

Who is like the wise man and who knows the interpretation of a matter? A man's wisdom illumines him and causes his stern face to beam. I say, "Keep the command of the king because of the oath before God. Do not be in a hurry to leave him. Do not join in an evil matter, for he will do whatever he pleases. Since the word of the king is authoritative, who will say to him, 'What are you doing?'"

He who keeps a royal command experiences no trouble, for a wise heart knows the proper time and procedure. For there is a proper time and procedure for every delight, though a man's trouble is heavy upon him. If no one knows what will happen, who can tell him when it will happen? No man has authority to restrain the wind with the wind, or authority over the day of death; and there is no discharge in the time of war, and evil will not deliver those who practice it. All this I have seen and applied my mind to every deed that has been done under the sun wherein a man has exercised authority over another man to his hurt.

So then, I have seen the wicked buried, those who used to go in and out from the holy place, and they are soon forgotten in the city where they did thus. This too is hebel. Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil. Although a sinner does evil a hundred times and may lengthen his life, still I know that it will be well for those who fear God, who fear Him openly. But it will not be well for the evil man and he will not lengthen his days like a shadow, because he does not fear God.

There is hebel which is done on the earth, that is, there are righteous men to whom it happens according to the deeds of the wicked.

On the other hand, there are evil men to whom it happens according to the deeds of the righteous.

I say that this too is hebel.

So I commended pleasure, for there is nothing good for a man under the sun except to eat and to drink and to be merry, and this will stand by him in his toils throughout the days of his life which God has given him under the sun.

When I gave my heart to know wisdom and to see the task which has been done on the earth (even though one should never sleep day or night), and I saw every work of God, I concluded that man cannot discover the work which has been done under the sun.

Even though man should seek laboriously, he will not discover; and though the wise man should say, "I know," he cannot discover.

Main Point

There is no escape from the confusing chaos of a cursed world, but those who fear the Lord will find contentment in it through faith.

Ecclesiastes 8:16-17

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Contentment in Chaos

Living under the chaos of despotism.

Since the word of the king is authoritative, who will say to him, "What are you doing?"



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Ecclesiastes 8:3

For [the king] will do whatever he pleases.

Power-thirsty politicians will often burn the house down around themselves in their pursuit of blind self-interest, doing harm to everyone under their authority.



Rulers often use their authority to everyone's harm.

The wise person may learn how to get along in the chaos.

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Play the Game

Ecclesiastes 8:2-4

before God. Do not be in a hurry to leave him.

Do not join in an evil matter,

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I say, "Keep the command of the king because of the oath before God. Do not be in a hurry to leave him.

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Since the word of the king is authoritative,

who will say to him, 'What are you doing?"

The worldly-wise understand how these things work.

Ecclesiastes 8:5-6

He who keeps a royal command experiences no trouble, for a wise heart knows the proper time and procedure. For there is a proper time and procedure for every delight, though a man's trouble is heavy upon him.

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though a man's trouble is heavy upon him.

The curse remains over it all.

The shrewd man of wisdom knows how to navigate the cursed and chaotic world of politics and is adept at avoiding its pitfalls.



Rulers often use their authority to everyone's harm.

The wise person may learn how to get along in the chaos.

But evil cannot be controlled.

If no one knows what will happen,
who can tell him when it will happen?
No man has authority to restrain the wind with the wind,
or authority over the day of death;
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Despite his shrewdness and his mastery of political processes, mankind cannot control evil but is enslaved to its corruptions.

The evil heart is the Despot!

Contentment in Chaos

Living under the chaos of despotism.

Living in the chaos of the upside down.

Living in the Upside Down

In the upside down, the wicked are honored and the righteous condemned.

So then, I have seen the wicked buried, those who used to go in and out from the holy place, and they are soon forgotten in the city where they did thus.

This too is hebel.

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On the other hand, there are evil men to whom it happens according to the deeds of the righteous.

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Isaiah 5:20

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

Ecclesiastes 8:14

I say that this too is hebel.



In the upside down, the wicked are honored and the righteous condemned.

In the upside down, chaos ensues.

Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil.

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The great enigma of human history is how mankind can so consistently and persistently act against himself by acting against common sense and even nature itself.

Ecclesiastes 8:17

The wise man says, "I know," but he can't figure it out.

Contentment in Chaos

Living under the chaos of despotism.

Living in the chaos of the upside down.

Living with contentment in the chaos.

So I commended pleasure, for there is nothing good for a man under the sun except to eat and to drink and to be merry, and this will stand by him in his toils throughout the days of his life which God has given him under the sun.

Finding Contentment in Chaos

Contentment comes when you believe that justice will come.

Although a sinner does evil a hundred times and may lengthen his life, still I know that it will be well for those who fear God, who fear Him openly.

But it will not be well for the evil man and he will not lengthen his days like a shadow, because he does not fear God.

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But it will not be well for the evil man and he will not lengthen his days like a shadow, because he does not fear God.

Contentment is founded upon what you know and believe about God: who He is and what He's like.

Contentment is grounded in faith!

Finding Contentment in Chaos

Contentment comes when you believe that justice will come.

Contentment comes when you receive your portion of chaos with joy.

So I commended pleasure, for there is nothing good for a man under the sun except to eat and to drink and to be merry, and this will stand by him in his toils throughout the days of his life which God has given him under the sun.

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this will stand by him <u>in his toils</u> throughout the days of his life which God has given him under the sun.

So I commended pleasure, for there is nothing good for a man under the sun except to eat and to drink and to be merry, and this will stand by him in his toils throughout the days

of his life which God has given him under the sun.

The chaos you experience in life is a part of the portion that God has given to you. Remember, He has given all things to you for your good, so rejoice!

Finding Contentment in Chaos

Contentment comes when you believe that justice will come.

Contentment comes when you receive your portion of chaos with joy.

Contentment comes when you leave the enigmas of your life to God.

This too is hebel.

There is hebel which is done on the earth...

I say that this too is hebel.

Ecclesiastes 8:10 and 14
This too is an enigma.

There is *an enigma* which is done on the earth...

I say that this too is an enigma.

When I saw every work of God,
I concluded that man cannot discover the work
which has been done under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 8:17

When I saw every work of God,
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When I saw every work of God,

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Psalm 131:1-3

O Lord, my heart is not proud, nor my eyes haughty;
Nor do I involve myself in great matters,
Or in things too difficult for me.
Surely I have composed and quieted my soul;
Like a weaned child rests against his mother,
My soul is like a weaned child within me.
O Israel, hope in the Lord
From this time forth and forever.

Psalm 131:1-3

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Contentment, Humility, and Hope are inseparable siblings! They all live together under the same roof.

Concluding Questions:

Are you counting on worldly wisdom to get you through the chaos?

Do you understand the cause of the chaos and are you hoping in the Lord?

Are you committed to contentment in this chaotic world and in your chaotic life?