

# **The Teachings of Ecclesiastes**

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# **The Teachings of Ecclesiastes**

by Jonathan Cooper

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# Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper  
4/29/2024

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# Chapter 1

**Ecclesiastes 1:1:** "The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem."

- This was written by someone who called himself the Preacher.
- This was written by the son of David.
- This was written by someone who was the king of Jerusalem.
- This book was written by a king.
- The first person in the Bible to call himself a preacher was a king.
- One of David's sons became the king of Jerusalem.

**Ecclesiastes 1:2:** "Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity."

- All is vanity (empty and unsatisfying).
- The things of this world are empty and unsatisfying.
- If you're looking for satisfaction in this life in the things of this world, you won't find it.

**Ecclesiastes 1:3:** "What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?"

- The labor of mankind isn't satisfying.
- If you're looking for some kind of satisfaction in your work, you won't find it. It's not there to be found.

**Ecclesiastes 1:4:** "One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever."

- The earth abides forever.
- Generations come and go.
- The generation that's currently here will be gone at some point and replaced by a different generation.
- Each generation is transient. Generations don't last.
- Generations are a cycle. They come, they go, and they're replaced by the next one.
- The generational cycle isn't satisfying because generations don't last.
- Generations come and go, over and over again. This is empty and unsatisfying because it's the endless repetition of the same thing.
- Generations have a cycle.
- The fact that generations pass away and don't last is empty and unsatisfying.

**Ecclesiastes 1:5:** "The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose."

- The sun rises.
- The sun sets.
- After the sun sets, it rises again.
- The rising and setting of the sun is a cycle.
- The sun does what it did before, over again over again. This is empty and unsatisfying because it's the endless



repetition of the same thing.

- The sun has a cycle.

**Ecclesiastes 1:6:** "The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits."

- The wind goes to the south.
- The wind goes to the north.
- The wind travels in a cycle.
- The wind does what it did before, over and over again. This is empty and unsatisfying because it's the endless repetition of the same thing.

**Ecclesiastes 1:7:** "All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again."

- The rivers run into the sea.
- The sea doesn't fill up.
- The water in the rivers travels to the sea and then back to the rivers.
- The water in rivers travels in a cycle.
- The water does what it did before, over and over again. This is empty and unsatisfying because it's the endless repetition of the same thing.

**Ecclesiastes 1:8:** "All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled

with hearing."

- The whole world is full of work.
- There's so much work to do that people can't even express it. The amount of work to do is infinite.
- There's no way to even list all the work that needs to be done, much less accomplish it.
- No matter how much work is done, there will always be an infinite amount of work left to do.
- Trying to get work done is unsatisfying because there will always be an infinite amount of work left to do.
- The eye is never satisfied.
- The ear is never satisfied.
- People use their eyes to see.
- People use their ears to hear.
- There's no way to be satisfied with seeing things. The eyes will always want more.
- There's no way to be satisfied with hearing things. The ears will always want more.
- Our desires can't be satisfied. The more we give in to them, the more they will grow. They will always want more.
- Trying to satisfy our desires is an impossible task.

**Ecclesiastes 1:9:** "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun."

- Whatever has been will be.

- The things which were done before will be done again.
- There's nothing new in the world.
- Life in this world is unsatisfying because history repeats itself in an endless cycle. The sort of things that people did in the past will be done again. It's the endless repetition of the same thing, with no progress or change. This is empty and unsatisfying.

**Ecclesiastes 1:10:** "Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us."

- There's nothing truly new.
- The things which seem to be new were done in the times which were before us.
- People may think that things are new, but that's just because of their ignorance of history.
- Life is unsatisfying, because all that people ever do are the same sort of things that were done before, in an endless cycle. This is empty and unsatisfying.
- If you're looking for something new, you will fail. There's nothing truly new. If you believe that it's new then you don't know your history.

**Ecclesiastes 1:11:** "There is no remembrance of former things; neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come with those that shall come after."

- People don't remember the things that came before. They don't remember history.

- The things that will happen in the future won't be remembered by those who come after that.
- The things that are being done now will be forgotten. People won't remember them.
- The things that will be done after we're gone will also be forgotten. The generations that come after won't remember things either.
- The things that are built by this generation will be forgotten. Those who will come in the future won't remember them.
- The things that are built by the next generation will also be forgotten.
- Doing things in life is unsatisfying and empty because the things that we do won't be remembered. All will be forgotten in time.
- If your goal is to build something that will be remembered, you will fail. Generations don't remember history.
- In the end, you will be forgotten. This is empty and unsatisfying.
- In the end, the things you've built and accomplished will be forgotten. This is empty and unsatisfying.
- The fact that nothing is remembered is empty and unsatisfying.

**Ecclesiastes 1:12:** "I the Preacher was king over Israel in Jerusalem."

- This book was written by someone who called himself the Preacher.

- This book was written by a king.
- The preacher was the king of Israel.
- The preacher reigned from Jerusalem.
- Jerusalem was in Israel.

**Ecclesiastes 1:13:** "And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith."

- The author of this book dedicated himself to using wisdom to understand everything that's done in the world. He wanted to understand life.
- This life is sore travail. It's painful, empty, and unsatisfying.
- The reason life is painful, empty, and unsatisfying is because God made it that way. That is a curse that He has placed upon mankind.
- It's our lot in life to live in an unsatisfying world, to do unsatisfying things, and to live an unsatisfying life. That's how things are.
- It's the will of God for the things of this world to be empty and unsatisfying. This is from the hand of God.

**Ecclesiastes 1:14:** "I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit."

- The author of this book has seen everything that's done in this life.
- All of the things of this world are vanity and vexation.

They are unsatisfying and frustrating.

- If you're looking for something in this world that's satisfying, you won't find it.
- You can't find satisfaction in this world.
- If you're looking for something in this world that's not frustrating, you won't find it.
- The things of this world frustrate the spirit.
- The spirit can be frustrated.

**Ecclesiastes 1:15:** "That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered."

- The things in this world that are crooked can't be made straight.
- The problems that exist in this world can't be fixed.
- There are so many problems in this world that they can't even be listed. The number of problems is infinite.
- This world has an infinite number of problems, and none of them can be solved.
- If you think that you can fix this world, you're greatly mistaken. It's unfixable.

**Ecclesiastes 1:16:** "I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all they that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge."

- The author of this book was extremely wealthy.
- The author of this book (a son of David) was wiser than

anyone who came before him. (This points to Solomon as its author, because he's the only king of Jerusalem who could make that claim.)

- The author of this book was extremely wise.
- This is a book of wisdom, written by someone who was wise. It's not a book of foolishness, stupidity, or wickedness.
- The author of this book had great experience in wisdom.
- The author of this book had great experience in knowledge.
- The author of this book was very knowledgeable.
- This is the book that the wisest king of Jerusalem chose to write. This is his wisdom.

