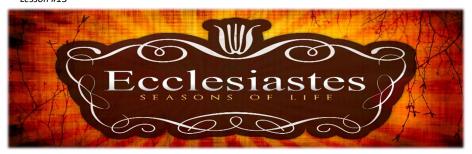
Wednesday Evening Bible Study Ecclesiastes Series 04/29/2020 Stephen H. Converse Lesson #13



## "THE ISSUE OF AUTHORITY" Ecclesiastes 8:2-9

## INTRODUCTION & REVIEW

**AUTHORITY'S DEMANDS ARE TO BE OBEYED - vv. 2-4** 

Solomon gives us two basic reasons for this:

- 1. Because of our <u>SUBMISSION</u> to God v. 2 "Keep the king's command, because of God's oath to him." Why should we submit to authority? Because of our commitment to God! (Rom. 13:1-7. Titus 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:13-17)
- 2. Because of the **SOVEREIGNTY** of the king vv. 3-4 "for he does whatever he pleases." (Ps. 115:3; 135:5-6)

Sovereignty means that we:

- Respect his presence as well as his position v. 3 1 Pet. 2:17
- Refuse to do evil v. 3b

We are rebellious in our hearts, but God's says holiness is demanded. (Isa. 6:1-8)

• <u>Realize</u> his authority – v. 4 (*Job 9:12; Isa. 45:9; Dan. 4:35*) **AUTHORITY'S** <u>DECISIONS</u> ARE TO BE EVALUATED – vv. 5-8 (Acts 4:18-19; 5:22-42)

Authorities must be obeyed but decisions are to be evaluated.

- 1. Because our **LIVES** are affected by their decisions vv. 5a-6
  - In terms of <u>Protection</u> v. 5 (*Prov. 20:12; Rom. 13:3*)
  - In terms of God's **Purpose** and plan v. 6
  - In terms of our **Problems** v. 6
- 2. Because the **LIMITATIONS** of authority are evident vv. 7-8

There are certain things authority cannot do:

- It (authority) cannot <u>Comprehend</u> what is to come v. 7 (*Matt. 24:42-43*)
- It cannot **Contain** the spirit v. 8
- It cannot **Control** the day of death
- It cannot **Conquer** the bondage of sin

## **AUTHORITY'S DANGERS ARE TO BE UNDERSTOOD** - v. 9

Solomon's ultimate conclusion is to remember our accountability to God. Have I submitted everything to Him? Have I bowed my knee to the Lord?