



ECCLESIASTES 9 HANDOUT

“God Overrides the Odds: The Race Is Not to the Swift”

Key Scripture

“The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong...” (Ecclesiastes 9:11 — one line quoted)

Who Is Qoheleth?

Qoheleth is the **title** of the speaker in Ecclesiastes. The word means:

- **Assembler of the people**
- **Teacher / Preacher of wisdom**
- **One who gathers a congregation to impart truth**

Qoheleth is **Solomon**, speaking in his **later years** — seasoned, reflective, repentant, and full of lived experience.

He is not a young king rising to power. He is an older man who has:

- tasted pleasure
- built empires
- gained wealth
- made mistakes
- drifted and returned
- learned the limits of human ability

He writes Ecclesiastes to **teach the younger generation** the truth about life, purpose, and God’s sovereignty.

Ecclesiastes 9 Overview

Solomon teaches:

1. **Life is unpredictable.**
2. **Human ability cannot guarantee outcomes.**
3. **God's sovereignty governs success.**
4. **Wisdom is valuable but often ignored.**
5. **Time and chance (God's timing) shape results.**

Focus: Ecclesiastes 9:11

Solomon reveals:

- The fastest runner doesn't always win.
- The strongest warrior doesn't always triumph.
- The wisest person doesn't always prosper.
- The most skilled person doesn't always rise.

Why?

Because **God overrides the odds.**

Victory is not about:

- speed
- strength
- intelligence
- skill

Victory is about **alignment with God's timing.**

Prophetic Insight for the People

God is shifting the race in your favor.

You will win **not because you are the fastest**, but because **God has chosen your moment.**

You will overcome **not because you are the strongest**, but because **God has breathed on your battle.**

You will rise **not because you are the most skilled**, but because **God has opened a door no man can shut.**

This is your season of:

- unexpected victory
- divine reversal
- supernatural promotion
- God-timed opportunity
- favor that outruns ability

QUIZ: Ecclesiastes 9 & 9:11

Use this for Bible study, small groups, or Sunday teaching.

Multiple Choice

- 1. What does the name “Qoheleth” mean?** A. King B. Prophet C. Assembler/Teacher D. Warrior
- 2. Who is the inspired writer of Ecclesiastes?** A. David B. Solomon C. Moses D. Isaiah
- 3. Ecclesiastes 9:11 teaches that success is determined by:** A. Human strength B. Human speed C. Human intelligence D. God’s timing
- 4. “The race is not to the swift” means:** A. Fast people always win B. Slow people never win C. Speed alone cannot guarantee victory D. Running is sinful
- 5. “Time and chance happen to all” refers to:** A. Random luck B. Divine timing and God-appointed opportunity C. Astrology D. Human planning

True or False

- 6. Solomon wrote Ecclesiastes when he was young.** True / False
- 7. Strength alone guarantees victory.** True / False
- 8. God can override human expectations.** True / False
- 9. Wisdom is always rewarded immediately.** True / False
- 10. God promotes the aligned, not just the skilled.** True / False

Short Answer

- 11. Why does Solomon say the race is not to the swift?**

12. What does Ecclesiastes 9 teach about human ability?

13. How does God “override the odds” in a believer’s life?
