

## 2111 - [3]-JUSTICE, MAN & BEASTS - Ecc 3:16-22

PRELIMS. Sol - all of life is meaningless - without God! He knows from experience. There is a time for everything. To be **born** and to **die**, a time to **build** and a time to **destroy**!

### **The PLACE of JUSTICE**

**Why** do people go to Court to settle disputes? Because they **believe** they will get **justice**! Of course that is what is **supposed** to happen! But we do hear the **cry** from outside these Courts, 'Its no justice'! People are **despondent** when they lose their case at the Courts. Because it is the **final** opportunity to get justice - in this life!

That is what Sol is **inferring** here - *the place of justice* - but **even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness** [16]! The very sight of the **symbols** of justice in the **Scales of Balance** on top of the Court buildings can seem a **mockery** and an **eyesore** to some! This was always the case - nothing new under the sun - as long as man is man without God, earth will be a mixture of good and evil! That something **fixed** into life on earth.

However, for **believers**, it is **different**! There is no need for Xns to be despondent when the Courts fail them - in fact we ought to **expect** failures, Sol **warns** us, especially from non-Xn Courts! The **Apostles** were **constantly** unfairly dealt with, not to speak of our **Saviour**!

But the Xn has another hope, a **sure hope** - the great Day of Judgment when all the universe will be assembled and **justice will** dispensed! That hope will be **realised**! It is no false hope. Paul told the philosophers of Athens about the true God saying *He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a Man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead* [Acts 17:31] The Day of Judgment (Justice) is as sure as the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ!! Is there more evidence of anything? Has anything been **more tested** and **proven**!

That **ought** to make Xns feel **relaxed/patient** knowing that justice is going to be done finally! It means we can **wait in confidence**! It means we can exercise **faith**! That is God's **purpose** God in making us wait - to **enable** our faith to **shine**! So, let not you/I **grieve** over all

the injustices that are done to X's Cause, *do not marvel at the matter*

That, of course is exactly what Sol himself does here. He **resolves** the dilemma of injustice by **appealing to God** *I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for **there is a time** for every matter and for every work* [17] Note: *everything in its time!*

Sol discovers something else! All this **injustices, dilemmas and contradictions** is nothing else but **God testing** the children of men! *I said in my heart with regard to the children of man that **God is testing them...***[18a]! **APP** You know, the **whole** of life is actually one great big test! The test? Do we **believe** in God? After all of life's experiences; after all the good things we had, and enjoyed; after all the 'escapes' we had in Providence, is our **trust** in God?

At the Judgment we will **not** be asked about the **theological** stance you took on certain issues! You will be asked this: 'What did you **do** with Jesus?' What did you do with the **opportunities** I gave you for **good works?** and 'How did you **use** the **life** I gave you, the gifts, the talents, the opportunities, the health/strength? Did you **use** them all on **yourself** or for the purposes **God intended** you to use them?

Yes, life is a test - even on the very **small things!** The way you drive your car, are you **impatient** or **rude?** As someone else said 'When you open a door, when you pick up a piece of trash; are you **polite** to a **clerk** or a **waitress, check-out girl**', you're being tested! God is testing your **character!** **God** rewards the giving of a cup of water! When you realise life is a test **nothing** is insignificant! The **smallest incident** has **meaning.** Every day is an important day, because every day has **opportunities** to show the kind of people we really are! Are we here on earth only for ourselves and what we can get out of it, or are we here **for God?** Are we **servicing** God or ourselves?

One of the 'trials' God tests man with is, 'Let him suffer an **injustice**, and we will see what kind of person he **really** is'? Is there something of the **beast** in him? God tests people *that they may see that they themselves are but beasts* [18b]! God wants us to realise that **in some ways** (not in all ways) God wants us realise our **brutishness!** Psalmist: *I was like a **beast** toward You* [Psa 73:22] *Man in his **pomp** yet without understanding is like the **beasts** that perish* [Psa 49:20].

Both **Peter** and **Jude** describe some people as *unreasonable/irrational animals* or **brute beasts** as in some version [2P2:12+J10] But of course they are not really serious in that description. Peter and Jude are only describing people's **vile behaviour!** They are telling of their **blaspheming** about matters of which they are ignorant [2P2:12]

## MAN v BEASTS

Now Sol here in [v19] is **not** giving us a **theology** of man and animals! He is **not talking** about the **constituent** elements of the **nature** of man and beast. He is **not** saying that man is no different from animals! Sol is talking about what **happens** to the **life on earth** in the **end** of man and beast, *what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other* [19] Sol is talking about what he **saw under the sun** [16] as far as **general revelation** goes! He is talking about how things appear to us without the divine knowledge of God's Special revelation.

Unless we know what God has **revealed** in **Special revelation** there is no difference between man and beast as far as the human eye can see! *Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of beast goes down into the earth* [21] No one knows if you only go by what can be **observed** by the **human eye!**

So, as we do **not know** what lies ahead in life, just **enjoy yourself** and make the most of life, for that is all we can do (believing in God of course!) *there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work for that is his lot* [22] \*Sol tells us **elsewhere** that about the theology of man's constitution. Before he ends this book Sol tells us **plainly** in [12:5-7] *man is going to his eternal home* and the **dust** of man *returns to the earth* and **spirit** of man *returns to God* who gave it to man in the 1st place! Like beasts that perish! [Psa 49:20]

Sol is just confirming here what this whole book is about - we don't know anything unless we know God. Without God life is meaningless! Yes, different from Professor **Stephen Hawking** but then he admits he is **only** reading from General revelation!! I have a cutting from the Mail of [3/9/10] which told of a Revd Garth Barber, a cosmologist and member of the Society of Ordained Scientists who

said 'The law of science are God's law of creation'!

Twice in Psalm 49 we read that *Man in his pomp...is like the beasts that perish* [Psa 49:12,20] Man is constituted above the beasts - but we have **lowered ourselves!** I have often heard on TV words to this effect 'Animals do it, why should we not?'!! How sad that in some things, we actually look to the animals for guidance and wisdom!!

Friends: How would **you** describe life? This is what Rick Warren records about people he met and how they described life 'a circus, a minefield, a roller coaster, a puzzle, a symphony, a journey, and a dance...a ten-speed bicycle with gears we never use, life is a game of cards: you have to play the hand you are dealt'!! That indeed is how it truly seems to be - **without God!**

**Why** spend time trying to own possessions that we are going to leave behind? Think of some of the **names** God calls **His people** in the Bible **aliens, pilgrims, foreigners, strangers!** What does that tell you? Paul said he was an **ambassador** of another country![Eph6:20] Someone said 'You will not be in heaven for more than 2 seconds when you will cry out 'Why did I spend so much time on things that weren't going to last? What was I thinking of'! The reason so many of your prayers are not answered, the reason why some of God's promises are unfulfilled in your life, is because you are spending time on things that are **not endurable for** the world to come.

Friends, you are **not** beasts! You were made for God. *God has put eternity into man's heart* [11] **You are to live for God!** You were created to **worship God!** Worship Him in **everything!**

**If you say** 'I didn't get anything at church today' you worshipped for the **wrong reason!** Worship isn't for you - its for God! We **don't** worship to please ourselves! We worship to **please God!** Worship should **not** be **part** of your life! Worship should **be** your life - all of it. Luther said 'A dairymaid can milk cows to the glory of God'!

\*But you need the **sixth sense**, the Holy Spirit to be able to do that!