

OUR LIFE UNDER THE SUN

Introduction

- 1) The book of **Ecclesiastes** is a candid and straightforward examination of the purpose of our life “under the sun” by the “Preacher” (Heb. *Qoheleth*) who proclaimed the inspired wisdom of God
- 2) “Under the sun” (1:3) = life on earth, in the physical world; “under heaven (3:1)
- 3) There are two major truths observed about our life on earth
 - a) ***Life is vain and pointless*** – when man denies, ignores, or removes God
 - b) ***Life has meaning and purpose*** – when man seeks, trusts, and obeys God
- 4) Notice things observed in Ecclesiastes about life under the sun:

I) Life will have Repetition and Bewilderment (Eccl. 1:3-11)

- A) The same endless cycles of earthly existence seem to go on and on, and man struggles to make sense of the purpose of it all
 - 1) There are no satisfactory answers to be found only here on earth
 - 2) It is vain and foolish for man to use *only* earthly wisdom in his search for meaning

II) Life will have Vanity and Emptiness (Eccl. 2:10-23)

- A) The wise and the fool both meet the same end – death
- B) Man works hard in this life only to leave all his “things” to others
- C) No true happiness can be found in earthly things *alone* – only emptiness in the end

III) Life will have Injustice and Oppression (Eccl. 3:16; 4:1-3)

- A) A good situation will often be turned “on its head” (immorality, injustice, inequity)
- B) Injustice and evil are a favorite argument of those who argue against God, yet they can give no moral basis (or argument) for “justice” and “righteousness” without God!

IV) Life will have Popularity and Riches (Eccl. 4:13-16; 5:10-16)

- A) Popularity and success are momentary – those who achieve are not around long to enjoy it, and are soon forgotten
- B) Riches and popularity often cause more problems than they are worth (kept “to his hurt”)

V) Life will have Uncertain and Inexplicable Things (Eccl. 1:14-15; 7:15; 9:11-12; 11:7-8)

- A) There are many things we cannot know or explain – our wisdom is limited, and our knowledge is minute about things on earth and beyond
- B) These things need not cause doubts or hinder obedience – we proceed with what we know!

Conclusion

What is God’s answer concerning our life “under the sun”?

- 1 – There is a time for every purpose under heaven; eternity is put in our hearts (Eccl. 3:1-13)
- 2 – Life’s labors are to be enjoyed by those who are good; they are from God (Eccl. 2:24-26)
- 3 – Judgment is in the hands of a righteous God (Eccl. 3:17)
- 4 – Enjoy riches and wealth as a gift in service to God (Eccl. 5:18-20)
- 5 – Man is sinful and finite; must live life by faith seeking to fear and obey God who will judge all men (Eccl. 7:20, 29; 7:13-14; 8:16-17; 9:7-10; 11:9-12:1, 13-14)

There is a life “beyond the sunset” that we must prepare for!!

***Do you fear God, and keep His commandments?
This is the whole purpose of your life “under the sun”!***