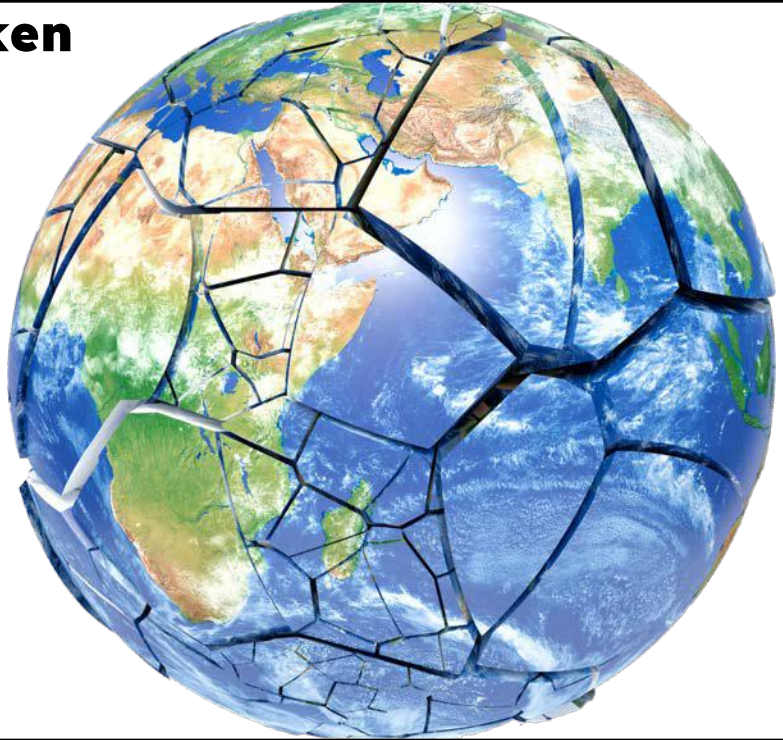


Fixing what is Broken

Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:3

bib.ly/Ec3-4.NIV



2

Ecclesiastes 3:16

¹⁶ And I saw something else under the sun:

In the place of judgment—wickedness was there,
in the place of justice—wickedness was there.

Place of judgment/justice:

- the city gate = governing society
- humanity

3

Kenneth Webb

- Convicted: August 1987
- Declared innocent & released: November 2022
- 35 years!



4

Injustice in our world

- Slavery
- Racism
- Sexism
- Economic injustice
- Abuse of power
- And so on...
- In the church too!

**In the place of judgment—wickedness was there,
in the place of justice—wickedness was there.**

5

Ecclesiastes 3:17

¹⁷ I said to myself, **God will judge...**
 “God will bring into judgment **but when??**
 both the righteous and the wicked,
 for **there will be a time** for every activity,
 a time to judge every deed.”

6

Ecclesiastes 3:18

¹⁸ I also said to myself, “As for humans, God tests them so that they may see that they are like the animals.

- He is “delaying” judgment
 so we see what humanity truly is**
- **We know what justice is – unlike animals**
 - **Yet we so often fail to do it – like animals**

7

So if death is the end... Ecclesiastes 3:19-21

¹⁹ Surely the fate of human beings is like that of the animals; the same fate awaits them both: As one dies, so dies the other. All have the same breath; humans have no advantage over animals. Everything is meaningless. ²⁰ All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return. ²¹ Who knows if the human spirit rises upward and if the spirit of the animal goes down into the earth?"

**Without resurrection, injustice wins
making life meaningless**

8

Ecclesiastes 3:22

²² So I saw that there is nothing better for a person than to enjoy their work, because that is their lot. For who can bring them to see what will happen after them?

**Making the best of a bad situation
Which raises the question...
Can everyone enjoy their work?**

9

Ecclesiastes 4:1

Again I looked and saw all the oppression that was taking place under the sun:

I saw the **tears of the oppressed**—
and they have **no comforter**;
power was on the side of their oppressors—
and they have **no comforter**.

**For the oppressed
work adds to the burdens of life**

10

Ecclesiastes 4:2-3

- ² And I declared that the dead,
who had already died,
are happier than the living,
who are still alive.
- ³ But better than both
is the one who has never been born,
who has not seen the evil
that is done under the sun.

**Humans long for justice
Without it, life is a terrible burden**

11

Ecclesiastes' Claim

Without justice, life is a terrible burden

That is why...

12

Creation rejoices that God will judge

⁷ Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.

⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands;
let the mountains sing together for joy;

⁹ let them sing before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.

**He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.**

Psalm 98:7-9


Govern/rule

13

Jesus will Judge

³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ **For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed.** He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

Acts 17:30-31

14

In Jesus' words...

²² Moreover, **the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son,** ²³ that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

...

²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. ²⁷ **And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.**

John 5:22-27

15

The Big Idea

Jesus will bring justice to all people
 ...giving life forever to all who trust in Him
 ...otherwise only judgment

“Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
 the world, and all who live in it...
for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.” *Psalms 98:7-9*

16

Trust in Jesus

- For grace = love that covers our sins
 - “For **all** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and **all** are **justified freely by his grace** through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” *Romans 3:23-24*
- Justified
 - Declared right with God → no condemnation
 - Loved by God like He loves Jesus
- “For by grace you have been saved through faith” *Ephesians 2:8*

17

Trust in Jesus

- For judgment
 - Jesus will make right what is wrong
 - “But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, **where righteousness dwells.**” *2 Peter 3:13*

18

Trust in Jesus

- For judgment
 - So we must love and not seek revenge
 - “Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. On the contrary:
**“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
 if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.”** *Romans 12:19-20*
 - So we must forgive
 - “But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” *Matthew 6:15*

19

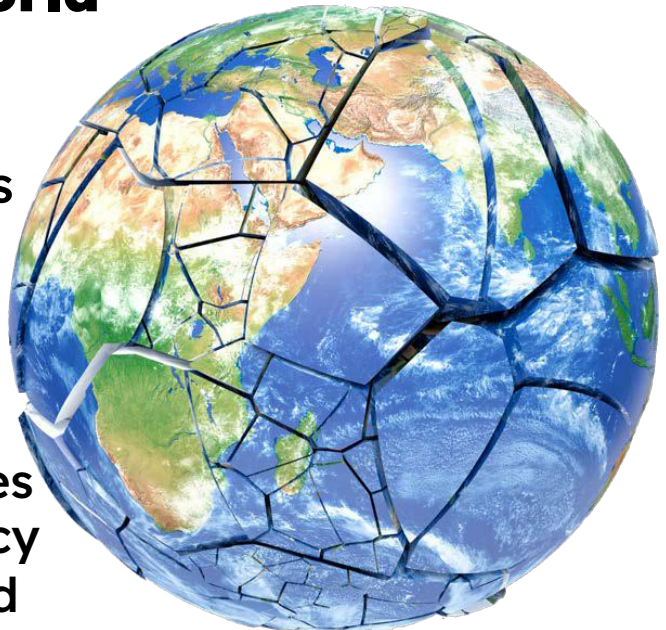
Trust in Jesus

- For grace = love that covers our sins
- For judgment

20

Fixing our broken world

- Trust Jesus
 - To forgive our sin
 - To bring righteousness
 - Now in part
 - Then in full
- Our actions...
 - Forgive
 - Bless even our enemies
 - Do justice & love mercy
 - Walk humbly with God



21