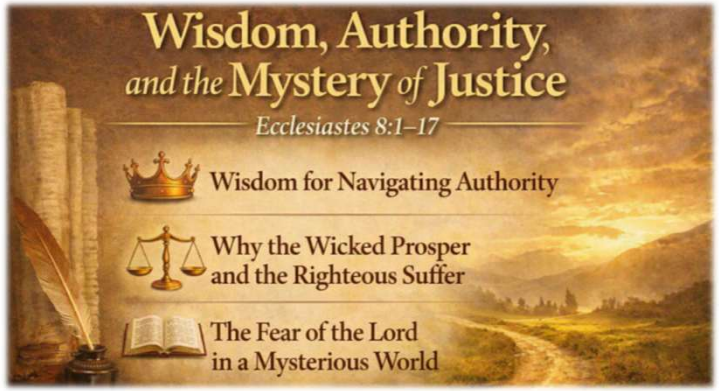


1

Ecclesiastes 8 KJV

8 Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed. 2 I counsel thee to keep the king's commandment, and that in regard of the oath of God. 3 Be not hasty to go out of his sight: stand not in an evil thing; for he doeth whatsoever pleaseth him. 4 Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou? 5 Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment. 6 Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man is great upon him.

2

Ecclesiastes 8 KJV

7 For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be? 8 There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it. 9 All this have I seen, and applied my heart unto every work that is done under the sun: there is a time wherein one man ruleth over another to his own hurt. 10 And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done: this is also vanity.

3

Ecclesiastes 8 KJV

11 Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. 12 Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: 13 But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God. 14 There is a vanity which is done upon the earth; that there be just men, unto whom it happeneth according to the work of the wicked; again, there be wicked men, to whom it happeneth according to the work of the righteous: I said that this also is vanity.

4

Ecclesiastes 8 KJV

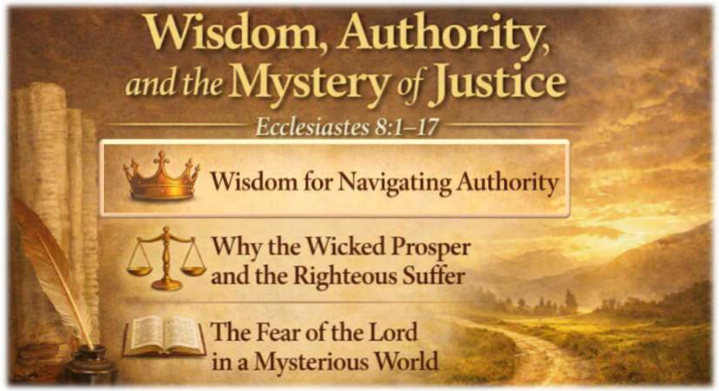
15 Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry: for that shall abide with him of his labour the days of his life, which God giveth him under the sun. 16 When I applied mine heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done upon the earth: (for also there is that neither day nor night seeth sleep with his eyes:) 17 Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea farther; though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it.

5

Theme

Wisdom helps us live faithfully under authority and mystery, trusting God when life feels unfair.

6



7

Wisdom for Navigating Authority

- Wisdom helps us respond to authority with calmness & clarity (Ecclesiastes 8:1).
- We honor rightful authority unless it violates God's higher commands.

  29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. (Acts 5:29 KJV)
- We act carefully & thoughtfully when leaders make difficult or unjust decisions (Ecclesiastes 8:2–3).

8

Wisdom for Navigating Authority

- Wise people speak truth respectfully rather than reacting in fear or anger.

5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. 6 Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man. (Colossians 4:5–6 KJV)

9

Wisdom for Navigating Authority

- God places authority in the world & believers engage it with prayer & integrity.