**Ecclesiastes 1:17:** "And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit."

- The author of this book dedicated himself to seeking wisdom.
- The author of this book dedicated himself to understanding madness.
- The author of this book dedicated himself to understanding folly.
- Seeking wisdom is frustrating.
- Trying to understand madness is frustrating.
- Trying to understand folly is frustrating.
- If you seek after wisdom you shouldn't be surprised if you

become frustrated.

- If you try to understand madness you shouldn't be surprised if you become frustrated.
- If you try to understand foolishness you shouldn't be surprised if you become frustrated.

**Ecclesiastes 1:18:** "For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow."

- Gaining much wisdom brings grief.
- Those who increase their knowledge also increase their sorrow.
- Don't be surprised if gaining wisdom actually brings grief to your life. That is expected.
- Don't be surprised if gaining knowledge actually brings sorrow to your life. That is expected.
- There's a cost to gaining wisdom.
- There's a cost to gaining knowledge.

## Chapter 2

**Ecclesiastes 2:1:** "I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity."

- The author of this book dedicated himself to mirth to see if it had value.
- The author of this book dedicated himself to pleasure to see if it had value.



- Mirth is vanity. It's empty and unsatisfying.
- Pleasure is vanity. It's empty and unsatisfying.

**Ecclesiastes 2:2:** "I said of laughter, It is mad: and of mirth, What doeth it?"

- Laughter is mad (crazy).
- Mirth is useless. It accomplishes nothing.

**Ecclesiastes 2:3:** "I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life."

- The author of this book dedicated himself to wine to see if it had value.
- When the author drank wine, he kept his wisdom. He didn't seek to get lost in wine.
- The author of this book dedicated himself to foolishness to see if it had value.
- The author of this book wanted to understand what things were good for people to spend their time on. He was looking for something that was satisfying, that had value, and that wasn't empty or meaningless.

**Ecclesiastes 2:4:** "I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards:"

- The author of this book did great works.

- The author of this book built houses for himself.
- The author of this book planted vineyards for himself.
- The author of this book looked for meaning in life by making great works.
- The author of this book looked for meaning in life by building houses for himself.
- The author of this book looked for meaning in life by planting vineyards for himself.

**Ecclesiastes 2:5:** "I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits:"

- The author of this book planted gardens.
- The author of this book planted orchards.
- The author of this book planted many different kinds of fruit-bearing trees.
- The author of this book looked for meaning in life by gardening.
- The author of this book looked for meaning in life by planting fruit trees.

**Ecclesiastes 2:6:** "I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees:"

- The author of this book created pools of water.
- The author of this book created an irrigation system for his fruit trees.
- The author of this book looked for meaning in life by creating an irrigation system and taking care of his fruit

trees.

**Ecclesiastes 2:7:** "I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me:"

- The author of this book had male servants.
- The author of this book had female servants.
- The author of this book had servants born in his house.
- The author of this book had an enormous amount of cattle (both large cattle and small cattle).
- The author of this book had more cattle than anyone who lived in Jerusalem before him. (This points to Solomon as the author of this book.)
- The author of this book looked for meaning in life by having a lot of servants.
- The author of this book looked for meaning in life by having a lot of cattle.

**Ecclesiastes 2:8:** "I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts."

- The author of this book gathered silver.
- The author of this book gathered gold.
- The author of this book gathered treasure.
- The author of this book had male singers who worked for him.

- The author of this book had female singers who worked for him.
- The author of this book had all sorts of musical instruments.
- The author of this book looked for meaning in life by having great riches.
- The author of this book looked for meaning in life in music.

**Ecclesiastes 2:9:** "So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me."

- The author of this book was a great man of his time.
- The author of this book had more wealth than anyone who had come before him in Jerusalem. (This points to Solomon as the author of this book.)
- The author of this book retained his wisdom in all that he did.
- This book was written by an extremely wealthy person.
- This book was written by an extremely wise person.

**Ecclesiastes 2:10:** "And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour."

- The author of this book didn't deny himself anything that he wanted.
- The author of this book had the ability to get anything

that he wanted.

- The author's heart rejoiced in all of his labor.
- The reward that the author received for his labor was the joy that he got from doing that labor.
- There's joy to be found in labor.

**Ecclesiastes 2:11:** "Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun."

- The author looked over all the things he had created and saw that all of it was empty and frustrating.
- There was no profit to anything the author had done.
- There was no profit to the author's houses, or vineyards, or gardens, or orchards. There was no profit to wealth or servants. There was no profit to having silver or gold or treasure. There was no profit to having music. There was no profit to getting everything that he desired. In the end, all of it was empty and unsatisfying.
- Everything that the author did, built, worked on, and gathered was in the end empty and unsatisfying.
- The author had everything that the world had to offer, and all of it was empty and unsatisfying.

**Ecclesiastes 2:12:** "And I turned myself to behold wisdom, and madness, and folly: for what can the man do that cometh after the king? even that which hath been already done."

- The author looked over all the things he had created, and

saw wisdom.

- The author looked over all the things he had created, and saw madness.
- The author looked over all the things he had created, and saw foolishness.
- The only thing that the author's descendants could do were the same things that he had done during his reign. There was nothing new that could be done.
- Everything was an endless cycle. The things he had done, his children would do. It was just the same thing over and over again. Instead of accomplishing something, the same things would be done. This was empty and unsatisfying.
- All we can do are the same sort of things that were done by those who came before us. This is empty and unsatisfying. Instead of making progress we're going in a cycle.

**Ecclesiastes 2:13:** "Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness."

- Wisdom is better than folly.
- Light is better than darkness.
- We should pursue wisdom.
- We should pursue light.
- Wisdom is good.
- Folly is bad.
- Light is good.
- Darkness is bad.

**Ecclesiastes 2:14:** "The wise man's eyes are in his head; but the fool walketh in darkness: and I myself perceived also that one event happeneth to them all."

- Those who are wise can see.
- Those who are foolish are blind.
- It's good to be wise.
- It's bad to be foolish.
- Although it's better to be wise than foolish, everyone dies. The wise die and fools die.

**Ecclesiastes 2:15:** "Then said I in my heart, As it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth even to me; and why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart, that this also is vanity."

- The author realized that one day he would die, just as fools die. Even though the author was very wise, he was still going to die one day.
- Being wise doesn't save us from death.
- Wisdom is better than folly, but in the end wisdom can't save us. Those who are wise will one day die, just like everyone else.

**Ecclesiastes 2:16:** "For there is no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now is in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise man? as the fool."

- Those who are wise aren't remembered.
- Those who are foolish aren't remembered.

