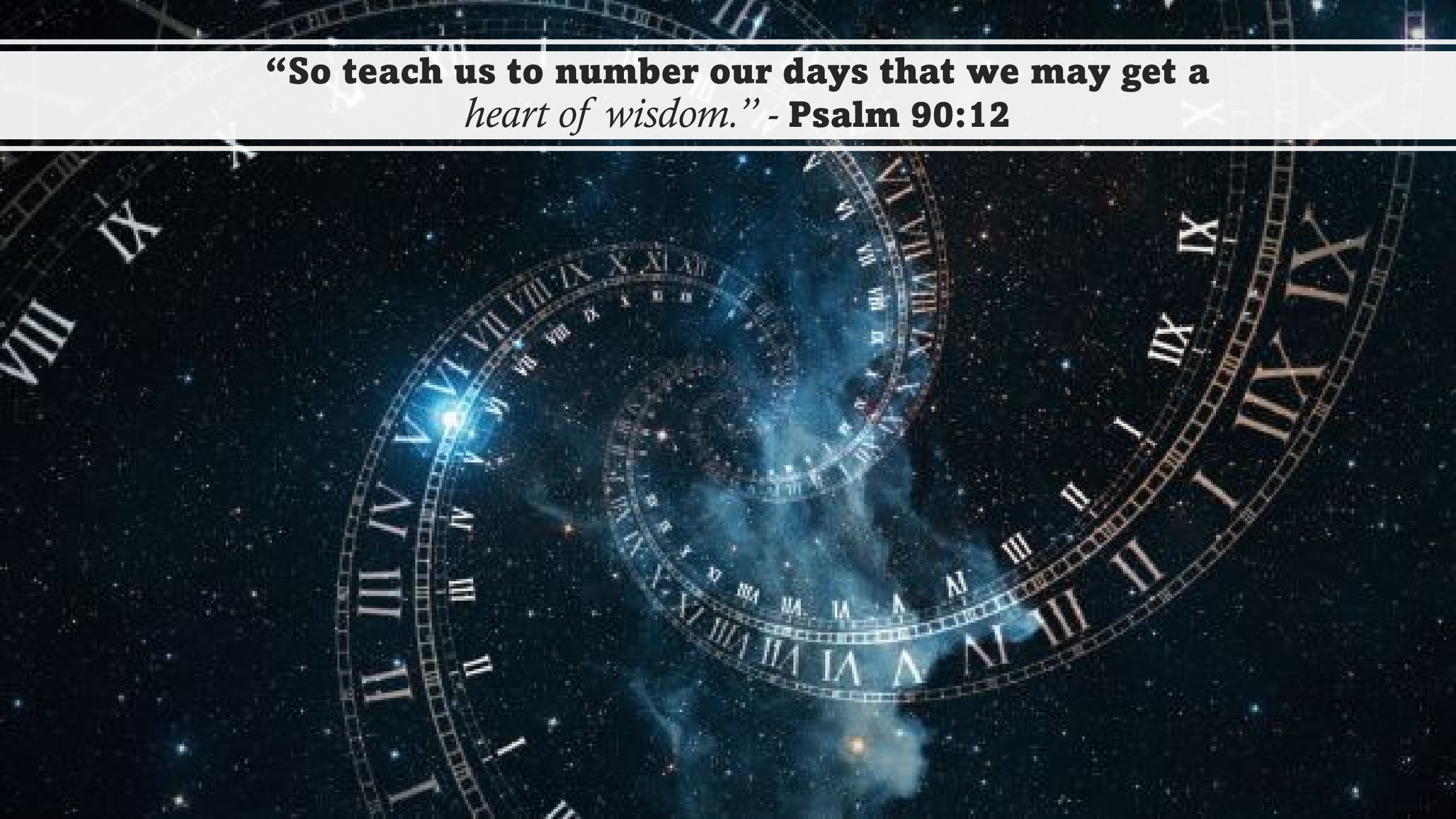
- Titus Maccius Plautus
(254 – 184 BC)



Only God is King over all of time!



**“So teach us to number our days that we may get a
heart of wisdom.” - Psalm 90:12**



Merism – a figure of speech in which two polarities make up a whole.



Merism:
a figure of
speech in
which two
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up a whole.

In the beginning, God created
the heavens and the earth.

— — — — —
Genesis 1:1

Merism:
a figure of
speech in
which two
polarities make
up a whole.

AS FAR AS
east
IS FROM
west

SO FAR HAS HE REMOVED
OUR TRANSGRESSIONS FROM US.

Psalm 103:12





Our *God is sovereign*
over every time, over
every season, over all
the human experiences
of life.

God reigns over time.



