

As (C9) begins, Solomon continues his consideration of God's providence in the lives of the righteous and the wise. "For all this, I considered in my heart, even to declare all this"; (The righteous/wise are the same)

I CONSIDERED all of this in my heart so that I could DECLARE ALL of what I DISCOVERED, and, in turn, give you answers to the questions of life (for God's people) in a fallen world.

*WHY do certain things happen in our lives the way that they happen?
Why do things OFTEN seem upside down or backwards? Why do bad things happen to the righteous? And why do seemingly good things happen to the wicked?*

When Solomon wrote of "considering all this in my heart", he was writing about his understanding of the Providence of God in the lives of all of humanity, but here, specifically in the lives of God's people, (the righteous/wise).

WE SEE and BEHOLD, as did Solomon, THINGS happening to God's people the way WE THINK they should be happening to the wicked.

Solomon wrote of this in the preceding text, Ecclesiastes 8:14-15.

Even with all of Solomon's wisdom, there were things that he beheld "under the sun" in the lives of humanity, (in the lives of both the righteous and the wicked) that he did not and could not understand; things that would never know WHY they happened the way they happened. *Ecclesiastes 8:16-17, 3:11, 7:23-24*

*As in the William Cowper hymn "God moves in a mysterious way":
"Judge not the Lord by (YOUR) feeble sense, but trust Him for His grace, (for) behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face"*

Ecclesiastes 9:1: (READ): These are in reality words of comfort to the righteous, to Christians!

I CONSIDERED all of this in my heart so that I could DECLARE ALL of what I considered, so I could give you the answers to the questions of life in a fallen world; but even with all of my wisdom, there are so many things (in God's providence) that I do not understand. But what I can declare to you is this:

(9:1B): "That the righteous and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God"

Is there ANY GREATER COMFORT given to us as children of God than this....that we are in God's Hand? Consider then, that when Job had lost everything that he possessed, to include his children who were killed, and when his wife said, curse God and die, and when he was afflicted with boils and blisters all over his body, and on top of all that, his friends accused him of sin. Yet, all the while, he was (safe) in the hand of God!

When Jonah was in the whale's belly, (in the deep unfathomable darkness at the bottom of the ocean) even in that deep abyss, he was in the hand of God.

When Peter and the rest of the apostles were in the little boat in the great storm and tempest on the sea, they were in the hand of God.

When the sword of Herod killed the Apostle James, the brother of John, who was one of the sons of thunder, (even then) James was in the hand of God.

Ecclesiastes 8:12-13

When Jacob, who was bereaved and full of sorrow for many years because of the loss of Joseph, and NOW he was being faced with losing both Simeon and Benjamin he found himself in great distress.

We know that THAT is when he cried out: "ALL THESE THINGS ARE AGAINST ME". But the truth is, in God's providence, "All of THESE THINGS were working together for (Jacob's) good, who loved God, and who was called according to the purposes of God".

Don't ever forget, child of God that whatever comes to pass in your life, as senseless and as chaotic and things may seem; never forget that you are in the hand of God, from which you CANNOT be plucked!

John 10:27-30

Back to Ecclesiastes 9:1: "For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God: NO MAN knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them"

None of us can, NOR MUST we conclude God's love or hatred TO US personally as children of God by the MOST DIFFICULT PROVIDENCES that God assigns us in this life. Our comfort is to be in what God has revealed to us in His faithful truths and promises.

Psalms 23:6, Romans 8:14-17, 35-39, 2 Corinthians 4:8-18

We must never (as children of God) think to ourselves (in our own reasoning's of God) that He is either pleased with us or not by what we SEE coming to pass in circumstances and happenings of our lives; but we are to fix ourselves upon Christ, and believe what is written for us in the Holy Scriptures! But also to never forget Ecclesiastes 7:8:

"Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof"

Ecclesiastes 9:2: "All things come alike to ALL: there is one event to the righteous, AND to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean; to him that sacrificeth, and to him that sacrificeth not: as is the good, so is the sinner; and he that sweareth, as he that feareth an oath"

ALL THINGS come alike TO ALL! Wicked Ahab was slain in battle, so was Righteous Josiah. Both disguised themselves in battle, both were slain. Job and Abraham were rich and prosperous men and so were Nabal and Haman. Ecclesiastes 9:11-12

Again, "Judge not the Lord by feeble sense"