

Ecclesiastes 3:16–4:3

“Life in a Broken World”

“Under the Sun”

A place where man rules—man marked by pride, greed, and self-preservation.

The Reality of Life in a Broken World: Injustice and Oppression (3:16; 4:1)

- Place of justice — courts
- Place of righteousness — religious institutions
- Place of power — politics

What’s the common denominator? They’re all run by man.

The Frustration of Life in a Broken World: Overwhelming (3:16; 4:2–3)

- The oppressors have all the power.
- The oppressed have no comforter.
- In the courts, places of power, and even religious institutions—sometimes even in the name of Jesus.

The End of Life in a Broken World: Judgment (3:17)

We have to live with this scope:

“For God will bring every deed into judgment.” — Ecclesiastes 12:14

All things—even the hidden and classified (Epstein, JFK, Jan. 6)—will be brought to light.

The Experience of Life in a Broken World: God’s Purpose (3:18–22)

Why is God tarrying? What is He doing?

- He is testing us so that we see who we really are.
- He leads us to ponder our mortality, sinfulness, and death.
- This brings perspective, gratitude, and renewed purpose.
- Our present experience is a proving ground—it reveals our true character and where our trust lies.
- This test is for our good.

How do we respond to what we see?

And how do we respond to the certainty of our own mortality?

Ecclesiastes 12:7

Gospel Lens

We are called to fight for the least of these—the oppressed, the voiceless, and the vulnerable:

- The sex-trafficked
- The unborn
- The orphans

Matthew 25

- Vote godly leaders into positions of power.
- Run for office if God calls you.
- Remember: this is not our home—be neither deranged nor delusional.
- Become homesick for Heaven.

Our confidence does not lie in the justice system, but in the Chief Justice Himself: Jesus Christ.

Genesis 18:25; Matthew 25:41–46; Revelation 21:4

When It Happens to Christians

Something we feel is happening to us right now.

Since 2009, over 50,000 Christians have been killed in Nigeria, and 16 million displaced from their homes and land.

What do we do when we feel we're not being treated fairly?

- Remember the Lord's teaching: they hated Him first.
- Remember the Sermon on the Mount.
- Remember the early Church: Stephen/Saul, James/Herod.
- Think of Christian parents raising their children in Rome, Corinth, or Ephesus.

For the Unbeliever

The last thing you should want is for God to serve justice right now.

There is a God who sees, and He will settle every account.

Ecclesiastes 12:14

But He has also made a way for you to be found just and delivered from oppression.

Jesus

When He was brought to the place of justice, there was no justice for Him at all.

- No one spoke on His behalf.
- No one rescued Him from the deadly cross.
- No one comforted Him as He was beaten, nailed, and killed in the place of sinners.

But He rose again and ascended to immortal glory.

Now everyone who believes in Jesus will “rise again to a better life.”

Hebrews 11:35

Jesus brought eternal life out of the deadly grave.

2 Timothy 1:10 — “He abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”