

~~Romantic~~

~~Sorrow~~

Eccl. 9:11, “...*time and chance happen to them all...*”



~~Heroic~~

The Bible

Chance, coincidence vs. Free Will

- **Definition of terms:**
 - **Chance** – “*not **planned** or **expected**; accidental; an **unfortunate** event; mishap; the **absence** of any **cause** of events that can be predicted, understood, or controlled*”
 - **Coincidence** – “*a striking occurrence of two or more **events** at one time apparently by mere **chance**; accident, luck, **fate**”*

Chance, coincidence vs. Free Will

- **What does the Bible say?**
 - **Recognition of chance –**
 - **I Sam. 6:1-12** – A test to determine God's power or chance
 - **II Sam. 1:1-6** – Coincidence that this Amalekite happened upon Saul?
 - **Esther 4:14** – Coincidence that Esther just happened to be in the right place at the right time?

Chance, coincidence vs. Free Will

- **What does the Bible say?**
 - **What does Solomon mean?**
 - **Eccl. 9:1-12**
 - **Consider the context:**
 - **Context is death –v.5-8, 12; Heb. 9:27**
 - **Written from the perspective of man**
 - **Solomon's point is that death comes upon all. From man's vantage point, chance and coincidence occur, but not with God.**

Destiny, Fate, Chance, and Coincidence vs. Free Will

- **God allows us to make our own choices. God has not written our futures.**
 - **From our perspective, events may take place that are beyond our control and unexpected.**
 - **God's Will will be done, regardless of our decisions. He uses our choices to bring about what He wants – i.e. Providence**
 - **In the end, how we conduct ourselves and obey God's word will decide what our end will be.**