

THE NEVER CHANGING GOD IN A NEVER CHANGING WORLD

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—January 14th, 2024

ECCLESIASTES 1:4-11

(ESV)

*[4] A generation goes, and a generation comes,
but the earth remains forever.*

*[5] The sun rises, and the sun goes down,
and hastens to the place where it rises.*

*[6] The wind blows to the south
and goes around to the north;
around and around goes the wind,
and on its circuits the wind returns.*

*[7] All streams run to the sea,
but the sea is not full;
to the place where the streams flow,
there they flow again.*

*[8] All things are full of weariness;
a man cannot utter it;
the eye is not satisfied with seeing,
nor the ear filled with hearing.*

*[9] What has been is what will be,
and what has been done is what will be done,
and there is nothing new under the sun.*

*[10] Is there a thing of which it is said,
“See, this is new”?
It has been already
in the ages before us.*

*[11] There is no remembrance of former things,
nor will there be any remembrance
of later things yet to be
among those who come after.*

INTRODUCTION

The cycles of life are opportunities we have to either accomplish our own earthly purposes or God's eternal purposes.

Psalm 90:12

*[12] So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.*

THE ENDLESS CYCLE OF NATURE

We shouldn't pridefully overestimate how much value we bring to the table.

Romans 12:3—*[3] For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.*

The cycles of our lives are insignificant in comparison to the cycles of nature.

Why does creation seem to have greater perseverance in fulfilling its purpose than man?

Sin brought about a curse to the created order and it deeply affects man's ability to live with purpose.

Genesis 1:28–[28] *And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it...”*

Romans 8:20–21–[20] *For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope [21] that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.*

Jesus is redeeming his creation, and this redemption will only be complete once all the children of God turn to him in faith and repentance.

Creation was made to serve man, and not man creation.

The cycles of creation are an evidence of God's grace towards us.

THE ENDLESS CYCLE OF MEN

Our senses are never satisfied.

Our experiences are never new.

Philippians 4:7–[7] *And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Ephesians 4:14–[14] *..so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.*

Our legacy is never lasting.

We should look for purpose and meaning as we angle our lives to maximize the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31–[31] *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

Colossians 3:17–[17] *And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

1 Peter 4:11–[11] *whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

Every day we have the opportunity to advance God's eternal purposes in our lives.

1 Corinthians 6:19–20–[19] *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, [20] for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*