

# **DEATH UNDER THE SUN: IT ALL BALANCES OUT!**

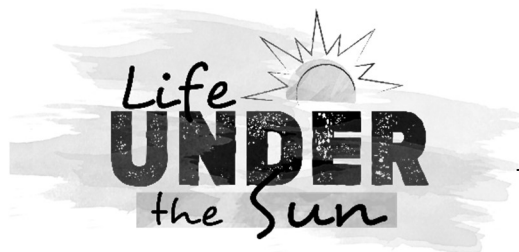
Ecclesiastes 3:16-22

Life appears out of \_\_\_\_\_. 16-17

Life \_\_\_\_\_ in the balance. 18-21

Life lived in balance produces \_\_\_\_\_. 22

Death under the Son brings \_\_\_\_\_. John 3:36



## **Ecclesiastes 3:16-22**

- 16 Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness.
- 17 I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work.
- 18 I said in my heart with regard to the children of man that God is testing them that they may see that they themselves are but beasts.
- 19 For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity.
- 20 All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return.
- 21 Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into the earth?
- 22 So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot. Who can bring him to see what will be after him? (ESV)

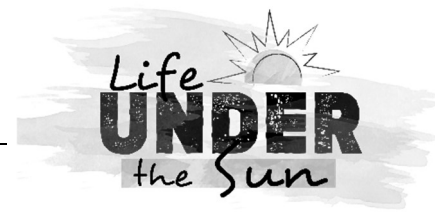
## **John 3:36**

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life. (ESV)

# Dying Under the Sun

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May 30, 2021



**Open:** How do you typically respond when attending memorial services?

**Read:** Ecclesiastes 3:16-22

## Discuss

1. What observation does the Preacher make about life in verse 16? What are various ways you have seen people respond to or cope with the fact that so often people do not get what they deserve? How does verse 17 help us to cope with this truth?
2. How would you describe the test the Preacher believes God is putting before mankind with the way God has set up the affairs of life on earth (v. 18)? What would be the gain of such a lesson? In what ways is the lesson true? In what ways is it an incomplete truth?
3. One example of a way mankind and "the beasts" are the same is that we all die (v. 19). How does it make you feel to know you're one day going to die? How could the inevitability of death leave one with a sense that "all is vanity" (v. 19)?
4. If verse 20 was indeed our ultimate destiny, how might it lead one to develop a sense of despair regarding life? Although we sometimes struggle with the idea that God could condemn someone to hell for eternity, what makes our hearts long for true justice?
5. Verse 21 speaks of not knowing what will happen to oneself after death. How have you seen it impact people to not know their eternal destiny? How does knowing what will happen to you personally after death shape how you live this side of death?
6. What aspects of the Preacher's conclusion in verse 22 would you agree with? What has he missed? How would you counsel others to think about and respond to the reality of death?
7. With our study of Ecclesiastes now complete, how would you summarize the message of the book? What observations has the Preacher made about life that might help you share the Gospel with an unbeliever? What truths from this book would be especially important for a new believer to understand?

**Apply:** In what ways will the message of Ecclesiastes impact the way you think and live?

**Pray:** Ask God to use us to help the world understand the true purpose and meaning of life.

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