

# SERMON OUTLINE Ecclesiastes 9:1-6

All Is in the Hand of God

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**THE SAME GOD OVER ALL (1)**

**THE SAME EXPERIENCE FOR ALL (2-3A)**

**THE SAME CAUSE FOR ALL (3B)**

**THE SAME RESULT FOR ALL (4-6)**

*The Living Have Knowledge (5a)*

*The Living Have a Reward (5b)*

*The Living Are Known (5c)*

*The Living Have Emotions (6a)*

*The Living Have a Place and a People on Earth (6b)*

# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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## MAIN POINT

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The big idea of this passage: Life under the sun inevitably includes the head-scratching reality that good people and bad people experience the same things in life under the sovereign hand of God. The main takeaway is to interpret our circumstances with above the sun wisdom (God's Word) more than below the sun wisdom (our senses and reason alone).

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. As a kid, what did your parents repeat the most? As a parent, what do you find yourself repeating the most?
3. In your experience, why do things tend to get repeated? How does that relate to the things repeated in the Bible?
4. Do you tend to pay more or less attention to the things that are repeated in your life and in your Bible reading? Why?
5. How do you think and feel about God's sovereignty? Is there any doubt in your mind that He is sovereign or that it's good?
6. Can you see why it's important that God is sovereign, wise, AND good? What would happen if He were missing any of those?
7. Have you ever felt as if you experienced something apart from God's sovereignty, wisdom, or goodness? What did you do?
8. Is it frustrating to you when bad things happen to good people or good things happen to bad people? How do you respond when that happens to you or around you?
9. Is it easy for you to accept the fact that "... *the hearts of the children of man are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live...*"? Have you ever struggled with that concept or known someone who did?
10. Are you afraid of death? If not, why not? If so, how much of your fear is the result of using the Preacher's methods?
11. Do you think the Preacher's advantages/rewards of the living are genuine advantages/rewards?
12. Do you think much about how you will be remembered after you die?
13. What do you make of the fact that the Preacher was inspired by God to write primarily from an under the sun perspective?
14. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

## AREAS OF APPLICATION

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15. Make a list of three non-Christians in your life. Begin praying every day for God to open their eyes to above the sun things. Share the gospel with them.
16. Make a list of things you hope people remember about you after you die. Live more consistently with those things today.
17. Figure out one way in which you can be more fully present wherever you are throughout this week.
18. Memorize one of God's promises that directly concerns a trial you are presently enduring. Ask God to help you believe it.
19. Ask two different people in your family or DG (1) One thing they got from this sermon, and (2) How you can pray for them.
20. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently, with the Spirit's help, as a result of the things you heard in this text/sermon.

## PRAYER POINTS

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21. Adoration. Praise God that He is sovereign, wise, and good. Praise God that He is loving, eternal, and unchanging. Thank God that He is true, joyful, and glorious beyond measure. Praise God for His righteous, justice, and perfect promise keeping.
22. Confess. Confess your fear of death and misguided love of this world. Confess your lack of trust in God's promises and your sinful trust in your own observations and reason. Confess any evil in your heart that God reveals.
23. Thanksgiving. Thank God for revealing to us His above the sun wisdom, particularly the eternal reward offered to all who trust in Jesus. Thank God for working good in everything for those who love Him. Thank God for holding back evil.
24. Supplication. Ask God to save the non-Christians in your life, to fill us with trust in Him, and to live as He intends.