

"When You Can't Figure It All Out, What You Can Do!"

Wisdom Literature

August 10, 2025

The Complexity of L.U.T.S.

"Who Made God? - Searching for a Theory of Everything" by Edgar Andrew's

...If there's anything that sends us searching for life's answers—it's the way Life Can FEEL! ...and Our Reality: Life is going to be filled with a variety of "FEELS"

Ecc 3:1-2, 4, 6, 8

¹ For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

21st Century FEEL

"Times of transition between eras are complex, uncertain, and full of anxiety." **Miles Toulmin**

...Ag. Age → Ind. Age → Urban → Suburban → Digital Age ...Life FEELS Very Different!

...anxiety, depression, & suicide

... "Complexity" is its own concept—to be recognized in its own way. ...It's not the same as "wrong" or "good/bad" or "positive/negative". It simply acknowledges that there is "variety and variation; quantity, quality, and intensity" in the setting of our lives. There are thoughts, feelings, physiology, emotions, our 5 senses. ...There are people (who come in the forms of family [dysfunctional/functional], friends [on-line/life-long], foes, adversaries, encouragers, discouragers, supporters, critics—and some who are a mix of several of these). There are dreams & hopes & possibilities, there are first time experiences, there is familiarity, sameness, and boredom. There is pleasure and there is stress. There is laughter and there is sadness. There is gain & loss, triumph & tragedy, health & disease.

...THIS is the Complex Arena of "L.U.T.S."

Ecc 1 ...Narrates One Man's Attempt to Figure Out the Complexity of L.U.T.S. [I want to answer this: "What if You Can't Figure It All Out?"]

v. 1-11 ...the goal of this writing—is not to present the full scope of life... it is an honest encounter with life's "vexing", "empty", brokenness!

...v. 2 ... **"Vanity of vanities! All is vanity"** (keep reading at your own risk)

"The book of Ecclesiastes packs its most shocking yet liberating insight into a single word—a word that tells you that life won't give you what you want or deserve. ...To say that 'hevel' means 'fleeting' doesn't go far enough. It doesn't fully capture Qohelet's basic beef with life under the sun. ...What does? 'Absurd.' **Bobby Jamieson**, "Ecclesiastes' Most Important Word"

...v. 8 ... **"full of weariness"; "not satisfied"; "not filled"** ...v. 16... **"what is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be counted."**

...There is "poetry" and "feel" in these writings that are meant to be "FELT"! **...And as God's People on Earth—who are given the "Ministry of the Word"—we are called to be people who bring this "Understanding" into this arena of "L.U.T.S."**

If you know v. 8, then you possess an inspired insight that should give birth to compassionate understanding for many of the people in your life—who are about to ruin your day!!

...If you "DIP PEOPLE" in v. 8 & 16 ...and they're having their own "Ecc. Moment" ...Do You Have ANY COMPASSION for Them?

Gal 6:1-2 Brothers, if anyone is caught in ['overtaken', 'run-down' by] any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

...Perhaps one might be tempted to tell Solomon to read: **Pr 3:5-6** "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

v. 12-18 ...This is Not some "SLACKER-DISCIPLE"!

Ecc 2:1-5, 8-11

... **"this also was vanity"** (Said 14 times in Ecc.!!).

...Remember, **2Pet 1:20-21** "knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

SO... God is behind the "extremeness" of Ecc. And it is intended to poetically be heard in our darkest hours! ...BUT, Ecc is not all that God has to say about our doing L.U.T.S.!

At the End of the Day ...Simplicity Amidst Complexity!

Ecc 12:1-3, 7-8

Ecc 12:9-12 ...There's More to be Said than is found in Ecc. ...and these are good and helpful things!

Ecc 12:13-14 ...Simplicity Amidst Complexity! ...2 Simple Things

(1) Fear God

...I may not be able to figure out all the moments and nuances and dealings of how L.U.T.S. "Feels"!! ...But I CAN Do THIS! ...Fear God! ...in the midst of the noise, the feelings, the confusion—attach my faith to the fact that God is Above all, Over All, and Ruling All from Eternity to Eternity!

Is 37:15-16 And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD: ¹⁶ "O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth.

Acts 4:23-24 When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them

...Whether I am Solomon in a vexing season ...Hezekiah facing the destruction of my world as I know it ...the early disciples ("minus Jesus") taking their first steps amidst vast uncertainty and threats!

