

Ecclesiastes 8:1-15
God's Providence Evidenced in Righteous Government + Refrain # 3
Explain and Apply God's Plan—6:1-8:15

- 1) Wisdom in situations beyond your control—8:1-9
 - a) Be wise concerning the king—8:1-6 (cf. Proverbs 14:35; 16:14; 20:2; 24:21-22)
 - i) The benefits of wisdom—8:1 ¹ *Who is like the wise man and who knows the interpretation of a matter? The wisdom of a man makes his face shine and the hardness of his face is changed.* (i.e. he will show favor/grace; cf. Numbers 6:25)
 - ii) Obey the king—8:2 ² *I say, keep the king's command and that because of the oath of God.* (i.e. your pledge before God of your loyalty to the king; cf. 1st Chronicles 29:24)
 - iii) Live wisely with the king—8:3-4 ³ *Do not be in a hurry from his presence. Do not stand in an evil cause, for he does whatever he pleases.* ⁴ *Since the word of the king is authoritative, who will say to him, "What are you doing?"*
 - iv) Exercise discernment with the king—8:5-6 ⁵ *Whoever keeps a command (of the king) will not experience anything harmful, and the heart of a wise person knows the right time and decision,* ⁶ *because for every matter there is a time and a decision, though the trouble of a man is heavy upon him.*
 - b) Be wise concerning uncertainty—8:7-9 ⁷ *Since he does not know what is to be, who can tell him what will happen?* ⁸ ^① *No man has authority over the wind to restrain the wind, and* ^② *no one has authority over the death of death. And* ^③ *there is no discharge in the time of war, and* ^④ *wickedness will not rescue those who are owned by it.* ⁹ *All this I have observed while applying my heart to every deed that is done under the sun, at a time when a man dominates over a man to his harm.*
- 2) The importance of living in awe of God—8:10-13
 - a) The brevity of life—8:10 ¹⁰ *Then I observed the wicked buried, and they came and went from the holy place, and they were forgotten in the city where they had done such things. This also is illusory.*
 - b) The sinfulness of people—8:11 ¹¹ *Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the heart of the sons of Adam is full in them to do evil.*
 - c) It is well with whose soul?—8:12-13 (Fearing God includes awe, fear, love, and trust)
 - i) ¹² *Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and prolongs his life, yet I know that it will be well with those who are fearing God, who fear before Him.*
 - ii) ¹³ *But it will not be well with the wicked, and he will not prolong his days like a shadow, who do not fear before God.*
- 3) An enigma—8:14 (justice is not always addressed as we think it should be)
 - a) ¹⁴ *There is an enigma that occurs on the earth, that there are righteous people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the wicked, and there are wicked people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the righteous. I said, "This also is an enigma."*
- 4) Refrain # 3: Enjoy Life—8:15
 - a) Commendation—8:15a ¹⁵ *So I commend enjoyment, there is nothing better for a man under the sun but to eat and to drink and to enjoy himself.*
 - b) Companion—8:15b *And this will accompany him in his toil through the days of his life that God has given him under the sun.*