

Everything Beautiful in its Time

Intro:

1 – Understanding God’s Sovereignty: (3:1-8)

A. “God has a plan that embraces every man and woman and all their actions in all times” Walt Kaiser

B. The poem consists of 14 couplets. Each couplet is a merism (a figure using polar opposites to encompass everything in between – Ps. 139:2-3).

C. Every event and every type of event has been divinely appointed (Job 14:5a; Ps. 139:16; Isa 45:5a; Ps. 139:16)

D. This does not mean that we don’t make accountable choices. This does NOT mean that God is the direct agent of evil (Gen. 50:20; Acts 2:23-24; 4:28).

2 – Wrestling with God’s Sovereignty: (3:9-11)

A. A rhetorical question: (vs. 9)

B. A reflective observation: (vv. 10-11)

1) God has made everything beautiful in it’s time (Rom. 8:28; Jn. 16:21-22)

2) God has placed an innate sense of eternity in our hearts YET we cannot see the entire plan.

3 – Embracing God’s Sovereignty: (3:12-15)

A. How to respond to what you don’t know about God’s plan: (vv. 12-13)

B. How to respond to what you do know about God’s plan: (vv. 14-15)

1) Remember God’s will is perfect and He has made it this way so that human beings will revere Him.

2) Remember that He will bring everything to account (Rom. 2:16; 2 Tim. 4:1)

Concluding Reflections:

CHILDREN'S QUESTIONS

1. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE STORY AT THE BEGINNING?
2. WHAT IS SOVEREIGNTY?
3. WHAT KIND OF A PLAN DOES GOD HAVE?
4. WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF THINGS IN THE PLAN OF GOD?
5. WHAT IS GOD LIKE? (ISA. 45:6 AND 46:9-11)
6. HOW HAS GOD MADE EVERYTHING BEAUTIFUL?
7. WHY IS HAVING ETERNITY IN OUR HEARTS SO FRUSTRATING?
8. HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO WHAT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT GOD'S PLAN?
9. HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO WHAT WE DO KNOW ABOUT GOD'S PLAN?
10. WHAT IS GOD TEACHING YOU IN THIS SERMON?