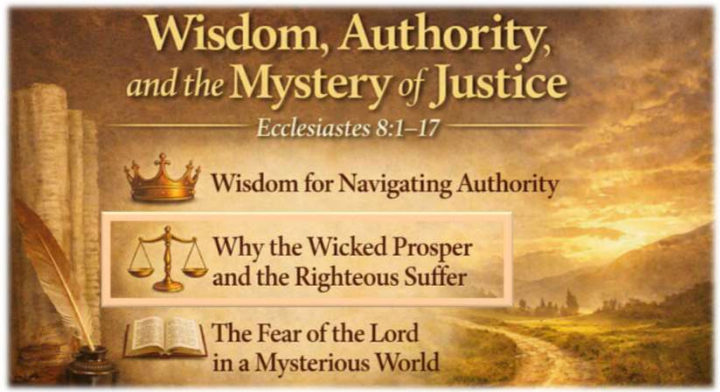
1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. (1 Timothy 2:1–2 KJV)

10

Discussion Questions

- When have you needed wisdom to respond to someone in authority?
- What helps you stay calm when a leader makes a decision you disagree with?
- How can we model respectful truth-telling in this community?

11



12

Why the Wicked Prosper and the Righteous Suffer

- Sometimes the wicked prosper & it troubles our hearts deeply (Ecclesiastes 8:11).
- Sometimes the righteous suffer & Scripture acknowledges this pain honestly.

(Romans 9:1–5)

13

Why the Wicked Prosper and the Righteous Suffer

9 I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, 2 That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. 3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: 4 Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; 5 Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen. (Romans 9:1–5 KJV)

14

Why the Wicked Prosper and the Righteous Suffer

- God sees every injustice, even when it looks like evil is winning.

16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel. (Romans 2:16 KJV)

15

Why the Wicked Prosper and the Righteous Suffer

- Jesus Himself suffered unjustly, proving suffering is not a sign of weak faith.

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: 24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. (1 Peter 2:22–24 KJV)

16

Why the Wicked Prosper and the Righteous Suffer

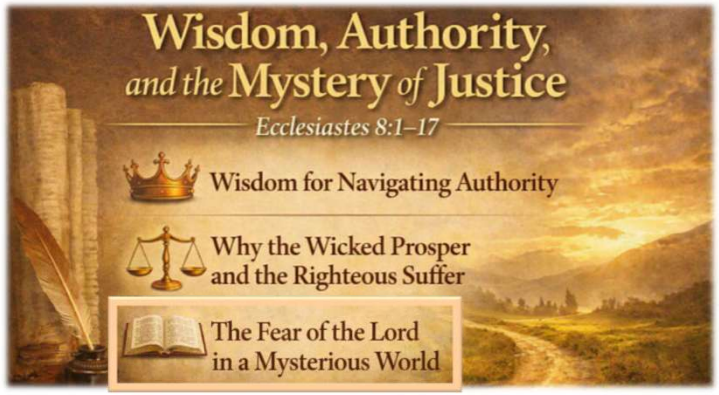
- God will bring final justice, even when we cannot understand His timing (Ecclesiastes 8:12–13).

17

Discussion Questions

- When have you seen someone wicked prosper while a good person suffered?
- How does knowing Jesus suffered unjustly help you face unfair situations?
- What helps you trust God's timing when justice feels slow?

18



19

The Fear of the Lord in a Mysterious World

- Life has mysteries we cannot solve, but God understands them fully (Ecclesiastes 8:16–17).
- Fearing the Lord means honoring Him above all human opinions.

28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matthew 10:28 KJV)

20

The Fear of the Lord in a Mysterious World

- Reverent awe is the beginning of wisdom & steadies the heart.

