

LIFE ON THIS PLANET

Ecclesiastes 3:9-15

Introduction: (Play some of the sound track introduction of "Star Wars" saying "A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away..."

Millions flocked to the theaters to be carried away into a galaxy far, far away to spend a couple hours with Luke Skywalker, Darth Vader, R2D2, Chewbacca and many other strange characters.

Why? Because we are bound to a dull, predictable routine life style. We would love to be able to change that. BUT GOD HAS DESIGNED IT SO THAT THERE IS JUST SO MUCH TO SEE AND DO within our own planet.

None of the people on earth will ever be as different as those folks in the fantasy films compared to C3PO, Chewbacca, Jaba and all those characters. You, me, (name others, members, etc..) are just not that exciting.

That's just the way it is being "stuck" down here. None of the Star Wars places will ever resemble some of the places we visit here on this earth, like the Grand Canyon, (name some resorts, vacation places) compared to that galaxy far, far away. Face it! We live in DULLSVILLE.

I. LIFE WITHOUT GOD

1. God has no fantasy characters or events in His Book.
 - God reveals only the cold, hard truth about life on this planet.
 - Who wouldn't want to escape from such an existence as ours - drugs, sleepless nights, hate, headaches, heartaches, rape, jail, sickness, hospitals, lost jobs, etc.
 - Solomon discovered long ago that there's nothing on this earth that will give LASTING satisfaction. BUT GOD PLANNED IT THAT WAY!
2. No matter how good or big life may be, just boil it down, face reality, life is BORING!
 - The money syndrome, work to spend, spend to work. That's why millions stand in line to be whisked away to some far, far away place.
 - LIFE ON THIS PLANET WITHOUT GOD IS THE PITTS! and that's the way God designed it. He made it that way. Within every person is a "God-shaped" vacuum that only He can fill and UNTIL GOD IS THERE nothing satisfied.
 - Think about a hospital room and your dying child on a bed. You have no one to turn to because you don't believe in God. You don't know Him.
 - People without God, people YOU know are living a profitless, purposeless, boring existence.
 - WHAT PROFIT IS THEIR LIFE? (v 9) - A BIG ZERO!

II. LIFE WITH GOD

Entering quietly in Solomon's description of life on this planet is the one left out of all the fantasy films, THE LIVING GOD, creator, the only one who can change our lives and our world. GOD STEPS INTO a person's life and immediately things change - from boredom to excitement, meaning and direction, and deliverance from despair.

1. What does God do? (*vv11*) (As Seen through God's Eyes)

- He makes Everything fit. (*Romans 8:28*)
 - We see today, He works on eternity. We see the wrapping, He sees the gift.
 - We see the external, He emphasizes the internal.
 - In God's time, He will make everything beautiful, even our sadness, losses, battles, heartaches, even death.
- He makes Everybody curious.
 - God has given us an itch for tomorrow, a hunger to know what's next.
 - We want to know what's coming and without that curiosity we would never wonder about God and come to know Him.
 - Why are we curious? God made us that way.

2. What does God give? (*vv12, 13*)

- God gives us the ability to rejoice and enjoy life.
- Ever see an unbeliever REALLY and TRULY enjoying ever moment of life?
- The only people who really enjoy life ever moment are believers. WHY?
 - Only God can give the attitude and outlook and hope needed to sustain a CONSTANT joyful attitude regardless of what comes.
- A businessman finally turned his business over to God. That very night it burned. When asked why he wasn't broken up about it, he replied, "it's not my business, it's God's and if He wants to burn it down, that's His business."
- God gives us the ability to do good in our lifetime (*vv12*)
 - Man's way of doing good is two-way. Do good to me and I'll do good to you.
 - God enables us to do good to others whether or not they do us good in return.
 - We can't do anybody much good if we're six feet under the ground, it's all over.
 - It may make one or two happy that we're gone, but we can do much better than that now, TODAY. In our lifetime and that is a GIFT FROM GOD.
 - Face it! We are just not inclined to be loving and compassionate to everyone.
 - BUT WHEN GOD COMES INTO A LIFE, He enables us to do good to everyone.

3. What kind of work does God do? (*vv14, 15*)

- The quality of God's work is PERMANENT
 - Nothing temporary, shallow or superficial, it stays, remains for eternity.
- The quality of God's work is THOROUGH AND COMPLETE!
 - Nothing has to be added nor taken away, never too little, never too late, never too much, never too early and there's never anything missing.
 - Whenever we do something, we always leave something out, add it later to up-date and modernize it, using auto warranties.
 - GOD DOESN'T DO THAT, HIS WORK IS COMPLETE, THROUGH, PERMANENT.

- The quality of God's work is AWESOME
 - Ever look closely at God's mountains? Or His oceans? All of God's creation is equally awesome, from the microscopic to the telescopic.
 - When God does something, it makes us stand back in respect.
- God has to repeat some things until WE LEARN them (*v15*)
 - God constantly pursues us and we try to escape. He tries to teach us and we don't want to learn.
 - Until we learn, those lessons keep coming back over and over again at different ages of our lives.
 - If our marriage doesn't work out, it always brings on another and another UNTIL we finally learn how to act in a marriage.

III. LIFE FROM GOD

1. Life from God comes from OUTSIDE this Universe, NOT from within.
 - There is human goodness, positive thinking, self-help, etc., BUT the only place to find LIFE FROM GOD is at the source, Jesus Christ. (*John 14:6; 10:28*)
 - Christ alone will give us life from God and He's at the Father's right hand in Heaven.
2. Life from God is Supernatural Power, NOW, TODAY, not a vague force limited to a time long ago.
 - The giant dams and generating plants make electricity. Flip a switch in a dark room and IMMEDIATELY everything is transformed. Darkness into light, cold into heat, giving evidence of the power from the dam.
 - The Gospel is good news. God dispenses His supernatural power to anyone who wants it, free, no strings, no probation, no religious stuff, no social level, JUST TAKE IT!

CONCLUSION:

1. When you do take the gift of life from God, THE FORCE IS NOT JUST WITH YOU, BUT IS IN YOU FOR ALL YOUR EARTHLY LIFE.