

**Ecclesiastes 7:8: BETTER is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is BETTER than the proud in spirit**

Here are two more THINGS that Solomon beheld in the midst of fallen humanity that are BETTER. The first BETTER of (7:8) I believe refers specifically to believers; the reason being, when someone lives a wicked life, dies in their sins and in rebellion against God, their end is certainly NOT better than their beginning. Case in point from (3) scriptural proofs:

Matthew 12:43-45, Luke 16:25, 2 Peter 2:20-22

The end of a thing is ONLY better for the righteous!

**But beloved, (for us in Christ) the end is better, because all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose**

Paul qualifies ALL THINGS working together for good to ONLY those that love God! ONLY to THOSE who are the called according to His purpose.

BUT, all things are NOT working together for good to the wicked; to those that hate God, but ONLY to those that LOVE GOD! Remember what Solomon wrote Ecclesiastes 7:1b:

The day of one's death (is better) than the day of one's birth

**This truth, beloved should edifying to us as believers as we make our pilgrimage through this present world.**

This should be food to your faith; it should strengthen you in the inner man, solidify your faith in Christ, knowing that your end will be better than your beginning!

If you're a believer, God is conforming you to the image of Christ, how can the end for you NOT be better?

But our problem (SO OFTEN) is, we focus on the beginning of a thing! All we see are our troubles, difficulties, and messy circumstances when they happen, and like faithless people, instead of looking to Christ by faith, we focus instead on things, which ARE SEEN, when we should be looking by faith to things which are NOT seen! 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, 5:7

What we OUGHT to see, (by faith) as God's people, is God doing His work in our lives, training and disciplining and fashioning us for heaven!

**Remember the Patriarch Jacob, in his long sorrow and grief over his son Joseph, who had been gone from his life for so long a time? (Thought by Jacob to be dead)**

And now, when there was a famine in the land, an Egyptian ruler, this lord of Egypt, (who was none other than Joseph) was demanding that Jacob's other sons bring Benjamin (Jacob's only other son of Rachel, and his youngest son, Joseph's younger brother) on their return to Egypt for more food. When Jacob heard what this lord of Egypt demanded, he was clearly ONLY looking at the present circumstances and dwelling on the past, which in his mind were terrible; everything was

against him, all he could think about NOW was losing Benjamin; all he could think about was, this is going end VERY badly! Nothing good can come from this! There was no looking to God or trusting the circumstances to Him!

Genesis 42:34-38, James 5:7-11, Psalm 37:37-39

All of what befell Joseph, Jacob, and Jacob's sons was for their good! And so better was the end of a thing than the beginning!

**"And the patient in spirit is BETTER than the proud in spirit.(7:8b)**

The contrast of patience and pride applies in many ways to both the lost and the saved. To be patient in spirit is ALWAYS BETTER than being proud in spirit.

For the Christian, patience ought to be one of the primary characteristics and virtues of our life! Every one of us ought to be patient in our Lord! There should be a quiet contentment within each of us trusting in our heavenly Father. There should be no anxiousness in us concerning the circumstances of this life. Philippians 4:6-7

We should be a patient people, knowing that God hears our prayers, and that He will accomplish His will in our lives as He see fit for our good; ALL in His time!

Patience, brethren, is faith in action; it is not waiting and doing nothing, but it is actively waiting and actively trusting God. It is being still in ourselves while trusting in God.

Patience is one of God's graces, which ought to be constantly exercised within our hearts toward our God and Heavenly Father!

Therefore thus saith the Lord God, behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, and precious cornerstone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. Isaiah 28:16:

Believers, if you trust in Christ and your faith is resting upon Him, you have no reason to make haste, or as it means to flee to another place or to someone else, or trust some other means for safety, for Christ is the Solid Rock and sure foundation of your faith! He that believeth on Christ, shall NOT make haste!

1 Peter 2:6, Romans 9:33, Hebrews 10:36-39

**But when we WILL NOT (patiently) trust the Lord, it is because we are trusting in ourselves and in our own hearts; (in pride), not content with God's timing and providence in our lives,**

ALL because we are too proud to humbly submit ourselves and our circumstances to the Lord. This is where we get ourselves in trouble.

When we are proud, we are hasty; when we don't wait on the Lord and trust our circumstances to Him, (take matters into our own hands) we will surely fail. Pride is NEVER BETTER for anyone!

Proverbs 11:2, 16:18-19, 29:23, Psalm 138:6