

### 3/31/24, Ecclesiastes 7:10 “The Good Ol’ Days”

ESV, Say not, “Why were the former days better than these?” For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.

KJV, Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this.

JPS, Don’t say, “How has it happened that former times were better than these?” For it is not wise of you to ask that question.

אֶל־תֹּאמַר מָה הָיָה שְׁהַיָּמִים הַרְאֵשִׁימִים הָיוּ טוֹבִים מֵאֵלָּה  
al\_t’o-MAR mah ha-YAH sha-hay-YA-miyim ha-ri-SHO-niyim ha-yoo to-VIYM ma-Ā-lah  
כִּי לֹא מוֹחֲכֵמָה שְׂאֵלָתָ עַל־זֶה  
khiy lō mā-CHAKH-mah sha-ALT-ta al\_ZAH

#### I. Particular Insights from this Verse

##### A. Jesus always looked ahead

1. to the cross in His ministry, John 2:19-21; 18:37
2. in His instruction to others, Luke 9:62

##### B. Paul always looked forward

1. in his life for Christ, Phil 3:13

##### C. Qohelet reminds us

1. of what he said earlier, Ecc 1:9
2. & we fail to remember it was just as bad then as now, Ecc 1:11

##### D. David Gibson wrote:

1. “Often when we think this, it’s because we are blind to the good things of the present and ignorant of the evil of the past.”<sup>1</sup>
2. “If you think you’re living in a world where things are getting worse all the time, then cheer up: at least you’ll be dead before things get *really* bad.”<sup>2</sup>

##### E. conclusions

1. it’s **self-deception** to think the “good ol’ days” were all good
2. it’s **misdirection** to take our eyes off of Christ’s kingdom for
  - a. paradise past destroyed in the flood, Gen 6:5 (Matt 24:38-39)
  - b. patriarchs who have not yet received the promise, Heb 11:13
3. it’s **misapplication** to forget we serve a sovereign God & Savior
  - a. we are “denying the reality of God’s presence in the present. If you think things are worse, do you think God is no longer in control? Do you think he hasn’t brought you to the point where you are now and that he no longer loves you or has plans or purposes for you? To ask the question in verse 10 is unwise, because it forgets about God.”<sup>3</sup>
4. it is blessed **anticipation** to look for the best that is yet to come, 2 Cor 4:17-18; Phil 3:14; Heb 12:2

<sup>1</sup> David Gibson, *Living Life Backward*; Crossway, Wheaton, IL., 2017; p.102

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p.101

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., p. 102