

April 10, 2022 | Pastor Keith Krell
Ecclesiastes 6:10-7:14 | “When Bad is Better”

Scripture References

Ecclesiastes 6:10–7:14

Genesis 3:16–19, 23

Job 3:1–19; 9:9; 14:2

Psalms 102:11; 109:23; 144:4

Proverbs 15:13; 22:1

Proverbs 4:5–13

James 1:2–5; 19; 5:7–12

Study Questions

1. How has God revealed His sovereignty in your life (6:10–12)? If you could change one situation right now, what would it be? If you could ask one question about your future, what would it be? Do you truly believe that God has ordained your hard times as well as your good times? When you face suffering and hardship in the future, how will you respond? What will enable you to trust God in these difficult experiences?
2. How do you think people would describe your name/reputation (7:1)? How would you describe your name? Is it what you want it to be? What are the things you want said at your funeral? How do you want your time on earth to be remembered? How can you spend more time and energy focusing on the eternal? What are the advantages of death, mourning, and sorrow (7:1–4)? How do these sobering realities shape your perspective?
3. When was the last time you were rebuked by someone (7:5–6)? How did you respond? When have the “wounds of a friend” proven to be faithful and beneficial? Read Proverbs 27:6; cf. Psalm 141:5 and Proverbs 20:30. Which is harder for you: to rebuke a friend or to be rebuked by a friend? How can you grow in your confrontation skills?
4. What types of situations make you impatient or angry (7:8–9)? Would an objective person say you have an anger problem? How have you reacted foolishly in your anger? How can you learn to control your ungodly anger? Read James 1:19. How are you contentedly living in the moment (7:10)? How are you exhibiting wisdom (7:11–12)? Read 1 Corinthians 1:18–31.
5. How has God used suffering in your life to improve your character (7:13–14)? What is the worst trial you have ever encountered? How did God mature you through this ordeal? Read Romans 8:28–29. How has God used you to comfort or encourage someone else because of your suffering? Read 2 Corinthians 1:3–4.

Recommended Reading

Mark Vroegop, *Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy: Discovering the Grace of Lament* (Crossway, 2019)

Jerry Sittser, *A Grace Disguised: How the Soul Grows through Loss*, expanded ed. (Zondervan, [1995] 2004)

D. A. Carson, *How Long, O Lord? Reflections of Suffering & Evil* (Baker, 1990)

Larry J. Waters & Roy B. Zuck ed., *Why, O God? Suffering and Disability in the Bible and Church* (Crossway, 2011)