

Ecclesiastes VIII
Wisdom for Time
Ecclesiastes 8:6-11

- I. TO EVERY PURPOSE (Ecclesiastes 8:6)
 - a. There is Time and Judgment (Ecclesiastes 8:6a)
 - i. God has placed a time on all that He does (Ecclesiastes 3:1)
 - ii. God does things in His timing (Ecclesiastes 3:11)
 - iii. God puts time limits on many things when dealing with man
 - 1. The children of Israel, at the entering into the promise land the first time (Numbers 13:25-33; 14:1-4)
 - 2. The children of Israel, and their desire to take the land after the report (Numbers 14:26-45)
 - 3. Man and eternity (Luke 16:25; Hebrews 9:27)
 - b. Therefore Man Has Woe (Ecclesiastes 8:6b)
 - i. His misery is great
 - ii. Because of his own doing
 - 1. Just as the children of Israel did not listen to their Lord
 - a. After the death of Jehoiada, Judah and the king forsook God (2 Chronicles 24:15-25)
 - b. After Moses had told the people to not go up and take the land (Numbers 14:45)
 - 2. Today men go their own way, and heap upon themselves trouble (Romans 1:27; Romans 3:1-18). Thus the law shows that all men are guilty before God (Romans 3:19-20).
- II. THE UNKNOWN TIME (Ecclesiastes 8:7)
 - a. What Shall Be (Ecclesiastes 9:12)
 - b. When It Shall Be (Proverbs 24:21-24)
 - i. The evil man's calamity shall rise suddenly
 - ii. He shall be suddenly destroyed (Proverbs 29:1)
 - iii. The Day of the LORD (1 Thessalonians 5:1-5)
 - 1. As a thief in the night (2 Peter 3:10)
 - 2. The Lord shall utter His voice before His army (Joel 2:1, 11)
 - 3. It is a day of darkness (Amos 5:18, 20)
 - 4. The earth shall be burnt with fire (2 Peter 3:10)

5. Some passages seem to indicate more than one physical 24hr period (see 2 Peter 3:10; Joel 2:11, 31; 3:14)
6. Elijah will come before the great and dreadful day of the LORD (Malachi 4:5)

III. THE DAY OF DEATH (Ecclesiastes 8:8)

a. No Power Over It

- i. No man has power over death (Job 14:5)
- ii. Except Christ (John 10:17-18)
 1. In three days he would rise again (John 2:19-21)
 2. Christ could not be held by death, hell, and the grave (Acts 2:24)
 - a. The Father raised Him from the grave (Acts 3:15)
 - b. He raised Himself from the grave (John 2:19-21)
 - c. The Holy Spirit raised up Christ (Romans 8:10-11)

b. No Way Out of It

- i. There is no discharge in that war (Hebrews 9:27)
 1. Death is sure (Psalm 89:48)
 2. Judgment is sure (Ecclesiastes 12:14)
- ii. Wickedness will not deliver out of it
 1. The wicked will be placed in hell (Psalm 9:17)
 2. Those that love evil will be destroyed (Psalm 52:3-7)

IV. THE TIME OF POWER OVER ANOTHER (Ecclesiastes 8:9)

a. To Rule Over Another (Ecclesiastes 8:9b)

b. To Rule to One's Own Hurt (Ecclesiastes 8:9b)

- i. The king of Egypt (Exodus 14:5-9, 28)
- ii. To be placed in authority without experience
 1. While young (either physically or spiritually) (1 Timothy 3:6; 1 Corinthians 3:1; Hebrews 5:12-13)
 2. Without knowledge (1 Timothy 3:6)
 - a. *Novice* = "newly arrived, inexperienced"
 - b. Notice the qualifications of a bishop (1 Timothy 3:1-7)
 3. Without God's will
 - a. It's not good to be placed in authority when you shouldn't be there.
 - b. Let God exalt you (James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:6)

- V. THE DEMISE OF THE WICKED (Ecclesiastes 8:10)
 - a. They Come and Go
 - i. Jezebel and her demise (2 Kings 9:34-35)
 - ii. Joab and his fleeing unto the tabernacle (1 Kings 2:28-34)
 - iii. Sennacherib and his invading of the land of Judah while Hezekiah was king (Isaiah 37:33-38)
 - b. Then Are They Forgotten
 - i. Their name shall decay (Proverbs 10:7)
 - ii. The righteous remembered (2 Chronicles 24:15-16)
 - 1. Jehoiada the priest was buried among the kings.
 - 2. To be buried here would have been an honour, and a place to be remembered.
 - iii. The wicked forgotten (2 Chronicles 24:23-25)
 - 1. Joash the king was buried in the city.
 - 2. However, he was not buried among the kings.
 - 3. Jezebel and her burial (2 Kings 9:34-35)
- VI. THE DELAY OF JUDGMENT (Ecclesiastes 8:11)
 - a. Delay of Judgment Against an Evil Work
 - i. God's delay of judgment
 - 1. Pharaoh sees a respite therefore he hardened his heart (Ex. 8:15)
 - a. *Respite* in scripture
 - i. Pharaoh and the hardening of his heart (Ex. 8:15)
 - ii. The elders of Jabesh and their decision to serve Ammon (1 Samuel 11:3)
 - b. *Respite* = "Old French *respit* 'delay, respect', from Latin *respectus* 'consideration, recourse, regard'"
 - 2. Job marked how the wicked live well (Job 21:1-15)
 - a. Yet, God has marked their path and will repay (Psalm 50:21; Romans 12:19)
 - b. The goodness of God leadeth to repentance (Rom. 2:1-4)
 - b. The Sons of Men Are Set on Evil
 - i. The mercy of God condemns them
 - 1. God warned Judah of going into Egypt for help (Jeremiah 42:15-19)
 - 2. The longsuffering of God; (*longsuffering* = *long* + *suffering* [*i.e. suffer + long*].) gives men time to get things right between them and God. (Isaiah 30:18; Romans 2:4; Romans 9:22)
 - ii. The mercy of God gives them time (Romans 2:1-4)