



## Finding Life's Meaning "Under The Sun"

### Lesson 4

- 4) What does Solomon initially conclude in v. 11a? How is God able to do this in such a "puzzling" world? Consider **Rom. 8:28** & **Eph. 1:11b** in your answer.
  
- 5) What has God done for man that separates him from other creatures? (**vv. 11b**; cp. **Gen. 2:7**)
  
- 6) Yet, how has God limited "eternal" man? (**v. 11c**; cp. **Deut. 29:29**; **Jer. 10:23**; **1 Cor. 1:21**)

### God Gives Man Blessings To Enjoy (3:12-13)

- 7) What else has God done for man? (**vv. 12-13**; cp. **2:24**)

### God's Will Cannot Be Thwarted (3:14-15)

- 8) How does Solomon describe God and His "purpose" (will) for man? (**v. 14**) How have we often referred to this same principle re: God's word? (**Josh. 1:7-8**; **Mt. 24:35**; **Rev. 22:18-19**)
  
- 9) Be able to explain the last phrase of v. 15.

### **Questions Re: The World Controlled By God's Providential Sovereignty (3:16 – 4:16)**

### Solomon Saw Injustice (3:16-22)

- 10) Despite God's sovereign control, what is the 1st "puzzling" thing Solomon saw? (**v. 16**) How does Solomon indicate once again he is not a cynic? (**v. 17**)

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- 11) In the face of such inequities, how do some men live? (v. 18) What kind of mindset does this type of living produce? (vv. 19-21)
- 12) How does Solomon conclude this 1st observation? (v. 22)

#### Solomon Saw Oppression (4:1-3)

- 13) What is the 2nd "puzzling" thing Solomon saw in a world under God's sovereign control? (v. 1)  
Based on this verse, why was he puzzled?
- 14) What erroneous conclusion does Solomon reach in vv. 2-3? What 2 groups of people does he mention?

#### Solomon Saw Envy, Rivalry (4:4-6)

- 15) What is the 3rd "puzzling" thing Solomon saw in a world under God's sovereign control? (v. 4)  
Who is the "overachiever" contrasted with? (v. 5)
- 16) What is Solomon's conclusion re: this "puzzle?" (v. 6; cp. Prov. 15:16-17; 16:8; Phil. 4:11)

#### Solomon Saw Loneliness (4:7-12)

- 17) What is the 4th "puzzling" thing Solomon saw in a world under God's sovereign control? (vv. 7-8)  
What is the answer to this problem? (vv. 9-12; cp. Gen. 2:18)

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- 18) How is the value and worth of others in vv. 9-12 emphasized when compared to those mentioned in v. 1 and v. 4?

#### Solomon Saw Fickleness, Partiality (4:13-16)

- 19) What is the 5th "puzzling" thing Solomon saw in a world under God's sovereign control? (vv. 13-16) How does fickleness actually show itself? (v. 16)

- 20) Thought question: is there any possibility Solomon is referring to himself in these verses?

#### **Dangers In Questioning God's Sovereign & Providential Rule (5:1-20)**

#### The Danger Of Improper Worship (vv. 1-7)

- 21) What is the 1st "danger" Solomon lists in questioning God's sovereign control? What should be one's attitude when worshiping God? (v. 2; cp. Lev. 10:1-3; 1 Sam. 13:8-13; 15:13-23)

- 22) Be able to explain v. 3.

- 23) How did Jesus illustrate the vanity of words used in worship? (Mt. 6:7)

- 24) What advice does Solomon give re: vows? (vv. 4-7a) What is the solution? (v. 7b)

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### *The Danger Of Losing Faith (vv. 8-9)*

- 25) What is the 2nd "danger" Solomon lists in questioning God's sovereign control? (v. 8) What should be remembered? (v. 9)

### *The Danger Of Becoming Materialistic (vv. 10-17)*

- 26) What is the 3rd "danger" Solomon lists in questioning God's sovereign control? (vv. 10-17) Compare this to his earlier exhortation. (2:8-11)

- 27) What is the preferred "lifestyle?" (v. 12) What can happen to the rich? (v. 14) What certainty will no amount of riches change? (vv. 15-16; cp. 1 Tim. 6:7)

### *His Conclusions (vv. 18-20)*

- 28) How does Solomon once again reach "above the sun" to conclude this section? (vv. 18-20) How does this compare with his earlier "conclusion?" (2:24-26)

- 29) What will the godly man not focus on? (v. 20a) Instead, where will be his emphasis?