“

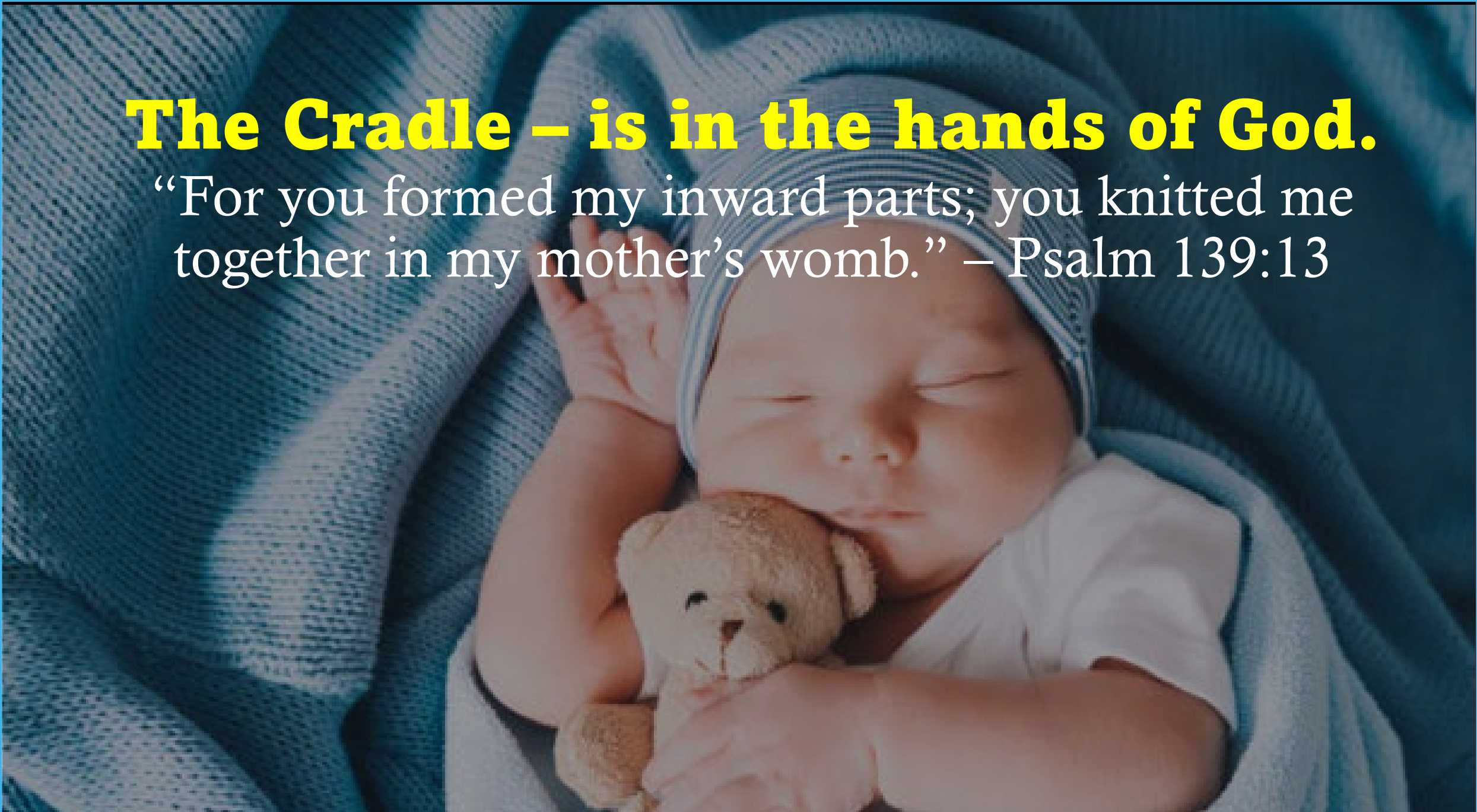
“A time to be born,
and a time to die;
a time to plant,
and a time to
pluck up that
which is planted;”

Ecclesiastes 3:2

Both the **cradle** and the
deathbed occur
according to God’s
timeline.

The Cradle – is in the hands of God.

“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb.” – Psalm 139:13





The Deathbed – is in the hands of God.

“A person’s days are determined; *you have decreed the number of his months* and have set limits he cannot exceed.” – Job 14:5

“The Lord brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up.”
– 1 Samuel 2:6 (*Hannah’s Prayer*)



The Deathbed – is in the hands of God.

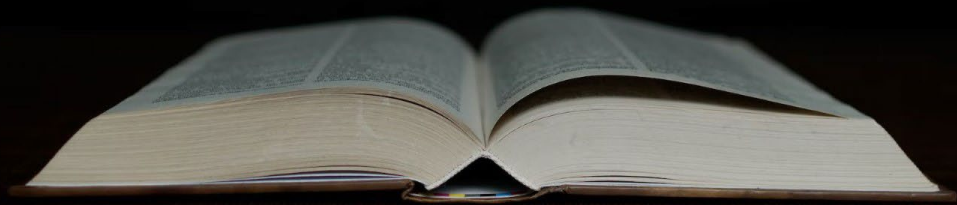
“As no one has power over the wind to contain it, *so no one has power over the time of their death.*” – Ecclesiastes 8:8a (NIV)



