

DUMB LUCK

Solomon has embraced a fatalistic philosophy of life and death because of reversionism (OMCD).

LIFE – “For time and chance overtake them all.”

- Race is not to the swift. (It normally is with exception.)
- Battle is not to the warrior.
- Bread is not to the wise.
- Wealth is not to the discerning.
- Favor is not to men of ability.

DEATH – “Moreover man does not know his time.”

- Fish are caught in a treacherous net. (normally / fishing)
- Birds trapped in a snare. (normally / hunting) (Gen.1:26, 28; 2:19-20)
- Sons of men are ensnared by evil time when it suddenly falls on them. (Plan of God - “He has made everything appropriate in its time.”) (Eccl.3:11a)

Solomon observed that there were injustices in life. **But the question is how should the believer interpret them?**

Solomon’s interpretation was that the activities and events of one’s life consisted of ‘time and chance’ or dumb luck?

Paul’s interpretation was that the activities and events of one’s life consisted of godly order and meaning to both life and death.

- (1 Cor.14:33) “For God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.”
(Rom.8:28a) “God causes all things to work together for good.”

We will study four aspects of Solomon’s fatalistic interpretation of life and death as part of DUMB LUCK.

1. Fate is part of Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus viewpoint thinking (OMCD) of the activities and events of life and even death.

OMCD thinking is “worldly thinking” promoted by Satan to distract or oppose the Truth of God’s Word.

We also see this OMCD thinking in Peter in (Matt.16:21-23).

“Get behind Me, Satan! You are stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.”

He has become dull of hearing (Heb.5:11) (rev.of OMCD).

(Col.3:2-3) “Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. **For** you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

(2 Cor.10:5) “We are destroying speculations and **every** lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking **every** thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”

Fate is one interpretation of the activities and events of life that occur outside of the normal pattern, the unexpected. Human nature wants to anticipate and be prepared for all future activities and events of life, so they look to the world fatalists such as false teachers, fortune-tellers, Chinese cookies, tea and palm readers, horoscopes, and such things as these to make sense of it all. (1 Cor.2:12-15)

2. Fatalism is the belief that some mysterious force controls everything that happens in life. (Fate!)

It assumes that the activities and events of one's life cannot be avoided, escaped or changed. When they happen to you, there is no rational rime or reason to it. Therefore, it must be fate! (Eccl.9:1-3)

A young Amalekite soldier reported King Saul's battlefield death to David with this idea: (2 Sam.1:1-16)
(2 Sam.1:6) "By chance I happened to be on Mt. Gilboa, and behold, Saul was leaning on his spear."
(2 Sam.1:14) "How is it you were not afraid to stretch out your hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?"

The Greek's had a word for this type of thinking (aphron) [foolish]. Foolishness was the inability to reason through something that was very basic or simple to understand in the Word of God. Jesus used it with the Pharisees in Luke 11:39-40.

He listed it as part of cosmos diabolicus thinking in Mark 7:20-23 – "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and **foolishness**. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."

3. The spiritually advancing believer learns that his destiny is according to the pre-designed Plan of God.

When something happens outside of the normal or planned part of life, the spiritually advancing believer is able to discern and define it under a category of God's will and not under fate.

(Rom.8:28) "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

- Directive Will
- Permissive Will
- Over-ruling Will
- Geographic, Mental and Operational Will

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus contrasts the idea of fatalism with faith (Luke 10:30-37).

(Lk.10:31-33) "And by (kata+acc of norm and standard) chance (sugkuria) [a concurrence of events] a **certain priest** was going down on the road, and when he saw (horao / a.a.ptc) him, he passed on the other side. (as did a **Levite**). But a **certain Samaritan**, who was on a journey . . ."

Chance or fate did not cause the Priest, the Levite or the Samaritan to come to the right place at the right time. Yet we see this type of thinking in these two ministers (the Priest and Levite). They shouldn't have thought this way as believers.

(Prov.16:9). "The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps."

(Prov.16:33) "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord." (Jer.10:23)

The decreed part of the Plan of God used the planned part of their trip to engage in their unplanned opportunity for ministry.

All three of these travelers were not expecting the unexpected when they came upon this beaten and half-dead victim of robbery. This was an unplanned part of their journey and ministry opportunity.

4. Every possible combination of things that may befall the spiritually advancing believer is known by the omniscience of God. (Latin for all-knowing) [Essence of God: O,O,O, I,V, S, +R, L, EL, and H]

What actually meets him is the decreed part of the Plan of God (Gen.24:12; 50:19-21; Rom.4:21).

The spiritually advancing believer must **expect the unexpected** as seen again in the story of Ruth. (Ruth 1:22; 2:3-5; 4:22; Matt.1:5).