

And Justice for All (Ecclesiastes 8:1-17)

I. Introduction, Review & Outline

II. How to live peaceably and rightly interact with human authorities (8:1-7)

Balancing **submission** and **confidence** even before prideful and wicked authorities (v. 1-5)

Daniel's interpretation of the Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Dan 2)
prudence and *discretion*

Romans 13:1-7

In the midst of wolves: *Be wise as serpents and gentle as doves*

Speaking wisely and gently is no guarantee of results (v. 6-7)

III. Moving from human authority to God's authority (8:8-14)

Who can change God's decrees? (v. 8)

Qoheleth is a realist (v. 9)

Everyone appears to be a saint when they die (v. 10)

Does God's patience lead you to repentance or further revelry? (v. 11)

Beware: A day of reckoning is most surely coming!

Qoheleth's struggle knowing that God is in control (v. 12-14)

Life in utopia vs. life in reality

Justice can only be understood in the light of eternity

IV. How then ought we to live today? (8:15-17)

Rejoicing daily in God's good and merciful simple pleasures

Do not envy the wicked and those who seem to have much in life

Looking forward to the day when there will be **justice for all**