

(V15): “All things have I see in the days of my vanity”

“This is like saying, I have seen everything (or I have seen it all) in all the days of my vanity” or in the days of my vain life. (*Cp. 1:12-14*)

This is a good time to reacquire ourselves with the meaning of what Solomon meant when he wrote that this earthly life is full of vanity; but the sad reality is, most of our fellow humans in the world chase after vain things and vanity every day of their temporary earthly lives.

What does vanity mean? The Hebrew word from which we get the word “Vanity” expresses two (2) meanings in the OT scriptures; the first meaning is “a human breath” which is temporary and transitory or passing away; it’s only there for a moment; secondly, something that is vain or vanity is something that is worthless, empty, and/or meaninglessness.

(Vapor, shadow: Psalm 39:5-6, 11, 62:9), (Breath-Psalm 144:4), James 4:14
Meaninglessness/Worthlessness: Deuteronomy 32:18-21, Psalm 94:11, 1 Corinthians 15:17,
James 1:26

How much of “our time” in this “temporary earthly life” do we give over to vanity; or to things that have bring no profit to the soul?

How often are we, in our own minds, filled with thoughts of vain and worthless things?
Psalm 4:2, Jeremiah 4:14, Romans 1:18-22, Mark 7:21

There is an unspoken imperative here that each of us as children of God must take hold of in our own lives, and that is the putting away of vanity and vain things out of our hearts and minds and thoughts. *Psalm 119:113, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5*

Beloved, MOST of humanity are going through their earthly lives chasing after vanity and vain things, things that are temporary and transitory, and things that will never profit or satisfy the soul! Chasing after vanity or vain things IS NOT an accurate description of the Christian life! It should not describe you and me. Beloved we should NOT be living lives of vanity!

God gave Solomon more in riches and wealth and properties and servants, and more stuff than any single man ever had, all so that we might see the vanity of gaining the whole world and losing your soul! I believe at this point in Solomon’s life, he SAW all of what he had amassed in earthly wealth and riches and stuff; that it was worthless, vain, and empty. There was no true/eternal profit in any of it!

Colossians 3:1-2, Proverbs 8:17-21, Luke 12:31-33

And then, there is what some might call the unfairness of life: “There is a just man perishes in his righteousness, and there is the wicked man that prolongs his life in his wickedness”

You have to wonder what Solomon’s state of mind was in this time; there seems to perhaps, be some cynicism in what he writes. In fact, (V16-18) bring much difficulty in understanding.

But now, let us not focus on the 2nd part of (V15)

And so, the righteous perish and are cut off from this life; the wicked are prolonged and even seem to prosper in their wickedness.

The truth is; this is often; (not absolutely) the way things are; that we see good men and women perish and die young and the wicked continue in their wickedness

Think about it: Who was the first righteous man to perish and die, while his wicked brother lived on in his wickedness for many years?

Cain murdered righteous Abel, and Cain continued many years. Naboth, a righteous man who refused to sell his vineyard to Ahab that wicked King of Israel; which was against the law in OT Israel; Ahab had him killed so that he might take his vineyard from him. Then, Uriah the Hittite. John the Baptist; James, son of Zebedee, brother of John!

Why it is so Lord? The truth is, these men perished because of their righteousness.
The wicked: Job 21:7, Psalm 37:35-36, Jeremiah 12:1-4,

Why it is that we see the righteous often being cut off out of this life, but we see the wicked prospering?

God knoweth! Our times are in His hand; God knows best! Don't fret or become cast down because the righteous perish and the wicked continue. God has appointed it. Leave the end of both the righteous and the wicked to God! *Romans 9:22-23*
Psalm 73:1-13