God has made everything beautiful in His time:

It is only the child of God who has eyes of faith to see and to humbly submit to the providence of God. *Christian, this* should be you!

You should not fret when difficult circumstances arise, but you should trust your present circumstances to your Heavenly Father; you should believe that He appointed them for you. But also, Christian, God is using what is happening in your life to draw you into a closer/more intimate relationship with Him, and to fashion you for heaven. <u>2 Corinthians 4:15-18</u> And then remember that there is so much more to life than what we see in this world; God has set eternity in our hearts; He given us the capacity to grasp eternal things, and to understand that we have a much greater and higher purpose in the world than to be attaching ourselves to things that are temporary and perishing!

Beloved: In Christ, you have been reconciled to God by Jesus Christ; now, in Christ, you have been given the high honor and privilege of access to the Everlasting God, but also, you have God as your Refuge!

<u>Psalm 90:1-2, 91:1-9</u>

In regard to God's providence: We cannot find out the work that God is doing, from the beginning (what has happened) or to the end (what will happen).

1 Corinthians 13:12: For now (in this life) we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as I am known

Your part, Christian, in the midst of a world full of changing times & seasons is to NOT fret over what you see, but to humbly & gladly submit yourself (by faith) to God's providence in your life. NOW

I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life.

And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.

I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.

That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past. Ecclesiastes 3:12-15

There is nothing better for us, children of God, than to rejoice in what God has given and appointed to us in this world; and also, that we should do good in our lives. In Christ, this is WHO you and I should be; our faith/trust in

our God should be visibly apparent and conspicuous in our character and attitudes; we cannot control God's providence and we shouldn't fret over what is, and what might be; but what we can and gladly ought to do is what the Word of God says in (V12): There is nothing better for you in every present circumstance of your earthly life than to FIRST: To rejoice in what God is doing!

Romans 12:12, Philippians 4:4-5, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. The key to real/genuine spiritual rejoicing is that it is in the Lord and not based on what is going on in your life; (PRAY that God will give you this grace); so that you may say, not my will, but thine be done! YES, this is happening, YET, I will rejoice in the Lord! Habakkuk 3:17-18, Isaiah 61:10

And SECOND: We are to be Doing Good with what God has given us in this life! You may not have much to do good with; but that doesn't mean that God has not called you to do good! You are called to DO GOOD just by virtue of the fact that God has saved you from your sins by His grace: Now, in Christ, you have a freedom and a gift that MUST be shared with captive and suffering sinners in the world! But not only has God given you the greatest good in saving you from your sins, child of God; He has also given you good things to enjoy in this life, and if God has given you good things in this life, He has given you something to share; He has given you those good things (those gifts) to do good for the sake of others.

<u>Ephesians 2:8-10, Colossians 1:9-10, 1 Timothy 6:17-18,</u> Nehemiah 8:10-12, Acts 20:35

And then (V13) Solomon teaches us again about the about the lawful enjoyment of our labors. (2:24)

And also, that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labor, it is the gift of God: 1 Corinthians 10:31

From the beginning, even before the fall, God appointed labor for the man and his wife; labor and work is good, and the enjoyment of all our labors in this life is a gift from God. This is what the Word of God says about the lawful enjoyment of all of your labors in this world. *Ecclesiastes 5:18-20* I love (V20): When we can enjoy God and everything that God gives to us in this life as gifts from Him, then we won't dwell on the difficulties of life, and that's because our hearts will be occupied with a True Joy that cannot be taken from us.

Romans 14:17: For the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, and peace, and JOY in the Holy Ghost

But have you ever noticed that there are some people who just don't seem to enjoy life; and here is where we must understand that the key to enjoying life in this world is that we must FIRST enjoy God! Only then does God gift us with the ability to enjoy this life.

If the Spirit of God is in you, then the Kingdom of God is in you; you ought (therefore) to be enjoying your time here in what God has given to you; and with every passing day, looking forward to and rejoicing for the coming of that long awaited eternal day.

(V14-15): Solomon reverts back to God's Providence and the mystery of it:

<u>I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before Him</u>

Whatever God is doing, it will be forever ~ eternal! Nothing can be added to it, and nothing can be taken away from it. God's plans cannot be improved upon and they cannot be diminished, changed, or frustrated.

<u>Isaiah 46:9-11, Isaiah 43:13, 14:24, 27, Proverbs 19:21, 21:30</u>

You must know that everything that God is doing in your life (by His providence) has eternal implications.

If you're lost, when God puts you in contact with someone who is telling you the truth about Christ and the gospel, there are eternal implications for you based on what you do with Christ!

If you're saved and God has joined you to a church where the truth is preached, <u>~THAT~</u> IS NO MISTAKE or COINCIDENCE of HAPPENSTANCE; God has placed you there for your own spiritual growth and sanctification!

This truth about WHAT GOD IS DOING should move you to fear, honor, and bow in reverence before Him! <u>Revelation 15:3-4</u>

(V15): That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past; (Cp to Ecclesiastes 1:9-10)

Solomon seems to be saying here that every successive generation is connected, there is nothing new under the sun. The things that have already happened in the past, are happening now in the present; and the things that will happen in the future, have already happened in the past. There is no new thing under the sun.

What we are seeing in our generation in the world are the same things that every past generation saw in the world. But for each of us individually, God will require of us that which is past, or, we MUST all give an account of ourselves to God when we come to the judgment of the great day; when everything in TIME will be PAST; when TIME shall be no more! And on the day of judgment, EVERYTHING IN OUR PAST WILL RETURN, and we will be judged by it. 2 Corinthians 5:10-11

RS Storrs: No part of life is isolated, but each (part of life) is connected with what has gone before and with what comes after; all are combined to make a vital, organic whole, so that in judging of the present, we are really judging the past, as in the day of final

adjudication, when the acts of bygone years will come up for approval or condemnation before the Judge of all the earth. We are today what we are by means of the past, and the future is conditioned on the present. When we are censored or reproved, we know that it is not the present alone that is judged, but the past. Thus, life comes out of the past, its habits and states of feeling reflect the habits of previous/bygone years.

There is nothing better for us (children of God) than to REJOICE in what God has given/appointed to us in this world; and we should be DO GOOD with what God has given to us in our lives.

And then: When we can enjoy God and everything that God gives to us in this life as gifts from Him, THEN we won't dwell on the difficulties of life, and that's because our hearts will be occupied with the True Joy that we have in Christ, which is a joy that no one can take from us.

Whatever God is doing, it will be forever/eternal! God's plans cannot be improved upon, and they cannot be diminished, changed, or frustrated; this should move us to worship Him. We will all give an account of ourselves to God when we come to the judgment of the great day; when everything in TIME will be PAST; when TIME shall be no more!