



Life is Full of Injustice

Ecclesiastes 3:16 – 4:16

Injustice prevails 3:16-22

- 3:16 Moreover I saw under the sun: *In* the place of judgment, Wickedness *was* there; And *in* the place of righteousness, Iniquity *was* there.
 - Courts are places we expect justice Lev 19:15
 - God will judge all men in proper time 2 Cor 5:10
 - God has a purpose in all He does vs 18-23
- 3:19 God tests men to show us we are like animals
 - Both man and animals die physically
 - Who knows that man's spirit goes upward Eccl 12:7

Oppression for many 4:1-3

- 4:1 Then I returned and considered all the oppression that is done under the sun: And look! The tears of the oppressed, But they have no comforter— On the side of their oppressors *there is* power, But they have no comforter.
 - Millions live under cruel governments
 - Oppressors have all the power; no comforter
 - Better to die or never brought into such a life Job 3:10-16

Pressures of success 4:4-6

- 4:4-6 Again, I saw that for all toil and every skillful work a man is envied by his neighbor. This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.
⁵ The fool folds his hands And consumes his own flesh. ⁶ Better a handful *with* quietness Than both hands full, *together with* toil and grasping for the wind.
 - Labor is motivated by desire to outdo others 2 Cor 10:12
 - To achieve success people work themselves to death
 - The fool drops out of productive society vs 5
 - Best course is moderation Prov 23:4 1 Tim 6:6-8

Loneliness abounds 4:7-12

- 4:8 There is one alone, without companion: He has neither son nor brother. Yet *there is* no end to all his labors, Nor is his eye satisfied with riches. *But he never asks*, “For whom do I toil and deprive myself of good?”
 - Works so hard they have no time for relationships Gen 2:18
- 4:9 Two *are* better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. ¹⁰ For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him *who is* alone when he falls, For *he has* no one to help him up.
 - It is much better to take time to develop good relationships
 - Marriage family, church friendships Gal 6:1-2

Life at the top is brief 4:13-16

- 4:13-16 Better a poor and wise youth Than an old and foolish king who will be admonished no more. ¹⁴ For he comes out of prison to be king, Although he was born poor in his kingdom. ¹⁵ I saw all the living who walk under the sun; They were with the second youth who stands in his place. ¹⁶ *There was* no end of all the people over whom he was made king; Yet those who come afterward will not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and grasping for the wind.
 - Old king becomes conceited, will not listen to advice
 - Young man rises to take his place; popularity is fickle



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