**“You cannot live
any longer than
the Lord has
prescribed nor die
any sooner.”**
- Martin Luther

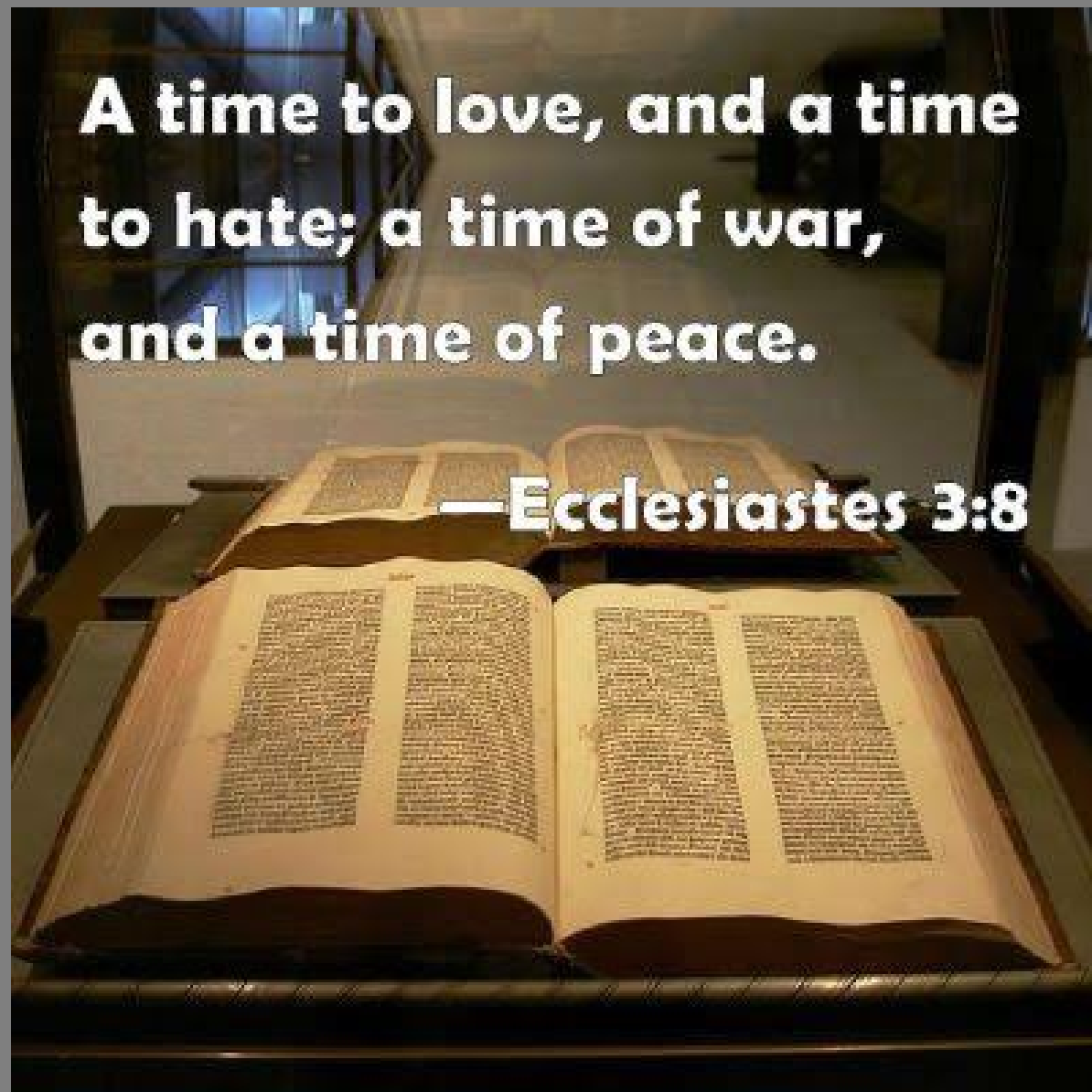
A TIME TO KILL AND A
TIME TO HEAL, A TIME TO
BREAK DOWN AND A TIME
TO BUILD,

- ECCLESIASTES 3:3



A time to love, and a time
to hate; a time of war,
and a time of peace.