...**Command #1** – "I am the Lord, you shall have no other god before me"

(2) Keep His Commandments

...Solomon's moment/season of L.U.T.S. Was Perplexing/"Vexing" ...When I start to feel that way, I start thinking that the priority need that I have is to "Understand" the Situation!--Especially the "WHY" portion!!

...Here's some much needed simplicity. ...

... Simply, do what God said to do in each aspect of your life.

Along the Way... ENJOY!!

Ecc 9:1 ...One more dark description!

Ecc 9:7-10 ...Even amidst all this brokenness and feeling ...PURSUE ENJOYMENT!

"This book was written to answer a simple question: What are we to do with the things of earth? Embrace them? Reject them? Use them? Forget about them? Set our affections on them? Look at them with suspicious eyes? Enjoy them with a twinge or two of guilt?" **Joe Rigney**, "The Things of Earth: Treasuring God by Enjoying His Gifts", p. 20

...v. 7, 9... "Go, for God has already approved what you do." "Enjoy life... because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun."

There is "God appointed & approved activity" in this "L.U.T.S."!! ... "Creation Mandate"

Gen 1:27-28 ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Gen 2:10-12 ¹⁰ A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. ¹¹ The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹² And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there.

Gen 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

...This mandate continues to be repeated—even though the fall has occurred and sin & Satan are present everyday! ...**Gen 9:1** "And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.'"

• v. 7...The Story of Bread & Wine

- **There is gardening & agriculture here** ...which means there is toil and intelligence that went into wheat fields & vineyards, tools & baking pans, cooking oils, ovens & wine presses, recipes & experimentation, ...taste buds that ENJOY!!!
- I think many Christians fail to "worship God" via the mundane and everyday elements of their calling/mandate!

...If worship includes "awareness" of God's beauty, design, purpose, creativity and perfection—then my "God-Centered Enjoyment" of the earth he created and I dwell in (in righteous ways!) should pervade my everyday existence! (Even with it's fallen limitations!) ...Bread!! (Without gluttony) ...Wife!! (w/o sexual immorality) ... Invention & Industry (w/o greed) ...Artistry (w/o idolatry) ...etc.

- V. 8 ... White Garments & Hairstyles!!

- Filling the earth with His Image & Glory ...is found in the Garment Industry!! ...Silks & fabrics & tunics ...the Tabernacle & Temple design

Subtle Note in v. 8 ...— "Do your laundry and take a bath!"

- V. 9 ... "ENJOY life with the wife whom you love"

Gen 1:26 ...is much more than "mere procreation"! ...It is life-long companionship, friendship, togetherness, support, shared experiences, unique partnership, etc.!!

...We "image & glorify & worship God" by the way we relate to & enjoy our spouses!!

- v. 10 ... "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might"

That certainly includes whatever we've learned to place under the heading of "Spiritual".

...But this says, "WHATEVER"!! ...

"Why did God make this world? Why did he make a world for his own glory in Christ and then fill it to the brim with pleasures—physical pleasures, sensible pleasures, emotional pleasures, and relational pleasures? Why did God make a world full of good friends, sizzling bacon, the laughter of children, West Texas sunsets, Dr. Pepper, college football, marital love, and the warmth of wool socks? ...My aim is simple—I want to work with you for your joy. Your joy in your family. Your joy in your friends. Your joy in your pancakes and eggs, your steak and potatoes, your chips and your salsa. Your joy in your camping trips, workouts, and iPod playlist. Your joy in the Bible, in worship services, and in the quiet moments before you fall asleep. Your joy in your job, your hobbies, and your daily routine. And in and through all these things, I want to work with you for your joy in the living and personal God who gave you all these things and delivered you from sin and death through the work of his Son and Holy Spirit that you might enjoy him and them, and him in them, forever." **Joe Rigney**, "The Things of Earth: Treasuring God by Enjoying His Gifts", p. 25

...The mandate of "imaging God" and "filling the earth with His Glory" is most certainly DAMAGED by the Fall, but it is STILL Occurring!!

...HOWEVER... The CHRIST has Come! He has Intervened. He has Disrupted the Status Quo of the Fallen World. He has 'set in motion' the dawning of a NEW DAY! It is NOT Fully Here, but it is "More Here Than Ever" and it is On It's Way in Fullness!