- In the days to come, everything will be forgotten.
- Wisdom is unsatisfying because the wise aren't remembered.
- Those who are foolish will one day die.
- Those who are wise will one day die.
- Death comes for both the wise and the fool. Your wisdom won't save you from death.

**Ecclesiastes 2:17:** "Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit."

- The author of this book hated life.
- The reason the author hated life was because all the works of mankind were grievous to him.
- The reason the works of mankind were grievous was because everything was empty and frustrating. It was all an endless cycle that repeated over and over, with people doing the same thing as what had been done before. Nothing was accomplished and it was all endless repetition. Instead of making progress it was the same thing over and over again.
- The author had everything that this world had to offer, and when he looked at it closely he realized it was all empty and meaningless. Therefore he hated life, because all the things this world had to offer were meaningless.
- The things of this world can't bring meaning to your life.
- The things of this world can't satisfy you.
- Wisdom can't bring meaning to your life.



- Wisdom can't satisfy you. (Only Christ can do that.)

**Ecclesiastes 2:18:** "Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me."

- The author of this book hated the labor he had done.
- The reason the author hated his labor was because one day he would be forced to leave it to those who came after him.
- The author didn't want to leave his work to others.
- The author wanted to keep his labor. He hated the fact that one day he would lose all of it.
- The fact that we lose our possessions at the end of our life is frustrating.
- The fact that we can't keep the things we've labored for is frustrating.
- One of the things that make our labor frustrating is the fact that we can't keep our possessions. One day we will lose all of them.
- Having possessions that we can't keep is frustrating.
- When we labor for the things of this world, we're laboring for things that we can't keep and which one day we will have taken from us.
- The thing that makes life immensely frustrating, empty, and vain is death. The root of the problem is death.

**Ecclesiastes 2:19:** "And who knoweth whether he shall be a wise man or a fool? yet shall he have rule over all my labour

wherein I have laboured, and wherein I have shewed myself wise under the sun. This is also vanity."

- The author's son might be wise.
- The author's son might be a fool.
- There was no way to tell what sort of person the author's son would become.
- No matter what sort of person the author's son was going to become, he was still going to rule over the kingdom. Everything the author had done would be given to him, and the son would do with it whatever he pleased. This was true even if the son proved to be a fool.
- The author hated the fact that he might have to give his kingdom to someone who was a fool.
- The author was wise, and used his wisdom to build his kingdom. His son might be a fool, and yet he would receive the kingdom all the same.
- It's frustrating and unsatisfying that one day our possessions will be taken from us and given to someone who may be a fool.
- The author didn't have confidence that his children would be wise.

**Ecclesiastes 2:20:** "Therefore I went about to cause my heart to despair of all the labour which I took under the sun."

- When the author realized all these things he was filled with despair.
- The author was no longer happy with what he had built. Instead he looked upon it with despair.

- The author realized that building things in this world was frustrating and unsatisfying.

**Ecclesiastes 2:21:** "For there is a man whose labour is in wisdom, and in knowledge, and in equity; yet to a man that hath not laboured therein shall he leave it for his portion. This also is vanity and a great evil."

- The author was wise.
- The author had knowledge.
- The author was just.
- The things the author built were built with wisdom, knowledge, and justice.
- One day the author would be forced to leave everything he had built to someone else, who had done nothing to help build it.
- It's fundamentally empty, unsatisfying, and frustrating to spend our lives building something with wisdom, and then have to leave it to someone else who did nothing to build it.
- It's an evil thing to build something and then be forced to give it to someone else who did nothing to build it.
- Building things is unsatisfying because we can't keep anything we've built. One day we will lose all of it, and it will be given to others.

**Ecclesiastes 2:22:** "For what hath man of all his labour, and of the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath laboured under the sun?"

- People labor under the sun with difficulty and pain. Yet in the end they won't be able to keep what they've built, because they will die and it will be given to others. In the end they will have nothing under the sun, in spite of all their painful work.
- In the end we have no portion under the sun, no matter how much work we did or wealth we gathered. In the end it will all be lost when we die.
- Labor is frustrating. It's difficult and hard.
- You can't find meaning in life in your work, because in the end you'll lose everything you worked so hard to obtain.

**Ecclesiastes 2:23:** "For all his days are sorrows, and his travail grief; yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night. This is also vanity."

- The days of those who labor are filled with sorrow.
- The work that we do is filled with grief.
- There are those whose days are filled with sorrow, but they can't rest at night.
- It's vain to have days filled with sorrow and grief. In the end all that sorrow and grief won't help.
- It's vain to lose sleep at night. In the end those sleepless nights won't accomplish anything.

**Ecclesiastes 2:24:** "There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God."

- The best thing we can do in this life is to eat and drink with joy, and enjoy the fruits of our labor.
- The portion that God has given us in this life is this: we can enjoy the fruits of our labor for a time, and take joy in it. That's our portion.
- It's not wrong to enjoy the fruits of our labor. That's the portion God has given us in this life.
- It's not wrong to eat with joy and drink with joy.
- It's possible for our soul to enjoy the fruits of our labor.
- It's possible for souls to enjoy things.

**Ecclesiastes 2:25:** "For who can eat, or who else can hasten hereunto, more than I?"

- It seems that the author ate more, and enjoyed more food, than anyone else.
- It seems that the author did more than anyone else.
- The author didn't lack food. He had all that his heart could desire.

**Ecclesiastes 2:26:** "For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit."

- God gives wisdom to those who are good in His sight.
- God gives knowledge to those who are good in His sight.
- God gives joy to those who are good in His sight.

- Wisdom is a gift from God.
- Knowledge is a gift from God.
- Joy is a gift from God.
- God gives pain and suffering to sinners.
- God has sinners work hard and gather up wealth so that it can be given to those who please Him.
- God treats the righteous differently than He treats the wicked.
- In the end God will give the wealth of the wicked to the righteous.
- There are some who are good in the sight of God.
- God doesn't give wisdom to the wicked.
- God doesn't give knowledge to the wicked.
- God doesn't give joy to the wicked.
- The life of the sinner is empty and unsatisfying. They work, but in the end their labor will be taken from them by God and given to others.
- Everything that a sinner does is empty and unsatisfying because God won't give them wisdom, nor will He allow them to keep their works.

## Chapter 3

**Ecclesiastes 3:1:** "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:"

- There's a season for everything.

- There's a time for every purpose.
- Purposes have seasons.
- There are different seasons in life.
- There are different seasons.
- There are different purposes.
- There's more than one season.
- There's more than one purpose.

**Ecclesiastes 3:2:** "A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;"

- There's a time to be born.
- Being born is part of life.
- There's a time to die.
- Dying is part of life.
- There's a time to plant things.
- Planting things is part of life.
- There's a time to uproot things that were planted.
- Uprooting things is part of life.
- Life doesn't consist of only planting things. There's also a season for uprooting things.
- Change is part of life. Life isn't static. There are different seasons in life.
- It's not always wrong to uproot things. Sometimes that's the right thing to do.