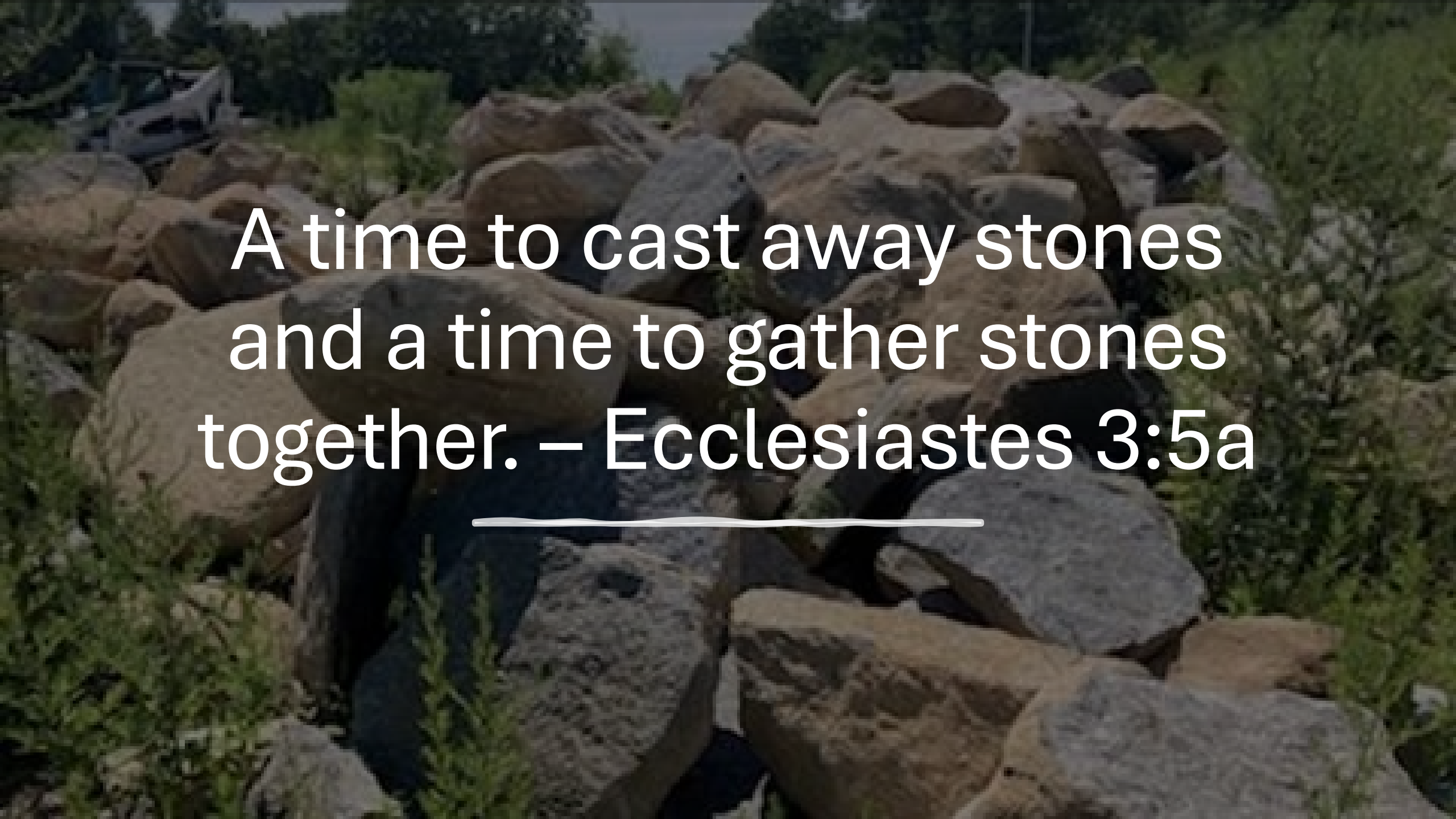
—Ecclesiastes 3:8



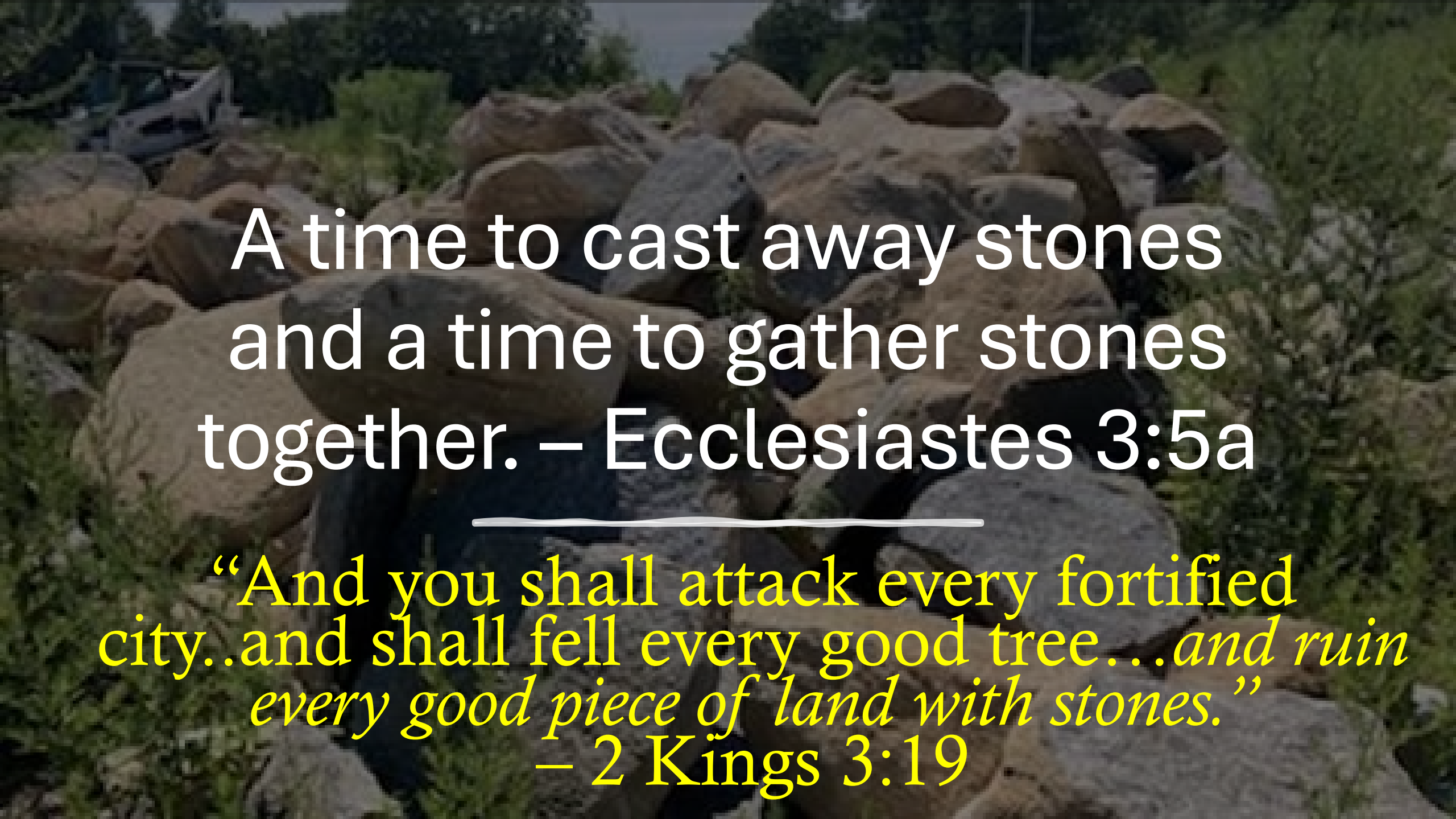
Ecclesiastes 3:4
The Scope of
our Human
Emotions

