

DUST TO DUST
ECCLESIASTES 3:16-22
KEITH THOMAS

I. The Problem of injustice. 3:16

II. The promise of justice. 3:17

III. The purpose of delayed justice. 3:18-22

- A. 18 *lit*: I said in my heart w/ regard to the children of man that God is testing them so that they may see that they—they by themselves—are animals.

What does this mean?

1. 19-20. This is not controversial when understood. These verses are saying the same thing as many other passages regarding our mortality:

Gn. 3:19, Ps. 90:3, 104:29

2. Vs. 21 Now this is not so easy!

- B. The Preacher gives his conclusion in vs. 22.

Conclusion:

If one puts aside the existence of God and the survival after life as too doubtful . . . one has to make up one's mind as to the use of life. If death ends all, if I have neither to hope for good nor to fear evil, I must ask myself what I am here for, and how in these circumstances I must conduct myself. Now the answer is plain, but so unpalatable that most will not face it. There is no meaning for life and [thus] life has not meaning.

- William Somerset Maugham

Eccl. 12:7

Psalm 49:12-15

2 Timothy 1:9-10