



THE WISDOM OF ECCLESIASTES

06.19.16 | GOD'S PERFECT PURPOSE | ECCLESIASTES 3

PSALM 115:3

*Our God is in the heavens;
he does all that he pleases.*

God's purposes are only understood in light of His sovereignty.

SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD: The biblical teaching that all things are under God's rule and control, and that nothing happens without His direction or permission.

Isaiah 46:8-11

Psalms 139:13-16

Acts 17:24-28

God's purposes are made beautiful in His time.

Ecclesiastes 3:9-11

God's purposes call us to a joyful and healthy fear of Him.

Ecclesiastes 3:12-15

God's purposes call us to consider our future.

Ecclesiastes 3:16-22

FURTHER STUDY

1. Do you agree that there are no easy answers to explain God's allowance of painful events? Why or why not?
2. How have you attempted to understand painful events in your own life and God's purposes in them? Explain.
3. Mike defined the Sovereignty of God as "The biblical teaching that all things are under God's rule and control, and that nothing happens without His direction or permission."

Do you agree or disagree with this definition? Why or why not?

4. Read the following verses and after reading each answer the question "What does this verse say about God's sovereignty?"

Psalms 103:19-20; Psalm 115:3; Psalm 139:13-16; Jeremiah 32:17

5. The Bible teaches both the sovereignty of God and the free will of mankind. Read the following verses and discuss how God's sovereignty and mankind's free will coexist?

Deut. 30:19-20; Joshua 24:15; Prov. 16:9; Isaiah 46:8-11; Acts 17:24-28

6. Do you agree with the author of Ecclesiastes that God "makes everything beautiful in its time?" Why or why not? How has this been true in your experience? (Ecclesiastes 3:9-11).

7. How can a healthy understanding of the sovereignty of God revive our own joy in everyday life? (Ecclesiastes 3:12-15).

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