*“A time to weep
and a time to
laugh; a time to
mourn and a
time to dance.”*





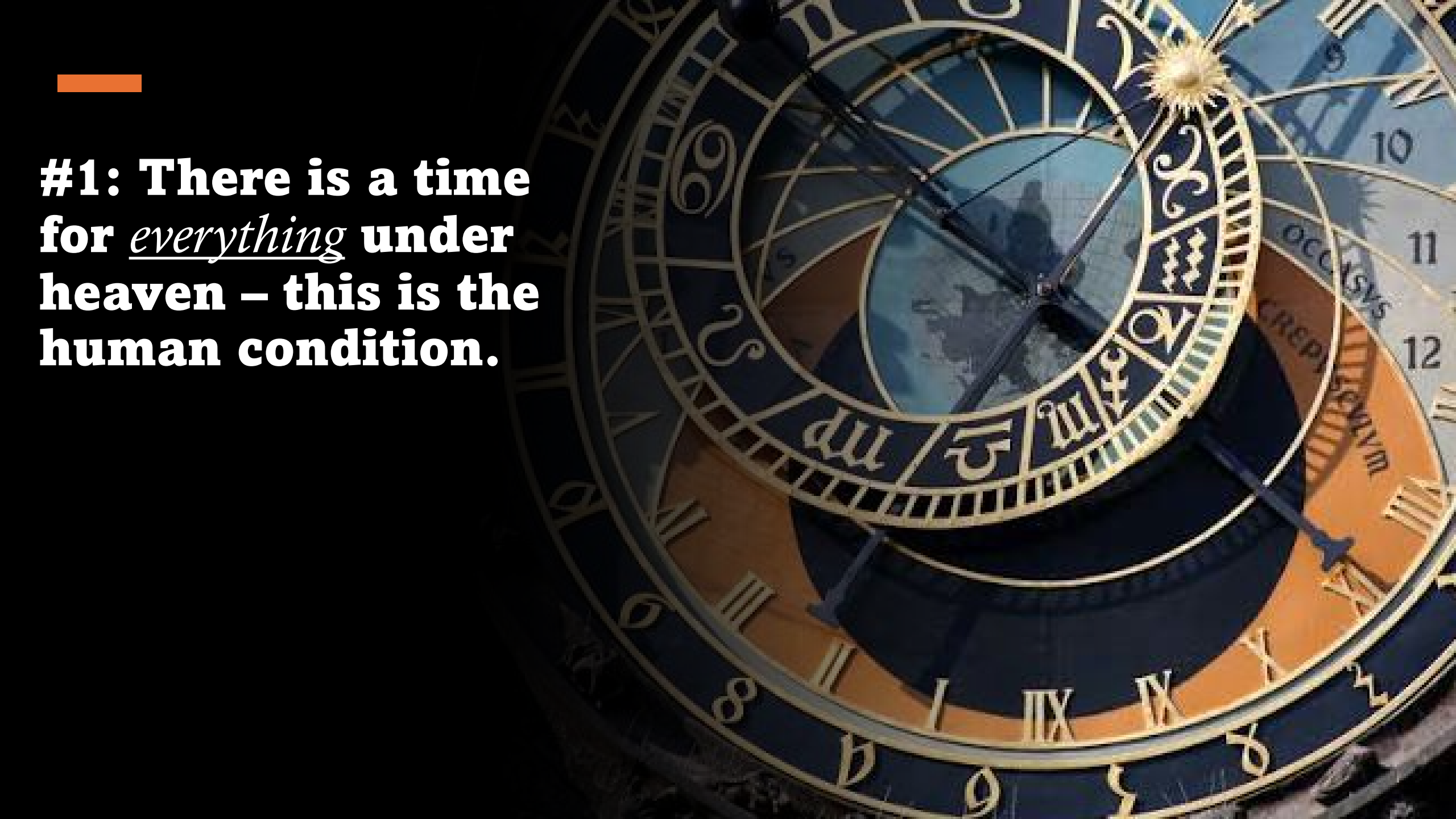
A time to cast away stones
and a time to gather stones
together. – Ecclesiastes 3:5a



A time to cast away stones
and a time to gather stones
together. – Ecclesiastes 3:5a

“And you shall attack every fortified
city..and shall fell every good tree...*and ruin
every good piece of land with stones.*”
– 2 Kings 3:19





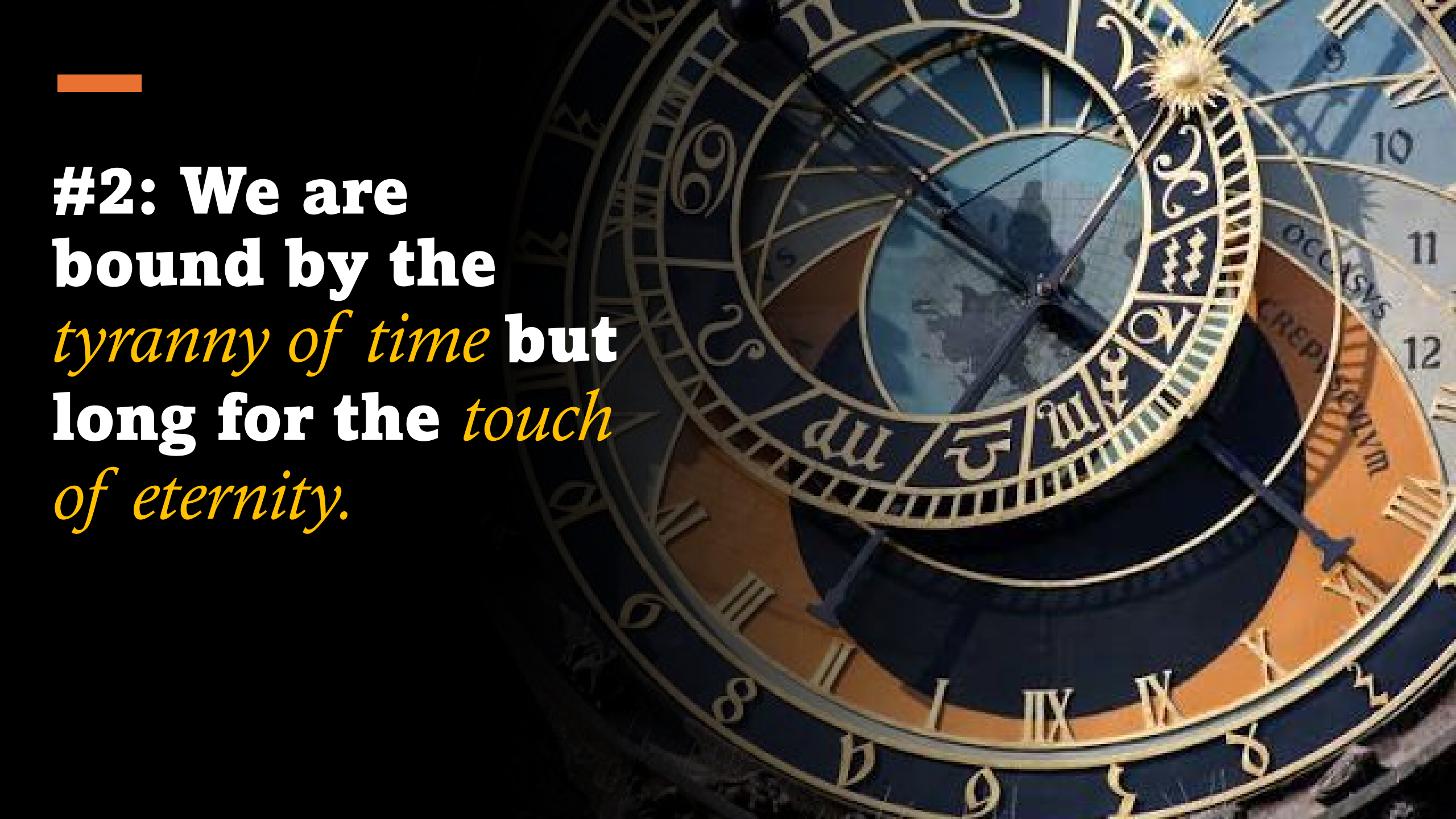
**#1: There is a time
for *everything* under
heaven – this is the
human condition.**



