

“From Vain Ugliness to Glorious Beauty”

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

July 30, 2023

I. An Appointed Time for Everything (3:1-8)

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NAS) - There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven —

- A. All things are appointed by God.
- B. The good things and bad things of life aren't here by chance, but by God's sovereign direction – arriving right on schedule.

II. An Understandable Question (3:9)

- A. If everything is fixed beforehand, then is everything ultimately pointless?
- B. Not for believers; not from God's perspective.

III. Beautiful in its Time (3:10-11)

- A. The Lord has, is, and will make everything *beautiful* in His perfect timing.
 - 1. All events on this earth will be shown to be perfect parts of His perfect plans.

Romans 8:28 - And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

- 2. In the next life we will recognize this with complete clarity.
- B. But we want to understand all of this (i.e., God's ways) *now*.
 - 1. Yet God is not showing us His full perspective yet.
 - 2. Still, we can continue to trust the one who has *already* turned the ugliest event in history into a most beautiful triumph.

Acts 2:23 - this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.