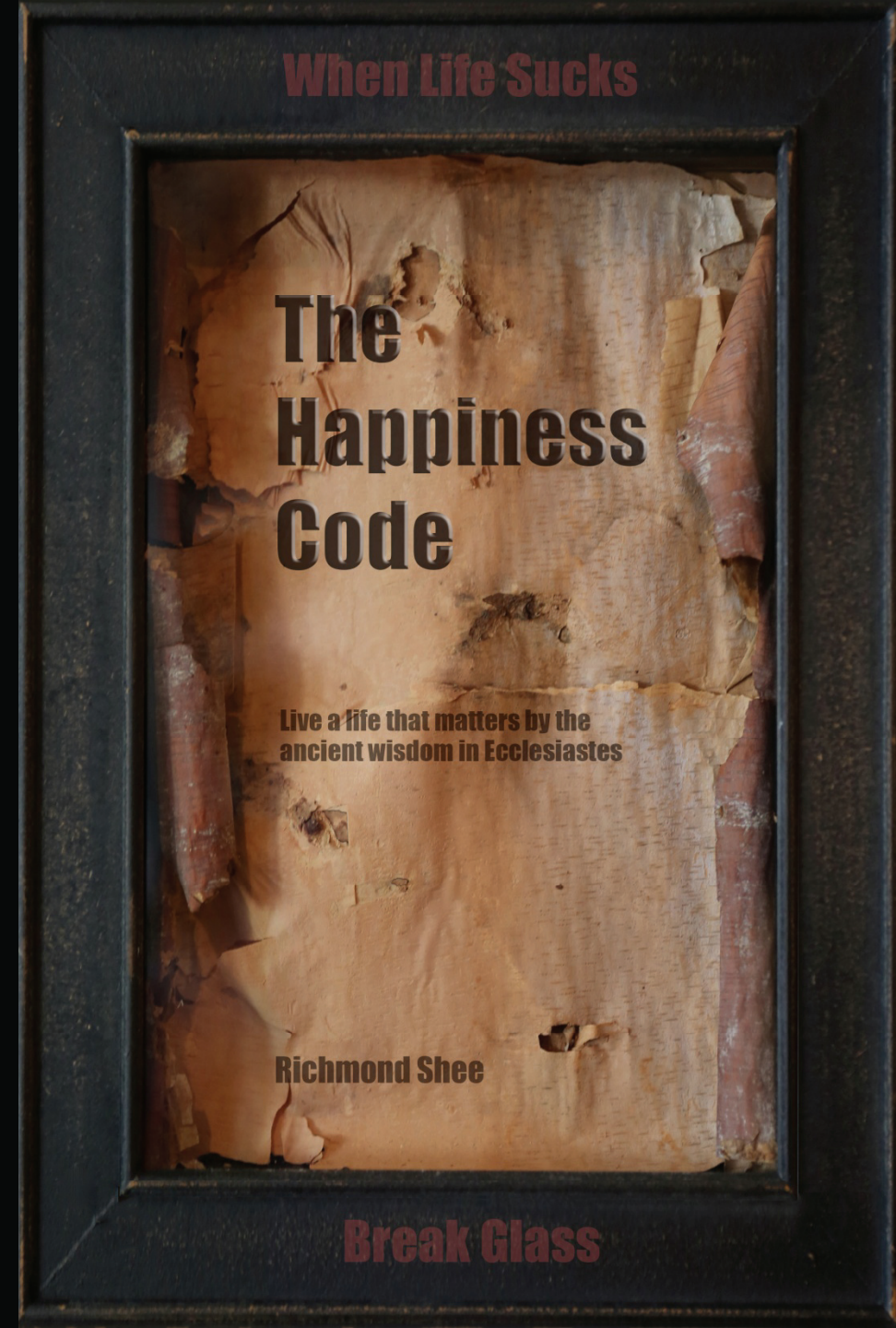


The Happiness Code

Week 14 – Living with Providence

Ecclesiastes 9:1-18

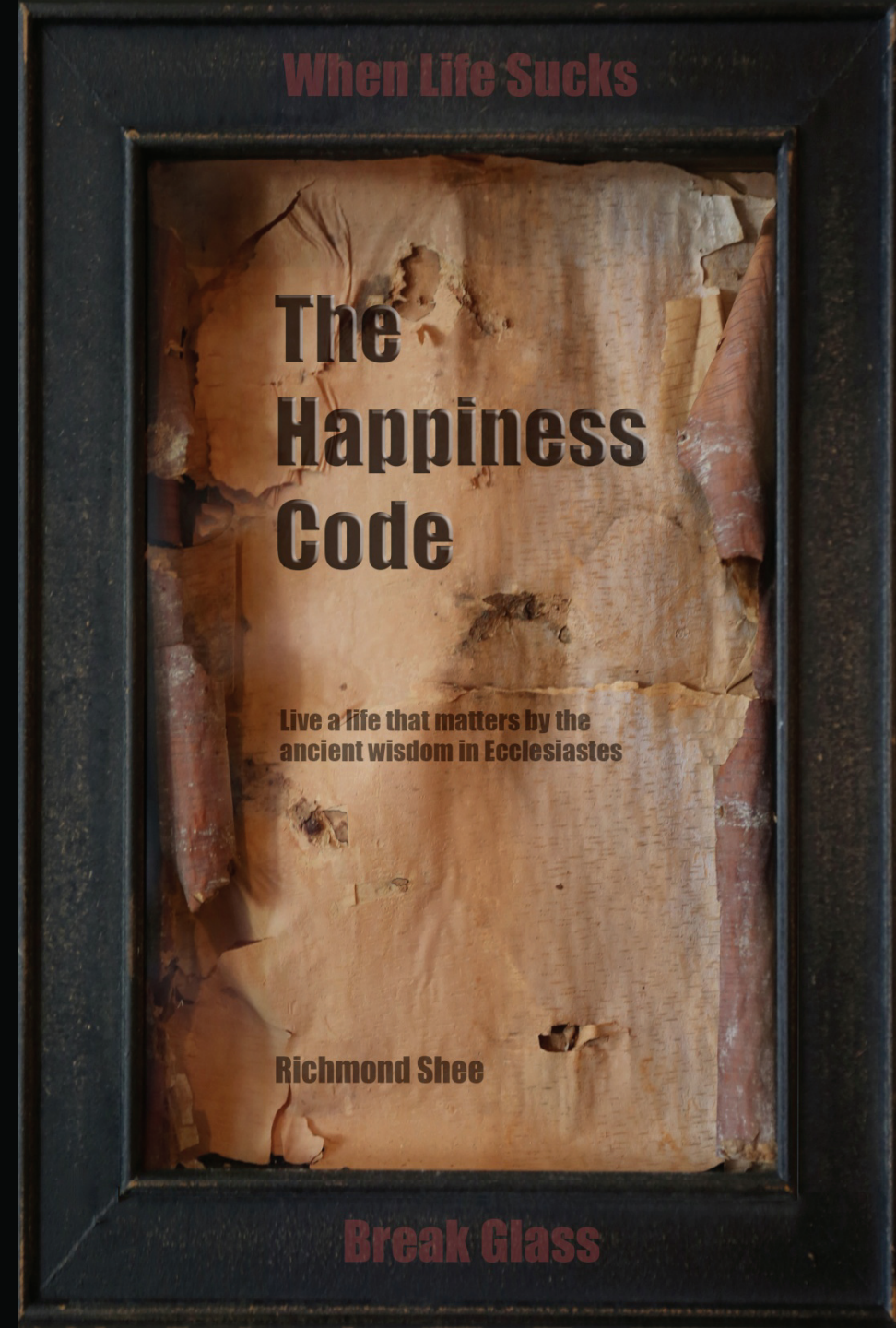


Week #14: Level Set

People are mad at God for the anomalies that are in this world.

Good things happen to bad people; bad things happen to good people; the ubiquitous oppressions and injustices; the prosperity and longevity of the wicked; the hardships of the righteous; just to name a few.

