

Solomon's Conundrum

Ec. 9:11

11) I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race *is* not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.

...but time = seasonal fortunes

and

...chance = a casual occurrence

Better Lucky Than Good

Being at the right place, at the right time, and around the right people has propelled the most unqualified men to places in life that, at least for them, were most undeserving. How did these events unfold for such an “undeserving” person? Most of them, if not “all” of them, profited by way of a seemingly insignificant happen-stance. Solomon pointedly defined their unnatural windfalls as by “chance” or by some unusually casual benign occurrence and encounter that obviously took on a life of its own. Solomon's personal survey regarding such injustices realistically concluded that by virtue of some natural fluke of sorts, the unqualified servant uncharacteristically found himself ruling over his master, as it were.

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Ps. 37:23

23) The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

Solomon was in no spiritual condition at the time of his last writings in Ecclesiastes to be qualified enough to assess such weighty matters as

these types of judicial protocols about life, but alas, he pontificated as much. He described five very prominent areas of human interactions:

- 1) Race- Competition
- 2) Battles- Struggles
- 3) Bread -Security
- 4) Riches -Materialism
- 5) Favor - Preeminence

However, could his analysis be pointed at the worldly man's "fortunate misfortune" and not necessarily God's "good" man? Could the phrase "happeneth to them all" refer to that certain sect of "all" that seemingly (at least on paper) was unqualified to succeed? Solomon certainly did venture amongst the out-of-covenant society to return again, with a rather perplexing overview of mankind. He saw first-hand the initial results of ill-gotten or undeserved success and wealth. He himself had written much about the dangers of reaping such treasures illegitimately. No doubt, the wisdom and insight of Solomon was greatly challenged by what he had witnessed during his journeys. Where was the justice in it "all?"

Why and how can we assume unmerited wealth to be a "misfortune?" Because wealth, if not properly appreciated and understood, oftentimes dulls a man's senses by fostering a false narrative of life. It can, in all probability, insulate him from the realities of life's daily struggles. Struggles are requisites to discover the deeper meaning of our purpose of being on earth. Solomon quite possibly measured what he beheld against what his father had taught him, i.e., the steps of good men are not by happen-chance, coincidence, or fluke. They have discipline and order about them. They possess a divine character and structure to them. A good man's steps are spiritual in nature, a "holy" purposeful direction - an ordained course. This process is implemented for the "good man" because the Lord delights in saving him. It's God's GPS or Good People's Salvation navigational system. A heavenly tapestry is subsequently interwoven into the spiritual fabric of God's good man, enabling him to confront and conquer each of his own seasonal changes, no matter what station in life he finds himself at.

Solomon consequently received a deeper insight into men and resolved within himself that the “successful” worldly man, for lack of a better word, oftentimes simply gets “lucky.” The blessed good man of God, however, finds solace and contentment knowing he is in the will of God no matter his present social or even financial status. There is no such thing as luck whenever divine providence is considered. He is ever under the influence of a spiritual current that is empowering him and offering saving direction for him at all times.

Ps. 16:5-6

5) The LORD *is* the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot.

6) The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant *places*; yea, I have a goodly heritage.

1 Thes. 5:18

18) In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

James 1:2

2) My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations.

Romans 8:28

28) And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

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