
Ecclesiastes 3:14 I know that whatever God does endures for ever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has made it so, in order that men should fear before him.

¹⁵ *That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away."*

Pictures of Coming Fulfillment of Meaning

Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,

² *to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,*

³ *and provide for those who grieve in Zion-- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.*

⁴ *They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.*

⁵ *Aliens will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.*

⁶ *And you will be called priests of the LORD, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast.*

Key: Pg 1: horizontal. Pg 2: Rationalism. Revelation. Pg 3: everyday totality

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The Surprising Virtue of Discouragement

Dark Clouds, Silver Linings—pt 3

Ecclesiastes 1 and 3; October 19, 2014

Discouraged: is there anything worth living for?

Ecclesiastes 1:2 Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

*Romans 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who **suppress the truth** by their wickedness,
¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.*

²¹ *For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but **their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.***

²² *Although they claimed to be wise, **they became fools***

²⁵ *They **exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator...***

Discouragement: skewed _____perspective

Ecclesiastes 1:2 Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

³ *What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun? ⁴ A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever.*

⁵ *The sun rises and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises. ⁶ The wind blows to the south, and goes round to the north; round and round goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns.*

⁷ *All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again.*

⁸ *All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.*

⁹ *What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; and there is nothing new under the sun.*

¹⁰ *Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has been already, in the ages before us.*

¹¹ *There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to happen among those who come after.*

Discouraged: R vs. R.

*Ecclesiastes 1:13 And I applied my mind to seek and to **search out by wisdom** all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to the sons of men to be busy with.*

¹⁴ ***I have seen everything** that is done under the sun; and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.*

¹⁵ *What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be numbered.*

¹⁶ *I said to myself, "I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me; and my mind has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge."*

¹⁷ ***And I applied my mind to know wisdom and to know madness and folly.** I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind.*

¹⁸ *For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.*

Encouragement: God at work in _____ life

Ecclesiastes 3:1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ² a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³ a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; ⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵ a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

⁷ a time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; ⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

⁹ *What gain has the worker from his toil?*

¹⁰ ***I have seen the business that God has given** to the sons of men to be busy with.*

Encouragement: God at work in the _____ of life

Eccl. 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time; also he has put eternity into man's mind, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Ecclesiastes 3:12 I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; ¹³ also that it is God's gift to man that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil.