**Ecclesiastes 3:3:** "A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;"

- There's a time to kill.
- There's a time to heal.
- There's a time to break things down.
- There's a time to build things up.
- There are times when killing is part of life. (For example, times of war.)
- There are times when healing is part of life.
- There are times when things need to be broken down.
- There are times when things need to be built up.
- There's a season to break things down. That's part of life as well.
- It's not always a time of peace. There are times of war.
- It's not always wrong to kill. Sometimes that's necessary (such as in times of war).
- It's not always wrong to break things down. Sometimes that's necessary.

**Ecclesiastes 3:4:** "A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;"

- There's a time to weep.
- Weeping is part of life.
- There's a time to laugh.
- Laughing is part of life.
- There's a time to mourn.



- Mourning is part of life.
- There's a time to dance.
- Dancing is part of life.
- Life isn't only joy. There are also moments of sorrow.
- Dancing isn't a sin.

**Ecclesiastes 3:5:** "A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;"

- There's a time to cast things away.
- There's a time to gather things.
- There's a time to embrace others.
- There's a time to avoid embracing others.
- Sometimes casting things away is the right thing to do.
- It's not always time to gather. Sometimes things must be cast away.
- It's not always time to embrace others. Sometimes it's appropriate to refrain from that.

**Ecclesiastes 3:6:** "A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;"

- There's a time to gain things.
- There's a time to lose things.
- There's a time to keep things.
- There's a time to throw away things.

- Life isn't only about gaining things. There are also seasons of loss.
- Life isn't only about keep things. There are also times to throw things away.

**Ecclesiastes 3:7:** "A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;"

- There's a time to tear things apart.
- There's a time to put things back together.
- There's a time to remain silent.
- There's a time to speak.
- It's not always right to speak. There are also times when we should remain silent.
- Life isn't only about putting things together. There are times when things must be torn apart.
- It's not always wrong to tear things apart. Sometimes that's necessary.

**Ecclesiastes 3:8:** "A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace."

- There's a time for love.
- There's a time for hate.
- There's a time for war.
- There's a time for peace.
- Life isn't only about loving. There are also times for hate (such as hating that which is evil).

- It's not always time for peace. There's also a time for war.
- It's not always wrong to hate. There's a time and a place for that.
- It's not always wrong to wage war. There's a time when that's necessary.

**Ecclesiastes 3:9:** "What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?"

- There's no lasting profit in our labor. (This can be seen from the fact that we labor for things that are temporary and will one day be lost.)
- People labor, but they don't labor for any lasting profit.

**Ecclesiastes 3:10:** "I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it."

- The author of this book calls our lives travail. Our lives are full of suffering and pain, and are frustrating and unsatisfying.
- God is the one who has filled our lives with pain and frustration.
- The reason life is painful, hard, frustrating, and unsatisfying is because that's how God made it.

**Ecclesiastes 3:11:** "He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end."

- God has made everything beautiful in His time.

- In the end everything will be made beautiful.
- God will do things in His time.
- It's impossible to find out what God is doing in this world. He's hidden it from us and it can't be known.
- We can't find out the work of God from beginning to end.
- God is doing things that we don't realize.
- God hasn't shared everything with us.
- God hasn't told us everything that He's doing.
- God is at work.
- God is at work in this world.
- God is carrying out His plan in this world.
- The reason we can't find out what God is doing is because He has put the world in our heart.

**Ecclesiastes 3:12:** "I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life."

- We should rejoice.
- We should do good.
- It's right and proper for us to rejoice.
- It's right and proper for us to do good.
- In spite of how frustrating and unsatisfying life is, we must still rejoice.
- In spite of how frustrating and unsatisfying life is, we must still do good.
- Even though all is vanity, our response to life must be to rejoice and do good.

- Our response to this life must not be despair and hopelessness. Instead it must be to rejoice.
- Our response to this life must not be to give up and live in sin. Instead it must be to do good.
- The author of this book doesn't believe that the vanity of this life give us an excuse to sin or despair. Instead we must seek to do good.

**Ecclesiastes 3:13:** "And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God."

- We should eat.
- We should drink.
- We should enjoy the fruits of our labor.
- Eating is a gift from God.
- Drinking is a gift from God.
- The ability to enjoy the fruits of our labor is a gift from God.
- It's entirely right, proper, and good for us to enjoy the fruits of our labor. That's a gift from God and is how it should be.
- It's not wrong to eat and drink.
- It's not wrong to enjoy the fruits of our labor.
- We don't need to feel guilty about enjoying the fruits of our labor. That's not a sin.
- There are things in this life that God wants us to enjoy.
- There are things in this life that God has given us to enjoy.

**Ecclesiastes 3:14:** "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him."

- Everything that God does is forever.
- The things that God does can't be added to.
- The things that God does can't be taken away from.
- God can't be defeated.
- The things that God does are done so that people would fear Him.
- We must fear God.
- God wants us to fear Him.
- It's right and appropriate and good for us to fear God.

**Ecclesiastes 3:15:** "That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past."

- The things that were in the past are here now.
- The things that will be in the future have already been in the past.
- There's a cycle to things. The things that are going on now are the same sort of things that were done in the past. The things that will exist in the future are also the same sort of things that were done in the past.
- The things that are going on now aren't new. They also happened in the past.
- The things that will happen in the future aren't new. They also happened in the past.

- God will bring into judgment things that were done in the past.

**Ecclesiastes 3:16:** "And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there; and the place of righteousness, that iniquity was there."

- The author saw wickedness in the place of judgment.
- There shouldn't be wickedness in the place of judgment.
- There's a place of judgment.
- There are times when the place of judgment isn't a place of righteousness, but is a place of wickedness and evil.
- The author saw iniquity in the place of righteousness.
- There shouldn't be iniquity in the place of righteousness.
- There are times when there's sin in places where there should be righteousness instead.

**Ecclesiastes 3:17:** "I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work."

- God will judge the righteous.
- God will judge the wicked.
- The righteous will be judged.
- The wicked will be judged.
- None of the wicked will escape judgment. All of them will be judged.
- There's a time for every purpose. That includes a time of judgment.

- The time of judgment won't be missed or skipped.
- One day the wicked will be judged.
- One day the righteous will be judged.

**Ecclesiastes 3:18:** "I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts."

- God seeks to humble mankind.
- God wants mankind to understand that in some ways we're like animals.
- God doesn't want mankind to be proud.
- There are some ways in which mankind is like animals.
- God cares about the way we see ourselves. He doesn't want us to be proud.