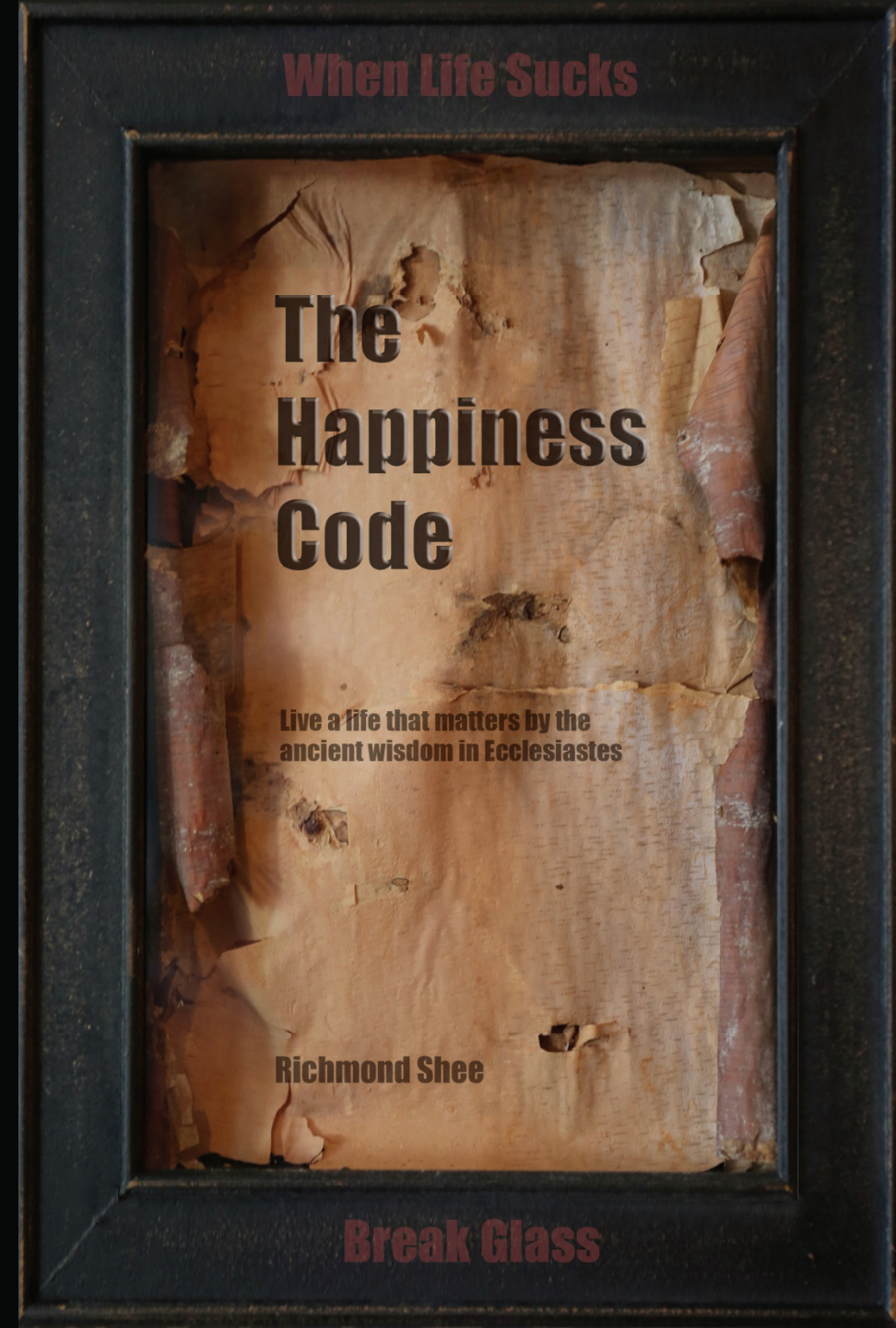
Who understands the logic of divine providence? How does one live with unsearchable and unpredictable providence and be happy?



Week #14: Level Set

Living with Providence

- Relax in God's hand – Ecc 9:1-6
- Reap spiritual reward and have fun along the way – Ecc 9:7-10
- Rest in God's will – Ecc 9:11-12
- Rule life with wisdom – Ecc 9:13-18



Ecc 9:1 For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God: no man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them. (2) All things come alike to all: there is one event to the righteous, and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean; to him that sacrificeth, and to him that sacrificeth not: as is the good, so is the sinner; and he that sweareth, as he that feareth an oath. (3) This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead.



5 Certainties:

1. The righteous and the wicked fare alike in this world.
2. Death happens to all.
3. The ungodly will live foolishly.
4. All who die in sin go to the dead.
5. God cares for the righteous.

Ecc 9:4 For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion. (5) For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. (6) Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.



In death, everything perishes:

1. End of the hearing of the blessed word of reconciliation.
2. End of all enjoyments.
3. End of memories.
4. End of affections and enmities.

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Ecc 9:7 Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works. (8) Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment. (9) Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun. (10) Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.



Seeing death is certain and the day of death is unknown, the righteous should diligently serve God, reap spiritual fruits, and have fun along the way.

1. Mind the way.
2. Mind the testimony.
3. Mind the unity of the brethren.
4. Mind the indispensable ministry partner.
5. Mind the kingdom business.

Ecc 9:11 I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all. (12) For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.



- Do not trust in human strength or wisdom, but rather to submit to God's will for the outcome of things.
- The work of providence is so arbitrary and unpredictable that people who cannot resolve it simply attribute it to "time and chance" or opportunistic luck.
- Let not the fastest, strongest, wisest, richest, and most skillful people be cocky, because they are just like fish and birds at the time of death.

Ecc 9:13 This wisdom have I seen also under the sun, and it seemed great unto me: (14) There was a little city, and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it: (15) Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered that same poor man. (16) Then said I, Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard. (17) The words of wise men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools. (18) Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good.



- The wisdom that delivers people from death and destruction of war.
- Little city with few people => Christians. Great king => devil. Poor wise man => Jesus Christ
- Poor man's wisdom despised by the world => Isaiah 53:3
- Wisdom is better than strength. Cannot rely on the flesh to fight a spiritual battle.
- One sinner destroys much good. Cannot have it both ways. Cannot expect God's protection and blessings and live like the world.

You have been illuminated to these truths:

Living with Providence

1. **Relax** in God's hand – Ecclesiastes 9:1-6.
2. **Reap** spiritual reward and have fun along the way – Ecclesiastes 9:7-10.
3. **Rest** in God's will – Ecclesiastes 9:11-12.
4. **Rule** life with wisdom – Ecclesiastes 9:13-18.

Notes:

- In this world, the righteous and the wicked fare alike, but it will not be the same in the world to come. This world is not our home.
- We remain here for the time being to replicate the works of our Lord.
John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.
- Rest assured that, *“the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God.”*
- Please submit your questions and feedback to TheHappinessCode@yahoo.com