

Please listen to the audio lesson "The Anchor of Hope" first. Then after finishing the audio lesson, have the Scriptures handy to best utilize the following questions to answer and consider thoughtfully. These are not an outline, but further study.

**The Anchor of Hope:** Now Notice Wisdom...

1. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

In these verses there are 14 sets of opposites. Some are extreme (a time to Kill & a time to Heal [v3]), some do not seem near as extreme (a time to embrace & a time to shun embracing [v5]).

- a. Is it as important to know when to hug someone as much as it is to know when to kill?
- b. How will you know when "the time is"?
- c. How will you make your daily decisions to know how to act?

2. Read Proverbs 5:1-5

- a. Solomon wanted His son, the future king, to give attention to what four things in making his daily decisions?
- b. Who lurked with sweet words & smooth speech?
- c. What would be the outcome, if wisdom & discretion did not rule the decisions of the future king's heart?
- d. Think back to Ecclesiastes 3:5, is it a time to embrace or a time to refrain from embracing? Important to know?
- e. What is the outcome without wisdom & discretion? [v4-5]
- f. Does having wisdom rule your heart matter? What does it change?

3. Read Deuteronomy 17:14-17

- a. What did the Lord say would happen to the king of Israel's heart if he multiplied wives? [Deut.]
- b. What happened to the hearts of Saul, David, & Solomon because of multiplying wives?
- c. Did any of them fully listen to the Wisdom the Lord gave in this passage?
- d. Does the knowledge of the wisdom in Scripture help if there is no faith?
- e. In all the proverbs that Solomon wrote is there even 1 mention of idol(s)?

4. Read 1 Kings 11:1-10

- a. Did the Lord remind Solomon about wives? [v2]
- b. How many wives & princesses did Solomon have?

- c. What happened to Solomon's heart? [v3, v4, v9]
- d. Was the Lord's wisdom greater than Solomon?
- e. What is the outcome when wisdom is not united with faith in your life?
- f. Can arrogance even effect the wise? Do you consider yourself wise?
- g. Do we get arrogant thinking we know more than the Lord's wisdom?

5. Read Psalm 71:1-6

- a. Notice the relationship: taken refuge in YOU, My rock, & My fortress
- b. Is this how you describe your relationship with the Lord?
- c. What is the purpose of the commandments? [v3]
- d. What is the natural product of a relationship with God? [v5]

Thoughts to Consider: If we claim Jesus as our LORD, why would we not fully heed His commandments to save our Life & give us HOPE? Solomon was given a great wisdom from God, but did not continue in wisdom thru his old age. How sad a story! How would God's prophets write about your life? Wise or Foolish?

6. Read Luke 11:31

- a. Is Jesus greater than Solomon?
- b. If the Queen of Sheba traveled to hear the lesser wisdom of Solomon, what is our excuse to reject the wisdom of Jesus?
- c. Will there be a judgement in rejecting Jesus? [John 3:18]

7. Read 1 Corinthians 1:21-25

- a. Will man's wisdom lead you to the wisdom of God?
- b. Then why are we so attentive to them?
- c. The Gentiles call Christ crucified foolishness? What do "the called" say?

Final thoughts: In Ecclesiastes 3, there are times for many things. The only way to engage in the righteous response is by WISDOM in every situation. Wisdom without an enduring faith will lead us to the same sad conclusion as Solomon. But if we humbly submit to the Lord's commands, we will joyfully find the Lord to be our refuge, our rock, our fortress, and most of all ... our HOPE for eternity! If we reject Jesus' teachings, we are alienated from God. If we listen to the world's wisdom, we'll crucify Jesus again in our own lives, but if we allow the wisdom of Christ to rule in our hearts, we will also have the strength (power) of Christ at work in us! And the world cannot take that hope away ... unless we lose faith.