28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: 29 For our God is a consuming fire. (Hebrews 12:28–29 KJV)

21

The Fear of the Lord in a Mysterious World

- Trusting God instead of leaning on our own understanding brings peace (Proverbs 3:5–6).
- God's peace guards our hearts when life makes no sense.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7 KJV)

22

Discussion Questions

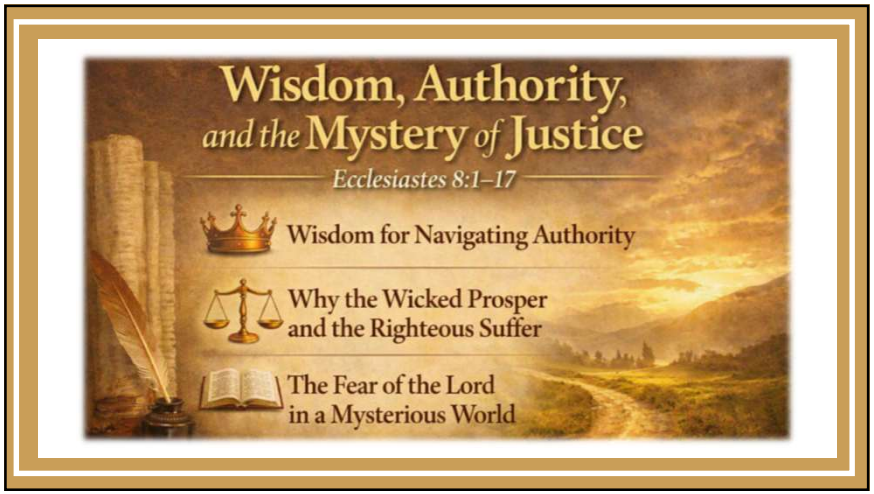
- What mysteries of life have you learned to entrust to God?
- How does "fear of the Lord" help you feel steadier in confusing times?
- Where do you most need God's peace to guard your heart today?

23

Practical Application

- Choose one leader, a doctor, pastor, or family member & ask God for calmness & grace in how you respond.
- Tell God honestly about one injustice that troubles you - Share your hurt with Him in a short prayer, then end by saying, "Lord, I trust Your justice."
- Offer a kind word, a Scripture, or a prayer to someone facing hardship.

24



25

General Mysteries of Life for Seniors

- Why time seems to pass faster as we age - Many seniors say the years feel shorter, even though each day is the same length.
- Why certain memories stay sharp while others fade - Some moments from decades ago feel vivid, while yesterday's details slip away.
- Why people change in unexpected ways over a lifetime - Relationships shift, personalities evolve & people surprise us - for better or worse.

26

General Mysteries of Life for Seniors

- Why some prayers seem answered & others seem silent - The mystery of God's timing & His ways can feel both comforting & confusing.
- Why health can change suddenly without warning - Strength can fade quickly, yet some people remain vigorous far longer than expected.
- Why loneliness can appear even when surrounded by people - A deep longing for connection can remain even in a busy senior community.

27

General Mysteries of Life for Seniors

- Why certain losses hurt more than others - Grief has layers, some losses cut deeper & linger longer than we expect.
- Why life's purpose feels clearer to some & harder for others - Some seniors feel a strong sense of calling; others still search for meaning.
- Why God's peace arrives at unexpected moments - A calmness can settle in during prayer, worship, or quiet reflection, often without explanation.

28

Prayer Requests

- Ann – Lord will give her the strength not to listento & spread gossip.
- Anna – Lord will bless pour out His blessings upon the people in the Northeast who experienced loss in the recent storm.
- Laura – Lord will bless her with better relationship with her daughter, Cindy.
- John – Lord will lavish His blessings upon his family.
- Sheila – Lord will bless her with many opportunities to share the Gospel with other residents in the facility, especially in the elevator.
- Silvia – Lord will bless her with the ability to "bridle" her words & lavish His blessings upon our country.
- Steve – Lord will bless him with the best medical care.
- Roberta – Praises that the Lord blesses her with His presence every day.
- Sergio – Praises for the Lord's spiritual & physical protection.
- Fran – Lord will bless her & her children with His peace.
- Doris – Praises that her brother, Donald is doing well after his recent surgery & the Lord will provide an opportunity for her to present the gospel to him.
- Ed – Lord will relieve his wife's chronic trigeminal pain.22