

# Issues with God's Creation

- God is love, He is righteous, just and fair.
- He is a kind, merciful and compassionate.
- His creation as it came from His hands reflected all of these things.
- *Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. Gen. 1:31*
- The world we live in today does not accurately portray these things.
- The terrible things we read about every day in the news tell a very different story.

# The Holy Spirit wrote Ecclesiastes

- To reveal the truths about the effects of the curse on the material creation.
- The changes are more profound and far reaching than we can comprehend.
- He begins the book revealing the change.
- *The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. 2 “**Vanity of vanities,**” says **the Preacher; “Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.”** 3 What profit has a man from all his labor In which he toils under the sun? Eccl 1:1-3*
- Everything is no longer “very good”

# Life Under the Curse is Unfair

- Life before the curse was fair.
- There was no vanity.
- There was profit in everything.
- Everyone had dominion.
- Nothing could be lost.
- No one could die.
- No one could be cheated or murdered.
- After sin entered the world and death through sin, fairness and dominion were diminished.
- Now... Anything is possible ...

# Life Isn't Fair – The Curse

- *I returned and saw under the sun that — The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favor to men of skill; But time and chance happen to them all. 12 For man also does not know his time: Like fish taken in a cruel net, Like birds caught in a snare, So the sons of men are snared in an evil time, When it falls suddenly upon them. Eccl 9:11-12*
- Life is now like a fish taken in a net or birds caught in a snare.

# Even Serving God Doesn't Help

- *There is a vanity which occurs on earth, that there are just men to whom it happens according to the work of the wicked; again, there are wicked men to whom it happens according to the work of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity. Eccl 8:14*
- *I have seen everything in my days of vanity: There is a just man who perishes in his righteousness, And there is a wicked man who prolongs life in his wickedness. Eccl. 7:15*

# Even Serving God Doesn't Help

- *All things come alike to all: One event happens to the righteous and the wicked; To the good, the clean, and the unclean; To him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As is the good, so is the sinner; He who takes an oath as he who fears an oath. 3 This is an evil in all that is done under the sun: that one thing happens to all. Truly the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil; madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead. Eccl. 9:2-4*
- Life here on earth does not reflect God's character. Life is not fair and nothing we can do can change that.

# It's Not Fair!

- Cause & Effect Suspended by the curse:
- *Father sends sun to evil and good rain to just and unjust Mt 5:45*
- World is now turned upside down.
- *Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart. 2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped. 3 For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked. Ps. 73:1-3*
- This is an issue we must all assess and try to understand **BEFORE** it happens to us.

# Cause & Affect – Upside Down

- When comparing his life to the wicked he came up short
- *4 For there are no pangs in their death, But their strength is firm. 5 They are not in trouble as other men, Nor are they plagued like other men. 6 Therefore pride serves as their necklace; Violence covers them like a garment.... They scoff and speak wickedly concerning oppression; They speak loftily. Ps 73:4-8*



# The Danger We Face

- The Wicked Scoff and Mock in Prosperity
- *And they say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?" 12 Behold, these are the ungodly, Who are always at ease; They increase in riches.*
- Righteous groan being plagued & Chastened
- *13 Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain, And washed my hands in innocence. 14 For all day long I have been plagued, And chastened every morning. Ps 73:11-14*

# Understanding Finally Came

- *If I had said, "I will speak thus," Behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children. 16 When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me — 17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end. Ps 73:15-17*
- He had to do what we all have to do.
- He painfully worked through it until he understood.

# Why Is Life Unfair Like This?

- *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9*
- How can God do this and keep life fair?
- If some are receiving longsuffering; it means others are suffering under their hands.

# Cost of Being Longsuffering to All

- *many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. Acts 26:10-11*
- *I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 1Tim. 1:13-14*
- He is one of millions and billions of people God is being longsuffering toward.
- This is a simple answer to a multifaceted and extremely complicated subject. But if we can grasp it, we are better prepared to understand.

# Soul now Redeemed - Not Body

*For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23*

*Not only that, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. Rom 8:20-24*

We Groan within ourselves.

Life can be so unfair and unjust.

# Life – A Dream & Vapor

- *Surely You set them in slippery places;*
- *You cast them down to destruction. 19 Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors. 20 As a dream when one awakes, So, Lord, when You awake, You shall despise their image. Ps 73:18-20*

# How Understanding Brings Wisdom

- *Thus my heart was grieved, And I was vexed in my mind. 22 I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You. 23 Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand. 24 You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory. Ps 73:21-24*
- This is true repentance after believing error.
- Godly Sorrow at its finest.