***Becoming a People of Understanding – The Need for Understanding***

The scripture is what gives us the framework for reality.

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no-one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”  
Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIVUK

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He also has planted eternity in men's hearts and minds [a divinely implanted sense of a purpose working through the ages which nothing under the sun but God alone can satisfy], yet so that men cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.”  
Ecclesiastes 3:11 AMPC

What does, “He has planted eternity in men’s hearts and minds” mean?

Ecclesiastes states God has “set eternity in the human heart,” a God-given awareness that there is “something more” to this temporal world, awareness of eternity comes a hope that one day we will have a fulfillment not afforded by the “vanity” in this world.

Here is a closer look at the verse:

“In the human heart” means the mind, soul, and spirit. In Hebrew, eternity is “Olam,” also translated as “darkness,” “eternity”, and “future.” It may also mean ignorance when translated as “darkness” and as it is followed by the verse, “yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” Maybe Solomon is showing us the difference between human ignorance to God’s perfect wisdom.

Another view is that “Olam” is about God placing an eternal longing in man’s heart, created in His image and likeness, designed to communicate, and commune with God. This ability was warded off by sin and rebellion.

Now man operates apart from God. We have this knowing that there is more to life than what we physically see and experience in the here and now. We know we have a life richer and more beautiful than this.

Meditate on Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 & Isaiah 11.