

## ***The Circle of Life (Ecclesiastes 3:1-15)***

### **I. Introduction: The Circle of Life**

Bemoaned by atheists

Celebrated by Hinduism and Disney's 'Lion King'

What about Qoheleth? Does he celebrate or lament?

### **II. Exposition of the poem about *time* (vss. 1-8)**

***Time*** is the main theme of the passage

All that occurs in time, whether good or bad is ultimately cancelled  
by what occurs later in time

While man is the subject, he is portrayed as a 'passive victim' of time

### **III. What does Qoheleth conclude from the 'time poem?' (vss. 9-15)**

verse 9 (key to understanding the entire text):

Humanity is stuck in a ceaseless cycle in which there is **no gain**.

Any progress you make, will eventually be reversed

You are dancing to the tune of another

verses 10-11:

God has put a sense of eternity in the human heart, but ...

Does the fact that God veils His eternal purpose cause you:  
frustration, resignation, or rest?

You cannot figure out what God is doing – so stop trying!

verses 12-13:

*Carpe diem* (again ... remember 2:24) Enjoy God's gifts today

A warning about living in the past or for the future (Mt 6:34)

verses 14-15:

What happens when we add God to the cycle of life?

The cycle of life is no longer monotonous,  
but reveals that life is not chaotic

Our toil begins to gain meaning because  
it is ordained by God with an eternal purpose.

While man's efforts are bound by time and therefore temporary,  
God's work is always enduring and eternal.

### **IV. Application:**

There is a time to die, so know where you spend eternity (Heb 9:27)

Learn to number your days.

What is God calling you to do with the time you have?

Beware of trying to manage your own agenda (wait on God)

Beware of self-importance or exalting an ordinary life

Trust God to take care of your time –

He has always redeemed time and He always will!