

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.
Ecclesiastes 3:2-8

Birth & Death (v2a)

- » A time to be born and a time to die frames the entire poem
- » The totality of life shown – followed by various aspects between the two poles

Rooting & Uprooting (v2b-4)

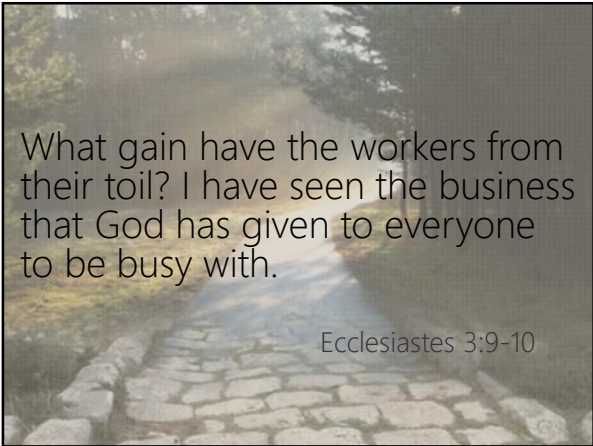
- » Times of establishment & times of disruption
- » Times for construction & dismantling
- » All part of human existence – each in its proper time

Accumulation & Distribution (v5-6)

- » Economic allusions – stones (v5)
- » Gathering in & pulling out (v6)
- » Economic cycle of life
- » Acquiring & relinquishing of possessions

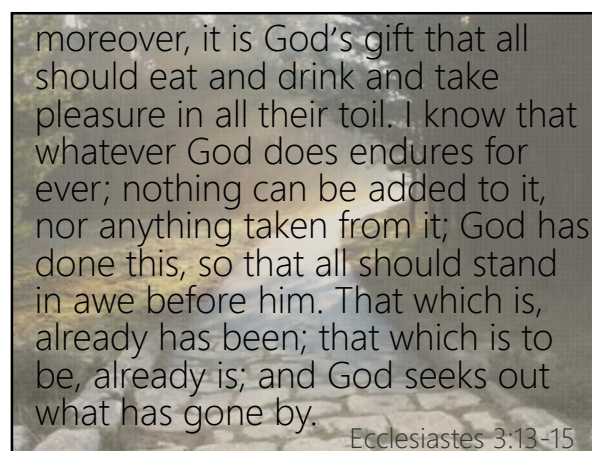
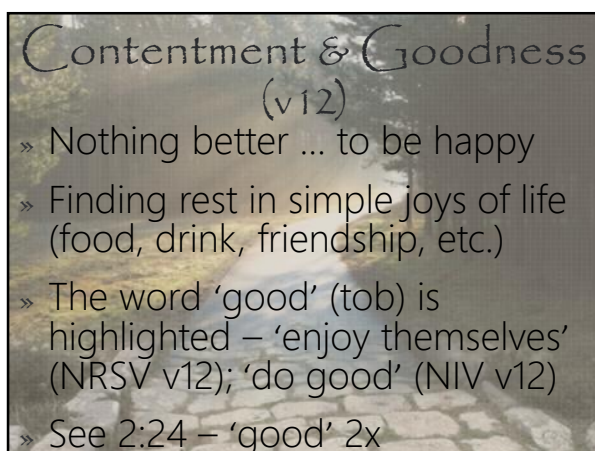
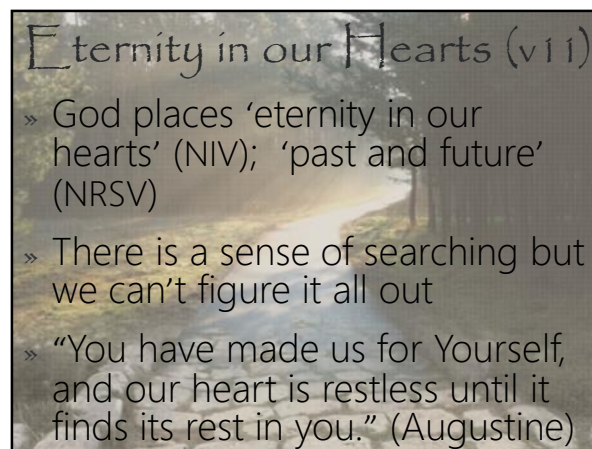
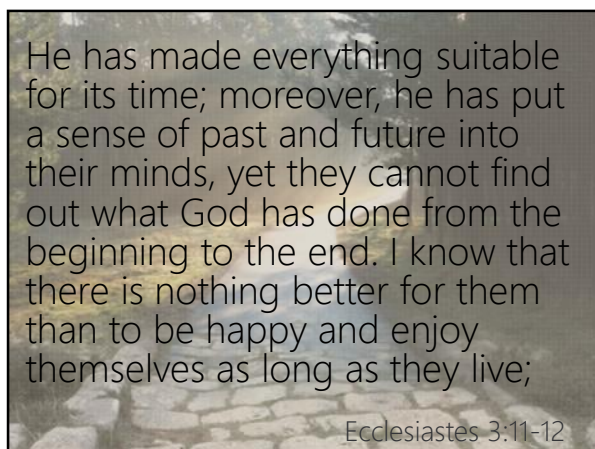
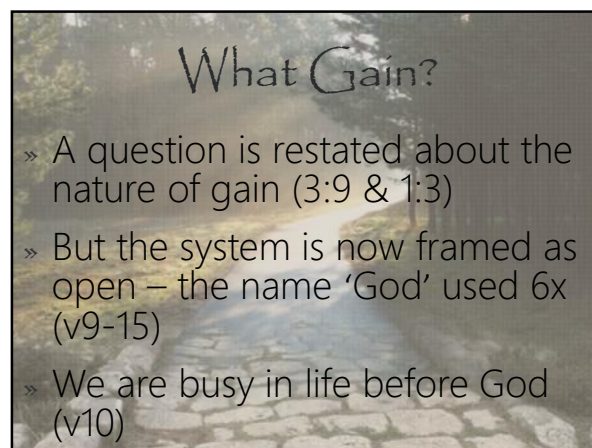
Breaching & Restoration of Relationships (v7-8)