“I woke up one morning bereft of joy, barren of fruit, short on daylight. I could not shake it off.

I could not make a thing grow. I saw a counselor. I had people pray for me. I read books. I begged God. I faked it. Nothing ended it. And then God gave me this insight: ***this was winter.*** It would end, in time, but not by my own doing.

My responsibility was simply to ***know the season*** and match my actions and inactions to it. It was to learn the slow hard discipline of waiting.”



**#2: We are
bound by the
tyranny of time but
long for the *touch*
of eternity.**

A Reader's Digest Selection

PEACE CHILD

Don Richardson



An unforgettable story of
primitive jungle treachery in the 20th century



Redemptive Analogies

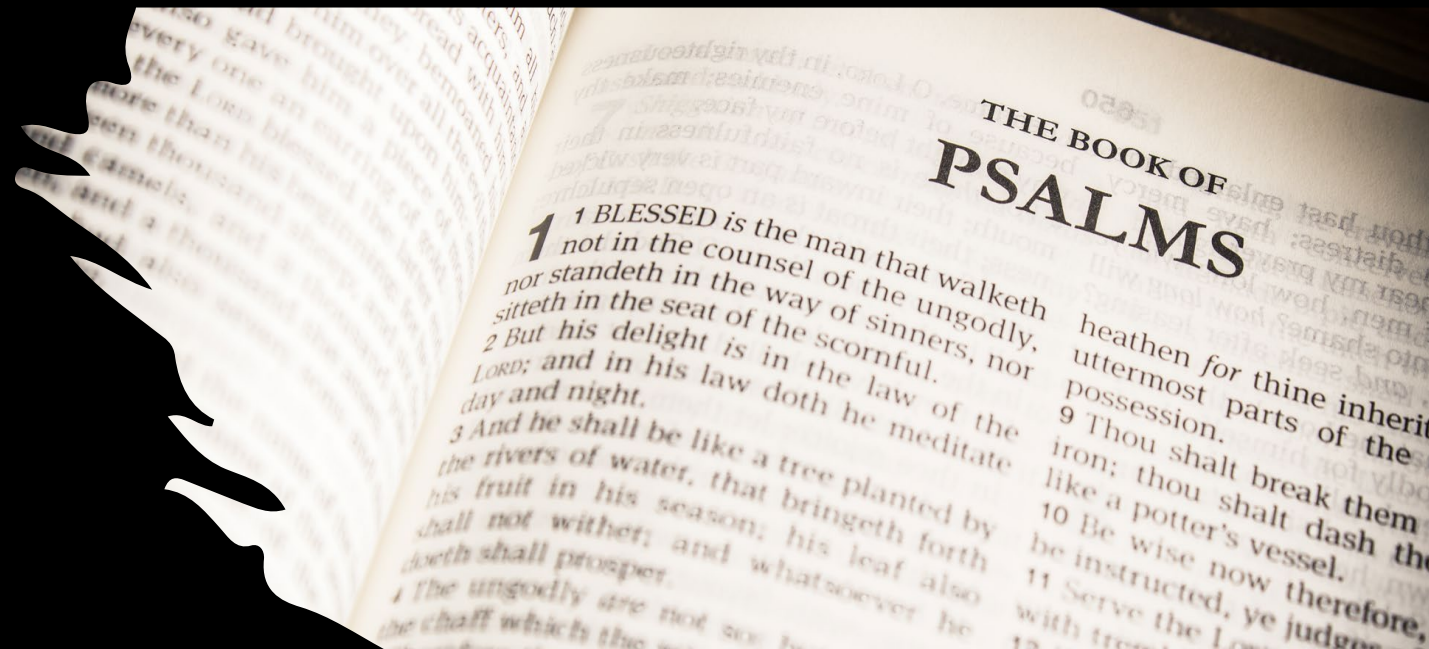
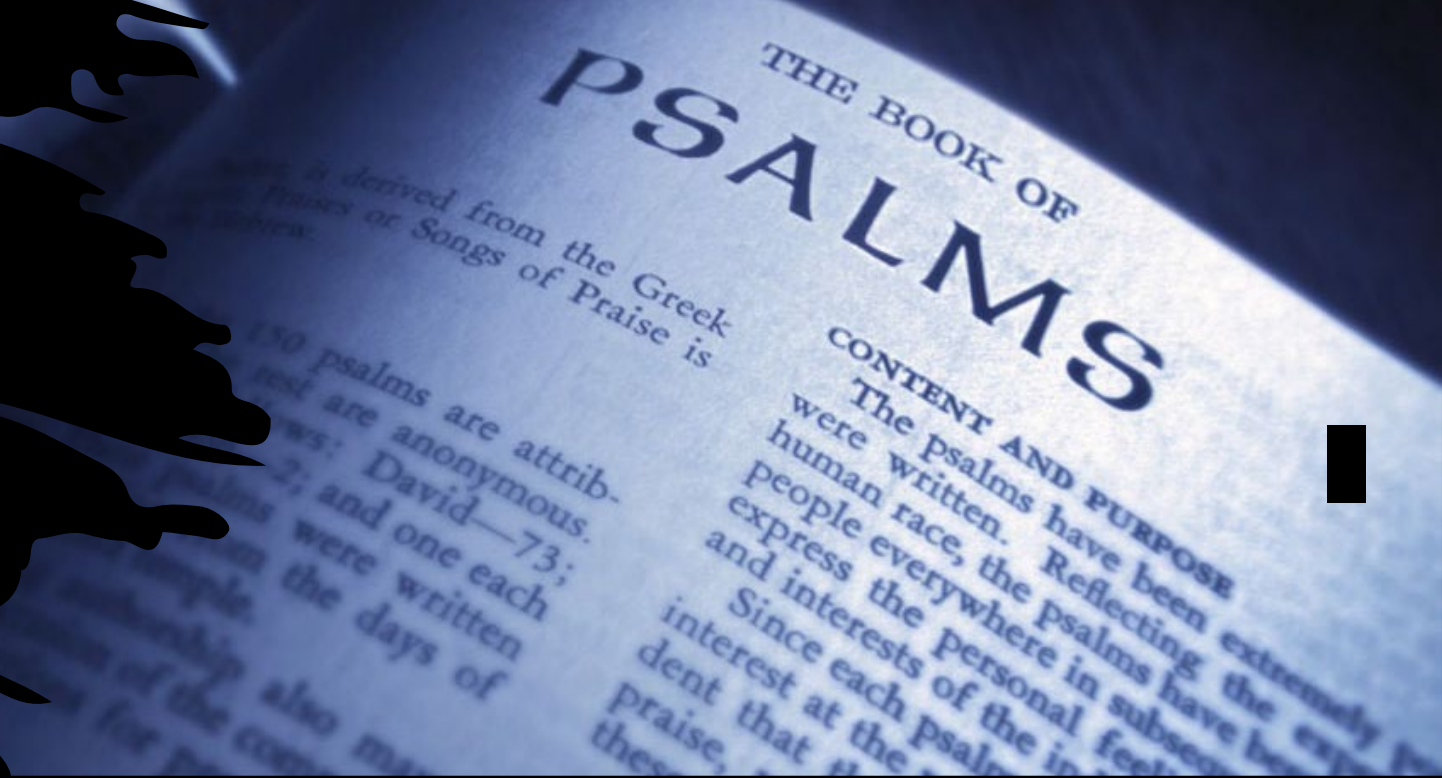
“He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.”