**Ecclesiastes 3:19:** "For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity."

- The way in which we're like animals is because just as animals die, so we will die as well.
- Animals die.
- People die.
- The type of life that people have is the same type of life that animals have. People aren't "more alive" than animals, nor are animals just biological machines. Animals are as alive as we are.



- The author doesn't put a difference between the type of life that exists in a person, and the type of life that exists in an animal. Instead he says that we're both alive in the same way, and we will both die as well.
- Animals aren't "less alive" than people.
- The breath of life that exists in people is the same breath of life that exists in animals.
- People aren't superior to animals in the way that we're alive.

**Ecclesiastes 3:20:** "All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again."

- God created people from the dust of the ground.
- God created animals from the dust of the ground.
- When people die they return to dust.
- When animals die they return to dust.
- The way in which we're like animals is that we were both created from the dust, and we will both return to dust when we die.

**Ecclesiastes 3:21:** "Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?"

- People have a spirit that lives on after death.
- Animals have a spirit that lives on after death.
- People aren't just flesh. They also have a spirit.
- Animals aren't just flesh. They also have a spirit.

- When people die, their spirit goes upward.
- When animals die, their spirit goes downward.
- What happens to the spirit of people when they die is different from what happens to the spirit of animals when they die.
- The knowledge that we're like animals in some ways is intended to humble us.

**Ecclesiastes 3:22:** "Wherefore I perceive that there is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion: for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?"

- We should rejoice in our labor.
- Our portion in this life (our reward) is to rejoice in what we've done and enjoy the fruits of our labor. That's the gift God has given us.
- It's impossible for us to know what will happen after we're gone. All we can do is rejoice in what we have now.
- It's good to rejoice in our labor.
- It's not wrong to rejoice in our labor.

## Chapter 4

**Ecclesiastes 4:1:** "So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power; but they had no comforter."

- There's much oppression going on in the world.
- Some people in this world are being oppressed.
- Some people in this world are oppressing others.
- Those who are being oppressed are shedding tears. They're miserable.
- Those who are oppressing others have power.
- Those who are being oppressed don't have anyone to comfort them.
- It's a terrible thing to be oppressed.
- It's a terrible thing to oppress others.
- In order to oppress other people you need some type of power over them.
- It's a terrible thing when there's no one to comfort those who are oppressed.

**Ecclesiastes 4:2:** "Wherefore I praised the dead which are already dead more than the living which are yet alive."

- Since there's much oppression in this world, it's better to be dead than alive. (This is because those who are dead aren't being oppressed, which means the righteous dead have it easier than those who are alive.)
- For those who are being oppressed, life in this world is so terrible that it would be better to be dead.
- The author of this book praised the dead.
- For those who are being oppressed, life in this world is a curse.
- Sometimes it's better to be dead than alive.

- Being alive can be a curse.
- Oppression makes life not worth living.
- Those who use their power to oppress others make their lives not worth living.
- Even though the author praised the dead and said it was better to be dead than alive, he never hinted that suicide was an option.

**Ecclesiastes 4:3:** "Yea, better is he than both they, which hath not yet been, who hath not seen the evil work that is done under the sun."

- Since there's so much oppression in this world, those who are best off are those who haven't been born. This is because those people have never been oppressed.
- It's better to be dead than alive, but what's even better are those who haven't been born.
- Those who haven't been born haven't been oppressed by oppressors.
- Those who haven't been born haven't seen the evil in the world.
- Those who haven't been born haven't experienced the evil in the world.
- There's much evil in this world.
- It's a bad thing to see the evil in the world.
- It's a bad thing to experience the evil in the world.

**Ecclesiastes 4:4:** "Again, I considered all travail, and every right work, that for this a man is envied of his neighbour. This

is also vanity and vexation of spirit."

- The author considered the work that's done under the sun.
- The author considered all the good deeds that are done under the sun.
- There are those who envy their neighbors.
- Some people envy their neighbors.
- Envy is empty and unsatisfying.
- Envy frustrates the spirit.
- The spirit can be frustrated.

**Ecclesiastes 4:5:** "The fool foldeth his hands together, and eateth his own flesh."

- Fools destroy themselves.

**Ecclesiastes 4:6:** "Better is an handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit."

- It's better to have only a little but have a peaceful life, than to have much but live a life that's full of suffering and frustration.
- What matters isn't how much you have, but the quality of your life.
- Having great wealth isn't worth it if it fills your life with pain and frustration.
- Great wealth isn't an end in itself.
- There may be times when great wealth isn't worth the

problems that it brings into your life.

**Ecclesiastes 4:7:** "Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun."

- The author saw that there were things done in this world that were meaningless and empty.

**Ecclesiastes 4:8:** "There is one alone, and there is not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother: yet is there no end of all his labour; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither saith he, For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good? This is also vanity, yea, it is a sore travail."

- If a person is alone in life, it doesn't make sense for him to work endless hours in order to gain wealth. This is because his wealth doesn't help him (because he's too busy working to enjoy it), and it doesn't help anyone else because there's no one else in his life.
- If we spend many hours working, we need to make sure that our income is going to benefit someone. If it benefits no one then the work is pointless.
- It doesn't make sense to work a lot of hours if our labor doesn't benefit anyone.
- We need to think about what we're doing with our lives, and not work more than makes sense.
- It doesn't make sense to accumulate riches if there's no one to enjoy them.
- It's empty and unsatisfying to accumulate wealth that no one enjoys.
- It's empty and unsatisfying to make our lives difficult

through work if no one reaps the benefits of our labor.

- There may be times when it makes sense to work fewer hours so that we can enjoy the fruit of our labors.

**Ecclesiastes 4:9:** "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour."

- It's better for a person to not be alone.
- It's not good for a person to go through life alone.
- Two people working together have a good reward for their labor.

**Ecclesiastes 4:10:** "For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up."

- If two people are together and one of them fall, the other person will help him up.
- It's good to have someone help you when you fall.
- It's good to help others when they fall.
- If a person is alone and falls, there's no one to help him up.
- It's a bad thing to be alone.
- It's a bad thing to not have anyone to help you up when you fall.

**Ecclesiastes 4:11:** "Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?"

- If two people lie in a bed together then they can keep

each other warm.

- If one person lies alone then there's no one to keep him warm.
- It's harder to get through difficult times alone, without anyone's help.

**Ecclesiastes 4:12:** "And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken."

- If an enemy comes against someone, that enemy can be withstood if the person has someone to help him fight.
- It's harder to defeat two people than it is just one person.
- It's even harder to defeat three people.
- If you have more people to help you then you can withstand stronger attacks.

**Ecclesiastes 4:13:** "Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished."

- It's better to be a poor and wise child than an old and foolish king.
- It's better to be poor and wise than rich and foolish.
- It's better to be young and wise than old and foolish.
- It's better to be a wise child than a foolish king.
- It's not good to be a person who will no longer listen to rebuke.

