

## Hope Under the Sun, Part 2

### **\*\*Ecclesiastes Names the Ache Under the Sun**

- brutally honest about life under the sun
- Hevel = vapor, fleeting, frustrating
- What gain is there?
- Who can make straight what is crooked?
  - We are caught in the cycle of chasing after purpose that leads to no real satisfaction or joy.
  - Looking for treasure but finding fool's gold
  - Looking for purpose and finding insignificance
  - Looking for meaning and finding frustration
  - Looking for satisfaction and finding disillusionment
- Ecclesiastes gives language to the quiet disappointment that many feel even during Christmas
  - Full calendars, but empty hearts
  - Traditions but lingering grief
  - Joy on the surface, but longing underneath
  - ***Life under that sun is broken and we can break free from it***

### **\*\*Christmas is God's answer to the Hevel**

- into a world of hevel, God does something unexpected: He sends His son, not above the sun, but under it
  - Jesus is born into poverty, obscurity, and sorrow
  - He steps fully into the vapor— time, weakness, suffering\*\*
  - The eternal Word enters the fleeting world
  - **God does not explain the hevel— He enters it (Hope)**

### **Ecclesiastes asks many questions and gives many strong statements:**

- There is nothing new under the sun
- Is there such a thing of which is said, “see this is new”?
- What is crooked cannot be made straight and what is lacking cannot be counted.

### **Ecclesiastes exposes the problem, Christmas introduces us to the answer.**

- One is the book of shadows, the other is the dawn of a new day
- Matthew 4:16— “The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light”
- John 8:12— “I am the light of the world”
  - Jesus doesn't just give meaning, He is the meaning
  - Jesus doesn't just point to life, He is the life
  - Ecclesiastes ask where is the gain, Jesus says I am the gain.
  - Christmas shows us that we have a King and a Treasure problem.

### **The manger points to the making of all things new**

- the baby in the manger is the beginning of the end of the hevel
- He will grow up, live, died, raise again, ascend into glory and one day return
- Revelation 21:1-6
- This is a picture from the end
- The cradle inaugurated and began the ushering in of this kingdom
  - When the kingdom of heaven intersected the kingdom under the sun
  - Jesus would preach for the kingdom of heaven is at hand
  - Matthew 13:44— “the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field

- Romans 14:17— “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

Revelations 21:1-6

Ecclesiastes ask is there anything new? And states there is nothing new under the sun

**Jesus says He is making all things new...**

**1. He reverses the curse**

- Galatians 3:13— Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us
- The thing that held us captive, he delivers us from

**2. He makes people new**

- “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation”
- Not a do-over or self improvement, but a new person

**3. He anchors life in eternity beyond the sun**

- Here he answers the King and Treasure problem
- We are transferred into His kingdom in salvation
- Colossians 1:13-14— He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to <sup>the</sup> kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins
- This is where we find the treasure in the field
- We are now in the kingdom of heaven
  - The good sovereign King has set his attention and rule over us
  - And He's a good King

**4. He gives hope beyond the grave**

- Ecclesiastes can't get passed death
- Jesus does and promises it to us

**5. He will fully and finally make all things new**

- one day there will be no more hevel
- All tears will be wiped that hevel caused
- No presence of death, mourning, crying, pain or anything else
- That's a new thing

Jesus in His life, death, and resurrection makes all things new by bearing the curse, renewing man's heart, redefining purpose, defeating death, and restoring creation.