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| Ecclesiastes 3: 1-15Selection 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** |