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| Ecclesiastes  3: 1-15  Selection A3  (Long Form) | **A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes**  **There is an appointed time for everything,**  **and a time for every affair under the heavens.**  **A time to give birth, and a time to die;**  **a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.**  **A time to kill, and a time to heal;**  **a time to tear down, and a time to build.**  **A time to weep, and a time to laugh;**  **a time to mourn, and a time to dance.**  **A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;**  **a time to embrace,**  **and a time to be far from embraces.**  **A time to seek, and a time to lose;**  **a time to keep, and a time to cast away.**  **A time to rend, and a time to sew;**  **a time to be silent, and a time to speak.**  **A time to love, and a time to hate;**  **a time of war, and a time of peace.**  **What profit have workers from their toil?**  **I have seen the business**  **that God has given to mortals to be busied about.**  ***Continued on the Next Page***  **God has made everything appropriate to its time,**  **but has put the timeless into their hearts**  **so they cannot find out,**  **from beginning to end,**  **the work which God has done.**  **I recognized that there is nothing better**  **than to rejoice and to do well during life.**  **Moreover, that all can eat and drink**  **and enjoy the good of all their toil—**  **this is a gift of God.**  **I recognized that**  **whatever God does will endure forever;**  **there is no adding to it, or taking from it.**  **Thus has God done that he may be revered.**  **What now is**  **has already been;**  **what is to be,**  **already is:**  **God retrieves what has gone by.**  **The Word of the Lord** |