**Ecclesiastes 4:14:** "For out of prison he cometh to reign; whereas also he that is born in his kingdom becometh poor."



- Those who start life as a prisoner but then become king are better off than those who are born into their kingdom.
- Those who are born into the kingdom become poor.
- It's better to start out poor and then become rich, than to start out rich and then become poor.
- Those who are born into the kingdom are at a disadvantage.
- It's bad to start out life rich and then become poor.
- There are some who begin life in prison and then become king.

**Ecclesiastes 4:15:** "I considered all the living which walk under the sun, with the second child that shall stand up in his stead."

- The author considered those who were alive in this world.
- The author considered those who would rise up and replace the current rulers of this world.

**Ecclesiastes 4:16:** "There is no end of all the people, even of all that have been before them: they also that come after shall not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and vexation of spirit."

- There were many people who came before the current king.
- Those who come after the king won't rejoice in the current king.
- The current king is just one person in a long line of

people. There were people before him, and there will people who come after him. The people who come after him won't care about him.

- The current king is one in a long cycle. This is empty and unsatisfying.

## Chapter 5

**Ecclesiastes 5:1:** "Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil."

- When you enter into the house of the Lord, be careful.
- When you enter into the house of the Lord, be ready to listen instead of to give offerings.
- It's important to listen when we enter into the house of the Lord.
- There are some who enter into the house of the Lord and give offerings, but those offerings are a sin. We must be careful to avoid that.
- Entering into the house of the Lord is a serious thing.
- There are some who sin in the house of the Lord.
- We must be careful not to sin in the house of the Lord.
- The way to avoid sinning in the house of the Lord is to listen.
- It's a bad thing to not give any thought to what you're doing in the house of the Lord.
- There are some people who are careless in the house of the Lord and sin, because they don't listen and don't

consider what they're doing.

**Ecclesiastes 5:2:** "Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few."

- When you enter into the house of the Lord, don't speak rashly.
- When you enter into the house of the Lord, be very careful what you tell God.
- When you enter into the house of the Lord, only speak a few words. Keep your words few.
- It's not wise to pray long prayers.
- When you pray, remember where God is. Remember His greatness.
- When you pray, remember where you are. Remember your smallness.
- When you pray, remember the enormous difference between the greatness of God and your own smallness. Remain humble and keep your prayers short.
- We must be very careful about our prayers.
- We must not pray thoughtlessly.
- God is in Heaven.
- We are on the earth.

**Ecclesiastes 5:3:** "For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words."

- People dream dreams when there's a lot going on in their life.
- Fools are identified when they speak because their multitude of words reveals their foolish nature.
- It's best not to speak a multitude of words to God and reveal that you're a fool.

**Ecclesiastes 5:4:** "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed."

- If you make a vow to God, you must make sure that you fulfill your vow.
- We must keep our vows.
- God has no pleasure in fools.
- It's very foolish to make a vow to God and not keep it.
- God has no pleasure in those who make vows and don't keep them.
- Breaking your vow to God is a serious matter.
- Breaking your vow to God makes you a fool.

**Ecclesiastes 5:5:** "Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay."

- It's better to never make a vow at all, than to make a vow and not keep it.
- It's not wrong to never make any vows.

**Ecclesiastes 5:6:** "Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to

sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?"

- Don't allow your words to bring you into sin. Don't speak a vow and then not pay it, and fall into sin.
- You can't speak a vow and not pay it, and then claim it was done in error. If you make a vow then you must keep it because breaking your vow is a serious sin in the sight of God.
- If you make a vow and don't keep it, you're sinning.
- God is angry with those who make vows and don't keep them.
- God punishes those who make vows and don't keep them.
- If you make a vow and don't keep it, God will destroy the works of your hands.

**Ecclesiastes 5:7:** "For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God."

- When people speak many words, they also speak vanity.
- It's better to only speak a few words than to speak many words with vanity.
- We must fear God.
- Those who fear God should keep their words few so that they don't sin and earn God's wrath.

**Ecclesiastes 5:8:** "If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province,

marvel not at the matter: for he that is higher than the highest regardeth; and there be higher than they."

- Don't be surprised when the poor are oppressed.
- Don't be surprised when judgment is violently perverted.
- Don't be surprised at oppressors.
- Don't be surprised when there's no justice.
- There's an authority who is higher than oppressors, and He has seen what the oppressors are doing.
- There's an authority that's higher than those who pervert judgment, and He has seen what they're doing.
- Those who oppress aren't the highest authority.
- Those who pervert judgment aren't the highest authority.
- Those who oppress will one day be brought into judgment by a higher authority.
- Those who pervert judgment will one day be brought into judgment by a higher authority.

**Ecclesiastes 5:9:** "Moreover the profit of the earth is for all: the king himself is served by the field."

- The fruits of the field and the trees are for all people to enjoy. Everyone in the world is enriched by them.
- Even the king is enriched by the fruit of the field.
- Ultimately the lives of everyone depend on the fruits of the field.

**Ecclesiastes 5:10:** "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is

also vanity."

- Those who love silver won't be satisfied with silver.
- Those who love wealth won't be satisfied with wealth.
- It's unsatisfying and frustrating that those who love wealth can't be satisfied with wealth.
- Silver can't bring satisfaction.
- Wealth can't bring satisfaction. If you desire wealth then no amount of wealth will ever satisfy you.

**Ecclesiastes 5:11:** "When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes?"

- Wealth isn't as useful or desirable as it seems.
- When people become wealthy, the number of people who consume their wealth also increases.
- When people becomes wealthy, all they can really do is look at their wealth. This isn't very satisfying.
- Why labor to be wealthy when all you can do with your wealth is look at it?

**Ecclesiastes 5:12:** "The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep."

- The sleep of laborers is sweet.
- Laborers sleep well if they have had much to eat.
- Laborers sleep well if they have had little to eat.
- The rich can't sleep because their wealth weighs upon

them and fills them with worry.

- Those who can sleep well at night are laborers, not the rich.
- Being rich makes it harder to sleep well at night.
- The rich have problems that the poor don't.

**Ecclesiastes 5:13:** "There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt."

- There are times when wealth makes a person's life worse.
- It's an evil thing that sometimes wealth and abundance makes life worse, not better.
- The lives of some people would be better if they weren't wealthy.
- Wealth doesn't always make life better.

**Ecclesiastes 5:14:** "But those riches perish by evil travail: and he begetteth a son, and there is nothing in his hand."

- There are times when wealth is destroyed by evil.
- There are times when the rich lose their wealth and have nothing to give their children.
- The author seemed to have an expectation that people would pass something on to their children.
- There's no guarantee that wealth will last.
- There are times when evil things happen and destroy a person's wealth.
- The wealthy aren't immune to calamities.