– Ecclesiastes 3:11

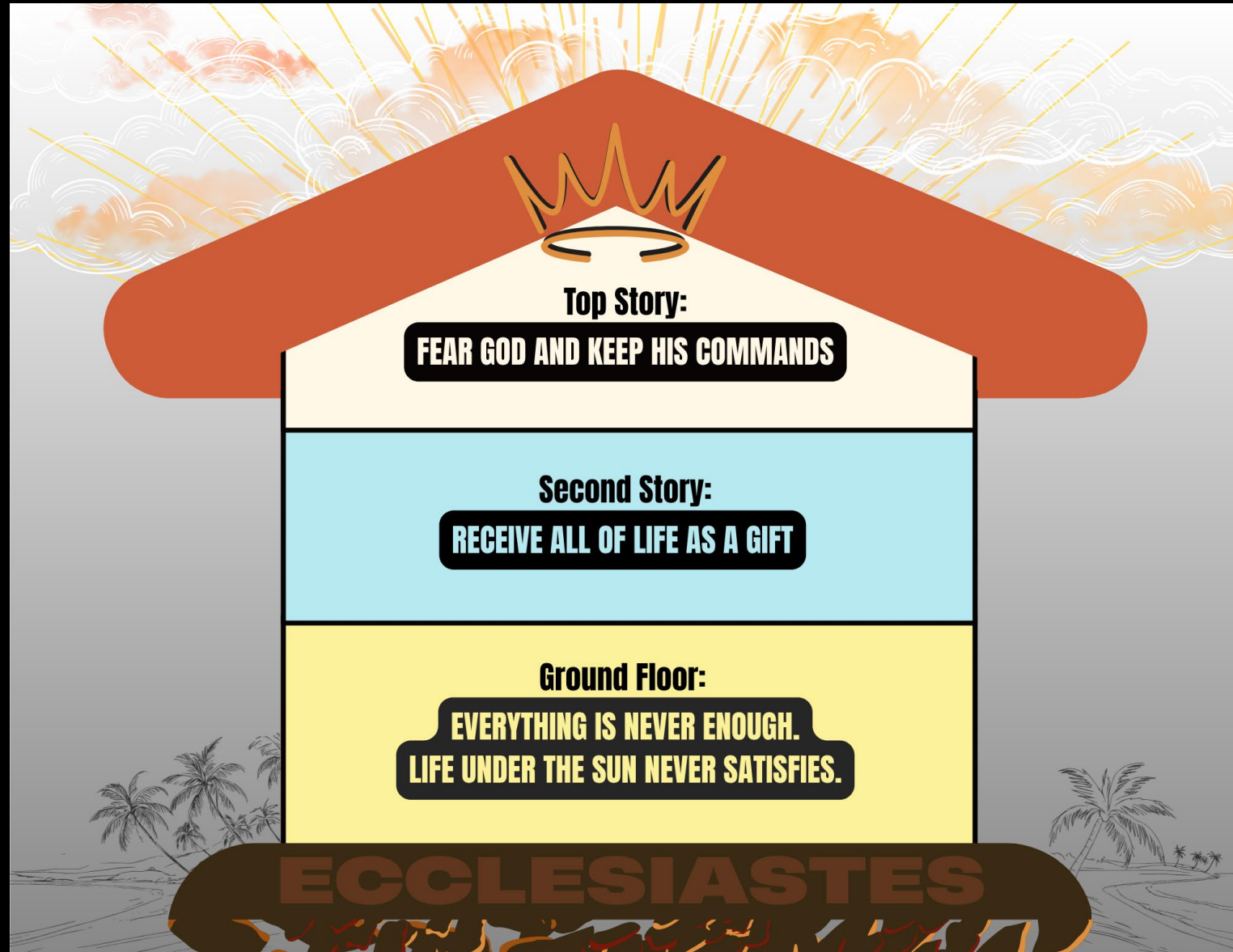


Psalm 139:1-10

- O Lord, you have searched me and known me!
- ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- ³ You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- ⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.
- ⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
- ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.
- ⁷ Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?
- ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
- ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- ¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.