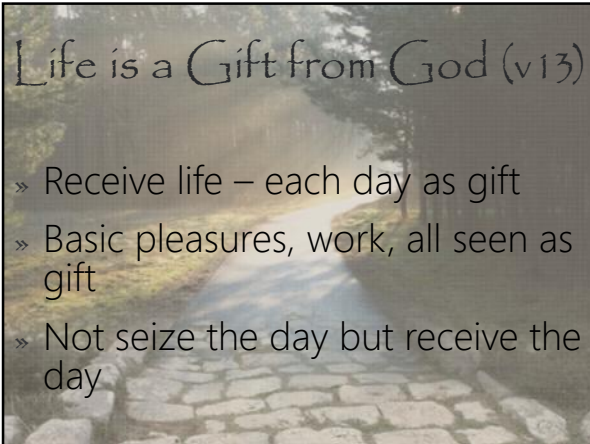
- » Tearing & mending (v7)
- » Speaking & listening (v7)
- » War & peace (v8)



What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with.

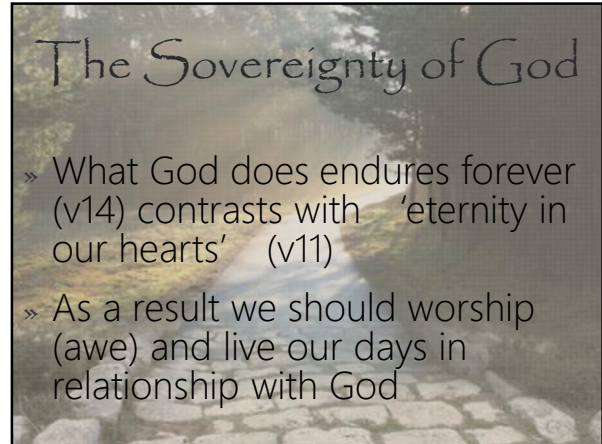
Ecclesiastes 3:9-10






Life is a Gift from God (v13)

- » Receive life – each day as gift
- » Basic pleasures, work, all seen as gift
- » Not seize the day but receive the day

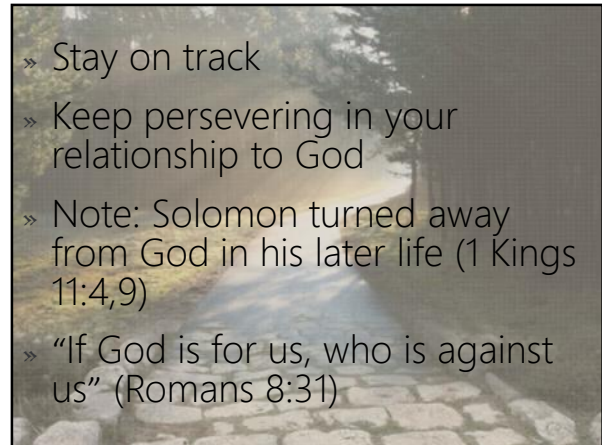


The Sovereignty of God

- » What God does endures forever (v14) contrasts with 'eternity in our hearts' (v11)
- » As a result we should worship (awe) and live our days in relationship with God



Conclusion



- » Stay on track
- » Keep persevering in your relationship to God
- » Note: Solomon turned away from God in his later life (1 Kings 11:4,9)
- » "If God is for us, who is against us" (Romans 8:31)