Do you remember in (C3) when Solomon SAW wickedness in the place of judgment and iniquity in the place of righteousness? And then he said, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked. (3:16-17). And then (4:1-3) concerning the oppressed/oppressors?

When wickedness and iniquity is prevalent and common in the places or institutions where judgment and righteousness ought to be what is common and expected; and when those in power have become oppressors rather than guardians and caretakers of the people to whom they are appointed over, it clearly demonstrates that the world is upside down and fatally off course.

Isaiah 5:20-23. Doesn't this describe the condition of this present world?

And now in Ecclesiastes 5:8; Solomon once again points out the sins of oppression and injustice in large societies, but with a comfort to the child of God and the church of Jesus Christ: *Ecclesiastes 5:8*:

"If thou seest (and we do see); the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, (or in a state or nation), marvel not at the matter:"

Do not be amazed, astonished, or surprised; this is what will happen in a fallen and sinful world. Sinners left unchecked and unrestrained will lead a society into lawlessness and even greater oppression; for lawless sinners will become the oppressors.

Doesn't this sound amazingly similar to what we are seeing today in major cities across America? "The oppression of the poor and the violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province".

Here is the great comfort to you in the midst of confusion and chaos "the violent perverting of justice" in the world child of God.

God is Higher than the highest earthly king or leader; there is nothing that escapes His all seeing eye; He sees and regards all of the wickedness and oppressions against His people in the world.

But, let me ask, how should being oppressed in the world affect us as Christians? Should we become revolutionaries? To make the world a better place?

To be oppressed means to be treated with cruelty; someone who is oppressed is mentally or physically abused and persecuted unjustly by an oppressor.

No one wants to be oppressed; but beloved, when we find ourselves in such a case; how should we react? Should we revolt? Or Should we RUN to our heavenly Father; to Him that is Higher than the Highest, (WHO) regards and pay attention to everything and (every situation) that we are going through.

<u>Psalm 10:17-18, 12:5, 103:6, Proverbs 22:22-23, Malachi 3:1-6</u> We must remember that our Kingdom is NOT of this world!

Christian, understand that your oppressions (in the world) and in those times when your righteous soul is vexed by the wicked; aren't these times designed by God for your sanctification! To drive you to the throne of grace! To strengthen your faith in Christ and bring you into complete and total dependence upon your Heavenly Father! <u>Romans</u> 8:28, Genesis 50:20, James 1:3-4, 1 Peter 1:7-8.

(V9): "Moreover, (or furthermore or in addition to what I just said) saith Solomon, the profit of the earth is for all: the king himself is served by the field"

HOW is this verse connected with the previous verse? It is as if Solomon was illustrating the fact that (WE ARE ALL) linked together and connected; the powerful should not oppress the weak, the poor, and the laborers, but there should be a harmony between us all, from the king to the farmer in the field. It seems to me that what Solomon is saying is' those in power, (like a king or governor) should not be oppressors of people; those that labor and work the fields and industry of their countries.

We are all equally in need of each other; both the rich and the poor; the president or king, and the lowest laborer are all "SERVED BY THE FIELD". All of us need the

cattle, pig, and the chicken farmers.

All of us, (including the king) need farmers and harvesters of crops, who work 24~7~365 planting and watering and harvesting crops for us to put food on the table. And the farmers need us to buy their crops and meat so they can replant their fields and regrow their cattle.

Think about it; when the king or president or princes sits down to enjoy a steak, a potato, and a fresh salad or vegetables; if it was not for the cattle farmer and the farmer of crops, he would not have his fine meal.

In fact, this ought to show us that the king NEEDS the farmer/laborers of the field to grow, feed, care for, and harvest meat and crops. The king needs those who work in industry, construction, and infrastructure.

In contrast, the people need the king and government leaders to care for them and their lands and nations and neighborhoods, not oppress them.

We ought to all see that we all serve for one another! None, from king to the lowest laborer can say, "I have no need of thee"!

So, don't be surprised or amazed when your see injustice, violent perverting of justice, and lawlessness in our nation; when oppression comes into your life personally, run to your heavenly Father; who is Higher than the highest earthly king.

And then, remember that we are all linked together as societies; we are servants of one another.