

WISDOM for LIFE

The Book of Ecclesiastes



Life is *HEVEL*

It is...
Vanity/Ellusive/
Tricky/Shifty/
Puzzling

...like trying to
grasp smoke.





Ecclesiastes 3:1-15



**a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
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 refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.**

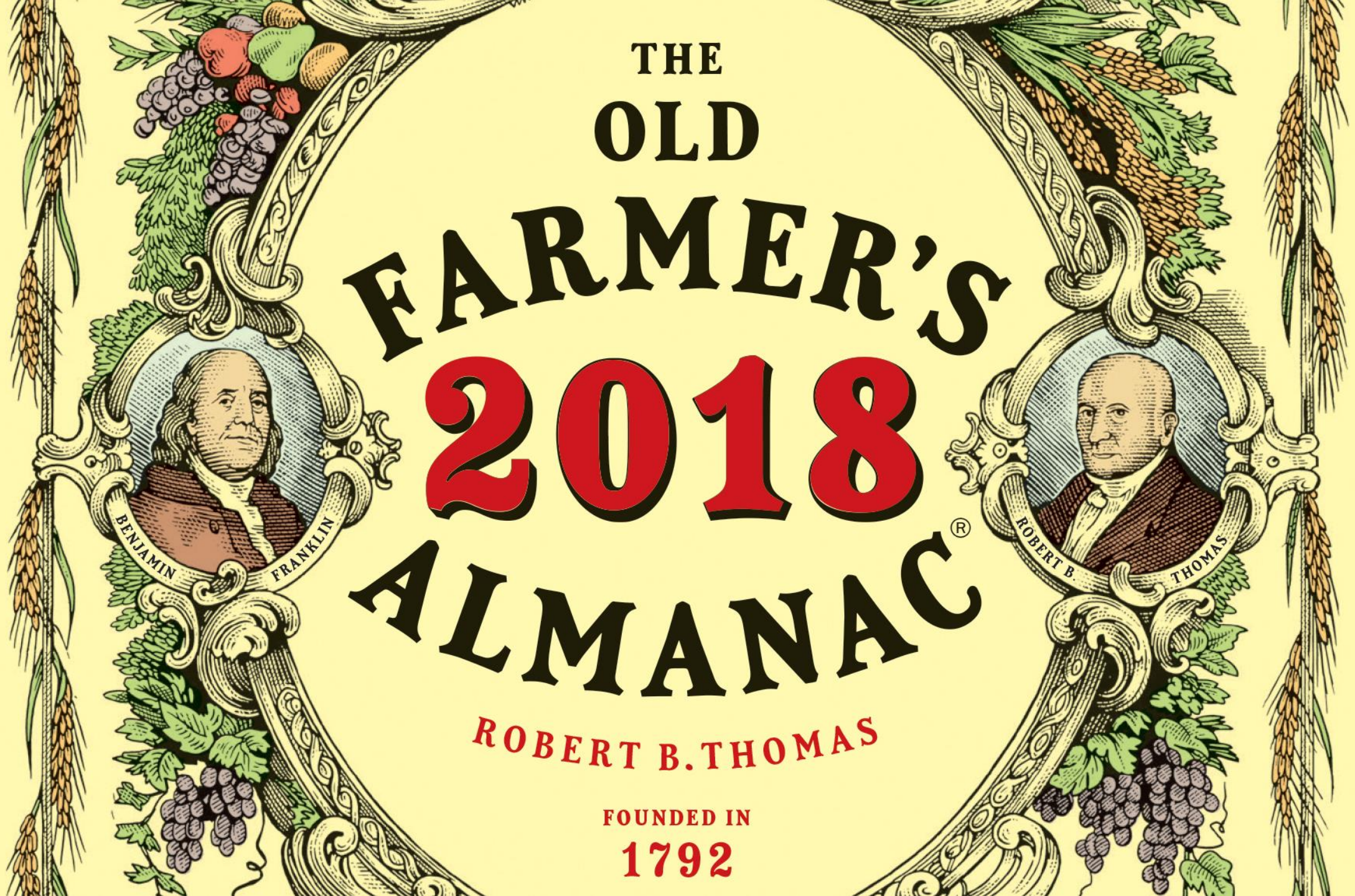


I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

vv. 10-12



“NEW, USEFUL, AND ENTERTAINING M



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ROBERT B. THOMAS

THE
OLD
FARMER'S
2018
ALMANAC[®]

ROBERT B. THOMAS

FOUNDED IN
1792

ALSO FEATURING ASTRONOMICAL TABLES, HO

**God is in control.
You are not.
Enjoy the ride.**



I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

vv. 12-13



How to Enjoy

the Ride

1) Give up your quest for control.

How to Enjoy

the Ride

- 1) Give up your quest for control.**
- 2) Reorient your life toward God.**

I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear him.

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?



So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:25-27; 31-33



Walk the MIDDLE WAY.

My Life is...

X My Choice Alone

Pulling it
All Together



INVICTUS - W.E. HENLEY

**Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.**

**In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.**

**Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds and shall find me unafraid.**

**It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the
scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul.**



Walk the MIDDLE WAY.

My Life is...

- X** My Choice Alone
- X** Pre-Determined

Pulling it
All Together



“Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account.”

Ecclesiastes 3:15



Walk the MIDDLE WAY.

~~My Life is...~~

~~X~~ ~~My Choice Alone~~

~~X~~ ~~Pre-Determined~~



I am a free subject
who serves a
sovereign king. (R.C. Sproul)

Pulling it
All Together



Steward your time

Be very careful, then, how you live—
not as unwise but as wise, making the
most of every opportunity, because the
days are evil.

Ephesians 5:15-16

Pulling it All Together





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Partner with the
“Potentate of Time”

Pulling it
All Together



Crown Him with Many Crowns

Matthew Bridges (1852)

Crown Him the Lord of years,
The potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime.

Partner with the
“Potentate of Time”

Pulling it
All Together



To the day he died, Jesus knew the right time for everything. He still does. He knows the time to love, showing mercy to lost and needy sinners who ask him to be their Saviour. He knows the time too hate, standing against evil and injustice.... From beginning to end, Jesus has perfect timing.”

Philip Graham Ryken



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