

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 198 – Wicked Judgment Seats Through Rejoice In Your Own Works (Ecclesiastes 3:16-22)

1. Can we expect times wherein places of judgment and righteousness will be filled with evil?
Yes: *“And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there; and the place of righteousness, that iniquity was there”* (Ecclesiastes 3:16).
 - **Psalms 94:20-22, Ecclesiastes 4:1, Isaiah 1:23, Isaiah 59:14, Jeremiah 5:26-28, Micah 2:1-2, Micah 7:3, Matthew 26:59, and Luke 18:1-5.**
 - Man’s judgment is flawed in that man often looks on the outward things (**I Samuel 16:7** and **John 7:24**).
 - May often does not consider the fruit of one’s works (**Matthew 7:20**) or even the whole story of what judgment is occurring on (**Proverbs 18:13**).

2. Will anyone escape the judgment of God?
No: *“I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work”* (Ecclesiastes 3:17).
 - **Psalms 98:9, Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, Matthew 16:27, John 5:28-29, Acts 17:30-31, I Corinthians 4:5, and II Corinthians 5:10.**

3. Does mankind need help at times to see that we are not quite as great as we think we are?
Yes: *“I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts”* (Ecclesiastes 3:18).
 - A good commentary on this verse is written in the Psalms (**Psalms 73:16-22**).
 - We’re supposed to be able to examine ourselves (**Ezekiel 18:27-28, Haggai 1:5, II Corinthians 13:5, and Philippians 2:12**).
 - Yet, self-deception is an easy thing to accomplish (**Psalms 49:18, Proverbs 30:11-12, and I Corinthians 3:18**).

4. What does both man and animal have in common?
Death: *“For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity”* (Ecclesiastes 3:19).
 - **II Samuel 14:14, Psalms 89:47-48, Psalms 90:10, Ecclesiastes 9:5, and Hebrews 9:27.**
 - Death will be overcome (**I Corinthians 15:54-57**). *More on this as we discuss question #6.

5. What happens to the physical bodies of both man and beast?

Return to dust: *"All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again"* (**Ecclesiastes 3:20**).

- **Genesis 3:19, Job 10:9, Job 34:15, and Psalms 104:29.**
- Our physical bodies decay upon burial (**Genesis 50:25** [cf. **Exodus 12:46**] and **John 11:38-39**).

6. Is there a difference in what happens to the spirit in man and that of animals?

Yes, the spirit of man lives on after physical death: *"Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth"* (**Ecclesiastes 3:21**)?

- While our flesh is dead (**James 2:26**), our spirit is not (**Ecclesiastes 12:7, Luke 16:19-31, Luke 23:39-43, and Acts 2:31**).
- There will also be a bodily resurrection at the Second Coming of our Savior (**I Corinthians 15:21-22, I Corinthians 15:42, Philippians 3:21, and I Thessalonians 4:13-18**).
- God made man a living soul from the dust of the ground (**Genesis 2:7 and Isaiah 64:8**).

7. What is our portion of life in this world?

To rejoice in our own works: *"Wherefore I perceive that there is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion: for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him"* (**Ecclesiastes 3:22**)?

- **Deuteronomy 12:7 and Ecclesiastes 2:24.**
- No one is going to bring you back to see your labors and the results thereof after you leave this earth (**Psalms 6:5, Ecclesiastes 6:12, Ecclesiastes 9:10, and Ecclesiastes 10:14**).
- Enjoy today (**Matthew 6:34**) for tomorrow does not belong to us (**James 4:13-16**).