

Life Under the Sun: The Message of Ecclesiastes

Lakewood Presbyterian Church

Lesson 4
Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:16
(6-1-25)

Key Idea: *God is thoroughly in control of every aspect of the world He has created, and yet there are enough apparent inconsistencies and injustices to make a thinking man question whether God is sovereign, whether He is just, or whether He even cares.*

I. THE STRUCTURE OF ECCLESIASTES & SOLOMONS ARGUMENT

A. Section II (3:1-5:20) has _____ sub-divisions which advance Solomon's _____

1. **Subdivision #1 (3:1-15):** God has a p_____ that e_____ every man and woman and all their a_____ at all t_____. The more familiar term for this is _____
2. **Subdivision #2 (3:16-4:16):** Solomon reflects on apparent a_____ and c_____ to the idea of God's s_____.
3. **Subdivision #3 (5:1-20):** Beware of p_____ atheism, acting as if God is not in c_____.

B. But the "problems" of natural and moral evil seem to blunt the idea of a s_____ Creator:

1. Solomon affirms the idea that God is S_____.
 - a. How so? _____
2. Solomon also teaches that holding to this doctrine is the f_____ of your j_____ (3:12)
3. The two most common objections fall under the category of
 - a. **Moral Evil:** _____
 - b. **Natural Evil:** _____
3. Two-fold response:
 - a. There is nothing new about s_____: (Acts 17:16-33; II Peter 1:16f.)

b. **The Problem of Good:** _____

II. AND NOW SOLOMON'S RESPONSE: HAS GOD LEFT THE BUILDING?

A. Solomon himself lists six scenarios which seem to suggest God is either in _____, un_____, un_____ and His world is out of c_____

Objection #1 _____ (3:16-17)

The solution which is the gift of God: _____

Objection #2 _____ (3:18)

The solution which is the gift of God: _____

Objection #3 _____ (4:1-3)

The solution which is the gift of God: _____

Objection #4 _____ (4:4-6)

The solution which is the gift of God: _____

Objection #5 _____ (4:7-12)

The solution which is the gift of God: _____

Objection #6 _____ (4:13-16)

The solution which is the gift of God: _____