- Sometimes bad things happen to rich people.

**Ecclesiastes 5:15:** "As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand."

- We had nothing with us when we were born, and we will take nothing with us when we die.
- No matter what we build in this life, we can't take any of it with us when we die.
- Any wealth that we have in this life is temporary. One day we will lose all of it.
- Those who labor for wealth are laboring for something that they will one day lose.
- Wealth is frustrating and empty because you can't keep it.
- Labor is frustrating because in the end you can't keep any of the things that you've labored to obtain.

**Ecclesiastes 5:16:** "And this also is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind?"

- It's an evil thing that we start our lives with nothing, we labor in this life, and then we end our life with nothing. There's nothing we can keep of the fruits of our labor, because when we die we can take nothing with us.
- In the end there's no profit in the work that we do in this life, because anything that we earn can't be taken with us when we die.

- The author compares labor to striving after the wind. You can't grasp the wind.

**Ecclesiastes 5:17:** "All his days also he eateth in darkness, and he hath much sorrow and wrath with his sickness."

- It's a bad thing to eat in darkness.
- Life is full of sorrow.
- Life is full of illness.
- There's a great deal of suffering in this life. On top of everything else, we can't keep the fruits of our labor. In the end all will be lost.

**Ecclesiastes 5:18:** "Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion."

- It's good for us to enjoy food.
- It's good for us to enjoy drink.
- It's good for us to enjoy the fruits of our labor.
- The portion that God has given us in this life is to enjoy the fruits of our labor.
- We can't take the fruits of our labor with us into the next life, but we can enjoy them in this life.

**Ecclesiastes 5:19:** "Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God."

- If a rich person can enjoy his wealth, that's a gift from God.
- The ability to enjoy the fruits of our labor is a gift from God.
- Those who are able to enjoy the fruits of their labor can only do so because God has given them that gift.
- God has given some people riches.
- Riches come from God.
- It's not a sin to be rich.
- It's not a sin to enjoy your wealth.
- It's not a sin to rejoice in your labor.
- It's not a sin to enjoy the fruits of your labor.

**Ecclesiastes 5:20:** "For he shall not much remember the days of his life; because God answereth him in the joy of his heart."

- Those who rejoice in the fruits of their labor won't much remember their lives.
- It's a good thing to not much remember our lives.
- God gives some people joy.
- It's a good thing when God gives people joy and they do not much remember their lives.
- Life is full of pain, sorrow, oppression, evil, and sickness. It's a good thing for God to give us joy so that we don't much remember it.
- It's not a blessing to remember all the terrible things that have happened to us in our lives. It's better for God to give us joy.

## Chapter 6

**Ecclesiastes 6:1:** "There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is common among men:"

- The author saw something evil under the sun.
- The evil that he saw was common.
- There is evil under the sun.
- Some evils are commonplace.
- This world isn't paradise.

**Ecclesiastes 6:2:** "A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this is vanity, and it is an evil disease."

- God has given some people riches.
- Riches come from God.
- God has given some people honor.
- Honor comes from God.
- God has given some people everything that they desire.
- The things that we have are gifts from God.
- There are some cases where God gives people riches and honor, but they aren't able to enjoy them. Instead someone else (a stranger) takes it from them.
- It's an evil thing for a person to have riches and honor,

but not be able to enjoy it.

- It's an evil thing for a person to have riches and honor, but for someone else to take it and enjoy it.
- Having riches but not being able to enjoy them is empty and frustrating.
- Having honor but not being able to enjoy it is empty and frustrating.
- Having everything that we desire but not being able to enjoy it is empty and frustrating.
- Riches aren't beneficial if we can't enjoy them.
- Having the things that we desire isn't beneficial if we can't enjoy them.
- Just because we have riches doesn't mean we also have the ability to enjoy it.
- Just because we have the things we desire doesn't mean we also have the ability to enjoy it.
- God is the one who gives us blessings.
- God is the one who gives us the power to enjoy our blessings.
- It's a blessing to have riches.
- It's a blessing to have honor.
- It's not a sin to have riches.
- It's a blessing to be able to enjoy the riches that God has given us.
- It's not a sin to enjoy the riches that God has given us.
- It's a great evil to not be able to enjoy riches, if God has given them to us.

**Ecclesiastes 6:3:** "If a man beget an hundred children, and live many years, so that the days of his years be many, and his soul be not filled with good, and also that he have no burial; I say, that an untimely birth is better than he."

- Children are a blessing.
- The author didn't think it was a horrible thing to have 100 children.
- The author didn't think it was a horrible thing to have more than one wife (since there's no other way to have 100 children).
- Having 100 children would be great riches and an amazing blessing.
- Large families are an amazing blessing.
- A long life is an amazing blessing.
- If a man lives a long life, but that life is filled with pain, then his long life is empty and frustrating.
- If a man has a large family, but his life is filled with pain, then his life is empty and frustrating.
- What matter isn't the blessings that we have. Instead what matters is whether God has given us the ability to enjoy those blessings.
- If God hasn't given us the ability to enjoy our blessings then our blessings aren't really helpful at all. In that case they're frustrating and empty.
- It's a horrible thing to never be buried.
- God cares about whether we've been buried.
- Whether or not we're buried matters.

- The expectation is that we will be buried, not cremated.
- If a person has many blessings in life but is unable to enjoy them, it's better to die in childbirth. That way the pain of life is avoided.
- Although the author taught that in some cases it was better to die in childbirth than to live a long life, he *never* suggested that suicide or abortion was an option. The expectation was that if we had a life full of pain, we had to live it until the end. We couldn't cut it short through suicide.

**Ecclesiastes 6:4:** "For he cometh in with vanity, and departeth in darkness, and his name shall be covered with darkness."

- Those who die in childbirth are born in vain and then depart into the darkness, and their name is covered by darkness.

**Ecclesiastes 6:5:** "Moreover he hath not seen the sun, nor known any thing: this hath more rest than the other."

- Those who die in childbirth die before they can see the evil that's done under the sun.
- Those who die in childbirth die before they can experience the pain of life.
- Those who die in childbirth die before they can know anything about what life is like.
- It's better to die before seeing the evil that's done under the sun, than to live a long life that's full of pain and suffering.

**Ecclesiastes 6:6:** "Yea, though he live a thousand years twice told, yet hath he seen no good: do not all go to one place?"

- Living a long life isn't a blessing if that life is full of pain.
- Those who die in childbirth and those who die after a long life go to the grave. It's better to never experience the pain of life at all, than to live a long life that's nothing but pain. In the end everyone dies, but those who live a long life have to endure many years of pain that those who die in childbirth avoid.

