



There is nothing “New.”

October 28, 2019

ECCLESIASTES 1:9-10 NKJV - (9) What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. **(10)** Is there anything of which one can say, Look! This is something new”? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time.

Verses 9-11 Everything that existed in the past will continue to exist. People will continue to do everything that they have done before. The Teacher is describing events to us. They will happen in this way if we think about the world without God. Then nothing can change. This is different from what the *Israelites believed. They believed that God controls human history. God can change people and events. One example is Joseph. His brothers had intended to hurt him. But Joseph believed that God had a purpose for him. God intended him to save lives in Egypt (**Genesis 50:20**).

People often think that they have found new things. People may invent something that is new. But they use what God has created. And people soon forget what happened in the past. They do not remember people who lived before them. The word ‘people’ can also mean ‘things’. So people also forget things. And they forget events that were in the past. People always want something ‘new’.

The Teacher gives another implication of the description of the world in **verse 38a**: "What has been will be again." Nothing is new, and nothing gains eternal fame. The Teacher's words are not contradicted by technological advances or by the fact that we can remember the names of famous people such as Homer, Caesar, and Shakespeare. The fundamental events of life (birth, marriage, work, death, etc.) remain unchanged. The desire for something new is the desire for something that alters the nature of life in the world. Cars, computers, and jet airplanes may have made some things easier and faster. For us, however, as for our ancient ancestors, the sun rises and sets; the rivers run their courses; and **people continue** their endless quest for fame, power, and happiness even as they move steadily toward death. The vast majority of people never achieve lasting fame, while those who do gain nothing by it.

This passage is not a contradiction to the gospel but a call for it. The world is in bondage; and humanity is unable to explain, find satisfaction in, or alter it. **Only the Word**, who came into the world from above, can open the way of understanding and escape.

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 JOHN 2:17

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: God can turn your ordinary to extraordinary.