

CAST YOUR BREAD ON THE WATER

31/7/11

We don't know the details of our future outside of our salvation, but chance and uncertainty are ever before us. We are given simple scriptural instructions on how to act... no matter what is happening.

Section 1... The unpredictable nature of life.

We are to make the most of all situations... we are required to have a generous nature.

ECC 11:1 Cast thy **bread** upon the **waters**: for thou shalt find it after many days. *When the Nile River overflowed onto the flood plains it often did damage, but as it receded the seed was sown in the shallow floodwaters where it would be buried in silt and would spring up immediately after the floods cleared. An advantage was taken during a tribulation.*

2 Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth. *Share.*

3 If the clouds be full of rain, they empty *themselves* upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be. *Things happen because they happen.*

4 He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.

5 As thou knowest not what *is* the way of the spirit, *nor* how the bones *do grow* in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all. *Much of life remains a mystery.*

6 In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both *shall be* alike good. *Be positive every day.*

Section 2... The predictable nature of life.

Generosity to the poor will be blessed... particularly to the poor in Spirit.

DEU 15:7 If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother:

8 But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, *in that* which he wanteth.

9 Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and thine eye be evil against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the LORD against thee, and it be sin unto thee.

10 Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto.

11 For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.

12 *And* if thy brother, an Hebrew man, or an Hebrew woman, be sold unto thee, and serve thee six years; then in the seventh year thou shalt let him go free from thee.

13 And when thou sendest him out free from thee, thou shalt not let him go away empty:

14 Thou shalt furnish him liberally out of thy flock, and out of thy floor, and out of thy winepress: *of that* wherewith the LORD thy God hath blessed thee thou shalt give unto him.

Be generous with what God has given you.