

"Turn! Turn! Turn! (To Everything There Is a Season)" is a song written by **Pete Seeger** in the late 1950s and first recorded in 1959.

The song became an international hit when it was adapted by the American folk rock group **The Byrds** and released as a single on October 1, 1965. The song was also included on the band's second album *Turn! Turn! Turn!* which was released on December 6, 1965. The Byrds' single is the most successful recorded version of the song, reaching number one in the US, number 3 in Canada and it also peaked at number 26 on the UK Singles Chart.

The lyrics – except for the title, which is repeated throughout the song, and the final two lines (written by Seeger himself) – consist of the first eight verses of the third chapter of the Book of Ecclesiastes. The Biblical text posits there being a time and place for all things: birth and death, killing and healing, sorrow and laughter, war and peace, and so on. The lines are open to myriad interpretations, but Seeger's song presents them as a plea for world peace because of the closing line: "a time for peace, I swear it's not too late."

The song is notable for being one of a few instances in popular music in which a large portion of the Bible is set to music, other examples being the Melodians' (and Boney M's) "Rivers of Babylon", Sister Janet Mead's "The Lord's Prayer", U2's "40", Sinéad O'Connor's "Psalm 33" and Cliff Richard's "The Millennium Prayer". Since Ecclesiastes is traditionally ascribed to King Solomon in the 10th century BC, The Byrds' 1965 recording of the song holds the distinction in the US of being the number 1 hit with the oldest lyrics.

It is included on the ***Forrest Gump*** movie soundtrack (1994).

The Byrds' line-up (in 1965) consisted of:

Jim (Roger) McGuinn
Gene Clark
David Crosby
Chris Hillman
Michael Clarke

