

Study Guide-Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:16

1. Discuss the dynamics Solomon describes from the perspective “under the sun.” Have you seen examples of these in others or in yourself?

- a. Injustices (3:16-18)
- b. Unknowns (3:19-22)
- c. Oppression (4:1-3)
- d. Envy (4:4-6)
- e. Loneliness (4:7-12)
- f. Disloyalty (4:13-16)

2. When Solomon stated, “*He makes all things beautiful in time.*” (Eccl. 3:15), how do we see Jesus fulfilling those promises?

- a. Injustices- Galatians 3:14
- b. Unknowns- 1 John 5:13
- c. Oppression- John 14:16
- d. Envy- Matthew 16:26-27
- e. Loneliness- Isa. 53:6 & Romans 8:32
- f. Disloyalty- Proverbs 24b & John 15:13

3. Discuss the impact we can have in helping other people see a connection “over the sun”.

“... God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Col. 1:27

Message Slides

Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:16

I. Under the sun

A. Injustices (3:16-18)

16 And I saw something else under the sun: In the place of judgment—wickedness was there, in the place of justice—wickedness was there.

17 I said to myself, “God will bring into judgment both the righteous and the wicked, for there will be a time for every activity, a time to judge every deed.”

18 I also said to myself, “As for humans, God tests them so that they may see that they are like the animals.

I. Under the sun

A. Injustices

B. Unknowns (v.19-22)

19 Surely the fate of human beings is like that of the animals; the same fate awaits them both: As one dies, so dies the other. All have the same breath; humans have no advantage over animals. Everything is meaningless.

20 All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return.

21 Who knows if the human spirit rises upward and if the spirit of the animal goes down into the earth?”

22 So I saw that there is nothing better for a person than to enjoy their work, because that is their lot. For who can bring them to see what will happen after them?

I. Under the sun

A. Injustices

B. Unknowns

C. Oppression (4:1-3)

1 Again I looked and saw all the oppression that was taking place under the sun: I saw the tears of the oppressed— and they have no comforter; power was on the side of their oppressors— and they have no comforter.

2 And I declared that the dead, who had already died, are happier than the living, who are still alive.

3 But better than both is the one who has never been born, who has not seen the evil that is done under the sun.

I. Under the sun

A. Injustices

B. Unknowns

C. Oppression

D. Envy (4:4-6)

4 And I saw that all toil and all achievement spring from one person's envy of another. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

5 Fools fold their hands and ruin themselves.

6 Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind.

I. Under the sun

A. Injustices

B. Unknowns

C. Oppression

D. Envy

E. Loneliness (4:7-12)

7 Again I saw something meaningless under the sun:

8 There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. "For whom am I toiling," he asked, "and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?" This too is meaningless— a miserable business!

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor:

10 If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?

12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

I. Under the sun

A. Injustices

B. Unknowns

C. Oppression

D. Envy

E. Loneliness

F. Disloyalty (4:13-16)

13 Better a poor but wise youth than an old but foolish king who no longer knows how to heed a warning.

14 The youth may have come from prison to the kingship, or he may have been born in poverty within his kingdom.

15 I saw that all who lived and walked under the sun followed the youth, the king's successor.

16 There was no end to all the people who were before them. But those who came later were not pleased with the successor. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

II. What about Promises?

Eccl. 4:16- "...meaningless, a chasing after the wind."

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Eccl. 3:15- "He makes all things beautiful in time!"

Injustices

Gal. 3:14

"Christ paid the price so that the blessing promised to Abraham would come to all the people of the world through Jesus Christ and we would receive the promised Spirit through faith."

Unknowns

1 John 5:13

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life..."

Oppression

Eccl. 4:1

"I saw the tears of the oppressed and they have no comforter..."

John 14:16

"And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever."

Envy

Matt. 16:26-27

"What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done."

Loneliness

Isaiah 53:6

"We all like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way..."

Romans 5:8

"While we were still sinners, Christ died for us..."

Disloyalty

Prov. 18:24b

"There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

Conclusion

"... God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Col. 1:27