**#3: Live boldly on
the second floor
while
(at the same time)
recognizing the
ultimacy of the top
floor.**



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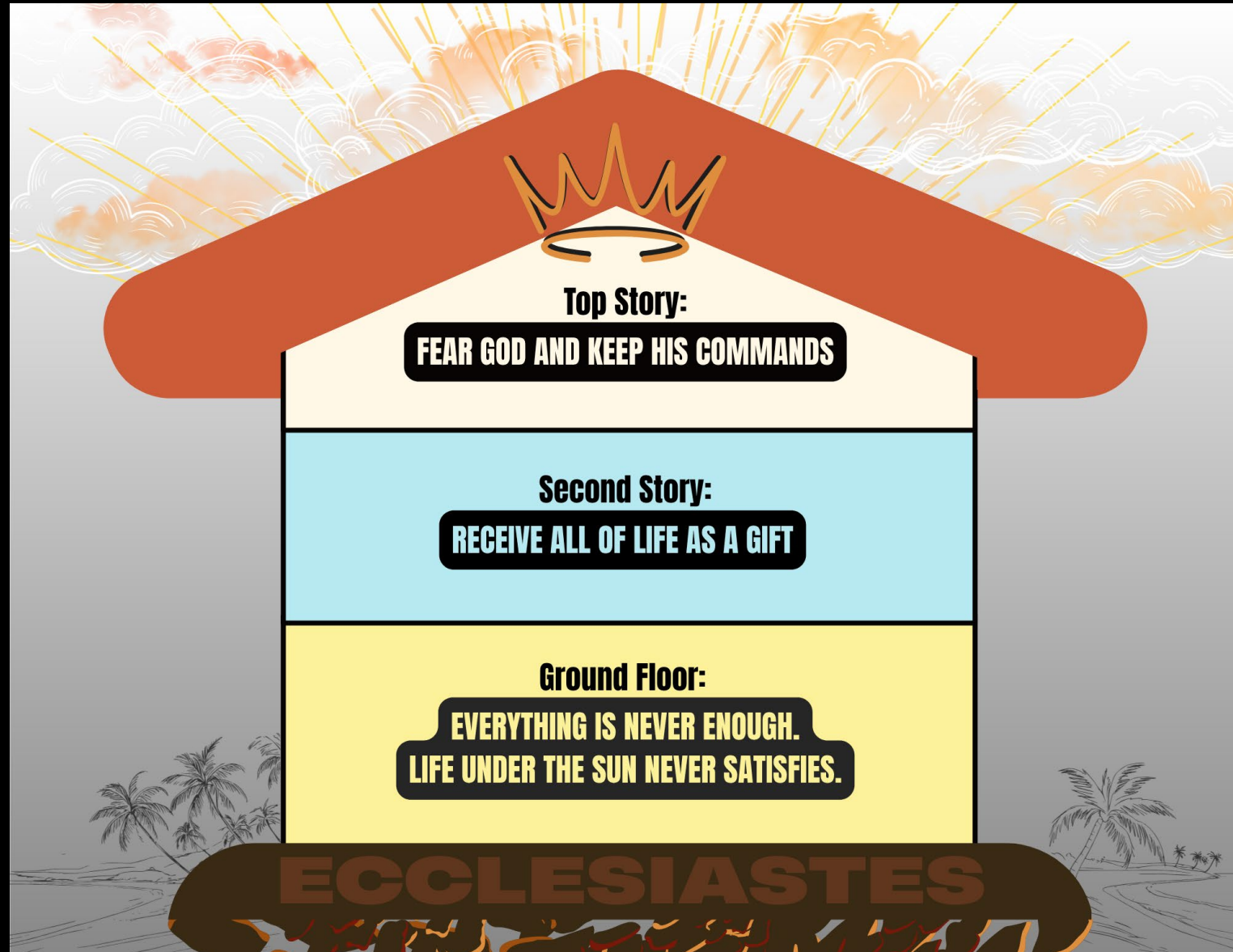
**Second Floor – Time (vs. 12-13)
RECEIVE ALL OF LIFE AS A GIFT!**

“I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be *joyful* and to *do good* as long as they live; ¹³ also that ***everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.***”

**Top Floor – Eternity (vs. 14)
Fear God. Obey the Commands.
Judgment is coming.**

“I perceived that *whatever God does endures forever*; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people ***fear before him.***”

**#3: Live boldly on
the second floor
while
(at the same time)
recognizing the
ultimacy of the top
floor.**



Receive all of life as a gift.

*Can you receive even the smallest tokens of
grace with gratitude and joy?*



**#4: God is
sovereign
over every
time because**
*Jesus always
arrives on time.*



When the *fullness
of time* had come,
God sent forth his
Son, born of
woman, born
under the law.
Galatians 4:4



...Jesus *knew*
that his hour had
come to depart
out of this
world to the
Father...
John 13:1



*...at the right
time* Christ
died for the
ungodly.
Romans 5:6



that he was
buried, that *he*
was raised on
the third day in
accordance
with the
Scriptures...
1 Corinthians 15:4