**Ecclesiastes 6:7:** "All the labour of man is for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled."

- Everything that a person works for is to satisfy his desires, but his desires are never satisfied.
- People work to satisfy desires that can never be satisfied.
- Desires can't be satisfied.
- A person's desires drives him to work.

**Ecclesiastes 6:8:** "For what hath the wise more than the fool? what hath the poor, that knoweth to walk before the living?"

- When it comes to desires, the wise have no advantage over a fool. The fleshly desires of the wise and the fool can't be satisfied.
- Both the wise and the fool labor to fulfill desires that can never be satisfied.
- Being wise doesn't make you immune to the fact that you're spending your life laboring to satisfy desires that



can't be satisfied.

- Even if the poor are wise and know how to live, they're also laboring to satisfy desires that can't be satisfied.

**Ecclesiastes 6:9:** "Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the desire: this is also vanity and vexation of spirit."

- A wandering desire is empty and frustrating. Such a desire is always seeking things and yet can never be satisfied by them.
- It's better to see a thing than to desire it, because the desire can't be satisfied.
- The fact that desires can't be satisfied is empty and frustrating.

**Ecclesiastes 6:10:** "That which hath been is named already, and it is known that it is man: neither may he contend with him that is mightier than he."

- The things in the past have been given names. They're known quantities.
- Mankind can't fight those who are stronger than mankind.
- There are those who are stronger than the race of mankind.
- There are those that mankind can't fight.
- The power of mankind has limits.

**Ecclesiastes 6:11:** "Seeing there be many things that increase

vanity, what is man the better?"

- There are many things in this world that are vain, empty, and frustrating.
- Mankind is like the other creatures in this world in that mankind labors to fill desires that can't be satisfied, and lives in a world that's full of vanity and frustration. Mankind isn't immune to that and can't avoid it.

**Ecclesiastes 6:12:** "For who knoweth what is good for man in this life, all the days of his vain life which he spendeth as a shadow? for who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?"

- It's impossible to know what choices to make in life because we can't see the future. Since we can't see the future, we can't plan for it and make choices that reflect what will happen. Instead we make choices that may prove to be wrong once future events take place.
- The fact that we don't know what will happen in the future makes life frustrating. It means we lack the information we need to make good choices.
- This life is empty and frustrating.
- No one can tell us what will happen after we're dead.
- No one can tell us the future.
- Our life in this world is a shadow.

## Chapter 7

**Ecclesiastes 7:1:** "A good name is better than precious

ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth."

- It's better to have a good name than to wear precious perfume.
- Your character matters more than your appearance.
- A good name is precious.
- We should strive to have a good name.
- Our reputation matters.
- There are some perfumes that are precious (expensive).
- The day that we die is better than the day that we're born. (This is because being born starts a life of suffering, while dying ends it.)
- Although the day that we die is better than the day we're born, suicide is never presented as an option.

**Ecclesiastes 7:2:** "It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart."

- It's better to mourn than feast.
- It's not wrong to mourn.
- It's a good thing to mourn.
- Everyone's life ends in mourning (death).
- Those who are still alive need to consider that one day their life will end in death.
- It's good to remember that one day we will die.

**Ecclesiastes 7:3:** "Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the

sadness of the countenance the heart is made better."

- It's better to be sad than to laugh.
- The reason it's better to be sad than to laugh is because sorrow is how the heart is made better.
- Sorrow helps the heart in a way that laughter doesn't.
- There are benefits to be gained through sorrow.
- Sorrow can be helpful.

**Ecclesiastes 7:4:** "The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth."

- The wise spend their time mourning.
- Fools spend their time laughing.
- It's wiser to mourn than to laugh.

**Ecclesiastes 7:5:** "It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools."

- It's a good thing to hear the rebuke of the wise.
- It's better to hear the rebuke of the wise than to hear the song of fools.
- The rebuke of the wise can benefit us in a way that the song of fools can't.
- There's little value in hearing the song of fools.

**Ecclesiastes 7:6:** "For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool: this also is vanity."

- The laughter of a fool is empty and worthless.

- The author compares the laughter of fools to the noise that thorns make when they're set on fire.
- In ancient times people used thorns as fuel for cooking.

**Ecclesiastes 7:7:** "Surely oppression maketh a wise man mad; and a gift destroyeth the heart."

- Oppression can make wise men go crazy.
- Bribes can destroy a person's heart.
- Bribes are corrupting.
- Bribes are bad.
- Oppression can break people.
- Oppression is bad.
- It's bad to oppress others.
- It's bad to give bribes.
- It's bad to take bribes.

**Ecclesiastes 7:8:** "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit."

- The completion of a project is better than its start.
- It's better to complete something than to start it.
- It's better to be patient than to be proud.
- It's good to be patient.
- We should cultivate patience.
- We should finish the things we start.

- It's not good to be proud.
- We shouldn't be proud.
- Patience is something that involves the spirit. We should seek to have a patient spirit.

**Ecclesiastes 7:9:** "Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools."

- Anger is something that involves the spirit. We shouldn't have an angry spirit.
- We must not be quick to anger.
- Anger rests inside of fools.
- Anger can be foolish.

**Ecclesiastes 7:10:** "Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this."

- Don't ask why earlier times were better than the times we have today.
- It's not wise to ask why earlier times were better than the times we have today. (In reality they weren't better at all. It just seems like they were because people don't remember history.)
- There are some questions we shouldn't ask.
- Not all questions are good questions.

**Ecclesiastes 7:11:** "Wisdom is good with an inheritance: and by it there is profit to them that see the sun."

- Wisdom combined with an inheritance is a good thing.
- Those who have both wisdom and an inheritance can make a profit in life.

**Ecclesiastes 7:12:** "For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it."

- Wisdom can defend you from problems.
- Money can defend you from problems.
- Knowledge is excellent.
- Wisdom gives life to them that have it.
- If you seek life then seek wisdom.
- The combination of wisdom and money is a powerful combination.

**Ecclesiastes 7:13:** "Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked?"

- It's impossible to fix something that God has broken.
- There are things in this world that God has broken.
- Some things in this world can't be fixed.
- It's impossible to undo something that God has done.
- It's impossible to defeat or overcome God.
- There are some things in this world that are broken.
- This isn't a perfect world.
- God is at work in this world.

**Ecclesiastes 7:14:** "In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him."

- We should be joyful in times of prosperity.
- We should be thoughtful in times of adversity.
- There are times of prosperity.
- There are times of adversity.
- God has created both times of prosperity and times of adversity.
- The reason God has created both times of prosperity and times of adversity is so we can't know what will happen once we're dead.
- God doesn't want us to know the future.
- God works to hide the future from us and make it impossible to discover.

**Ecclesiastes 7:15:** "All things have I seen in the days of my vanity: there is a just man that perisheth in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man that longeth his life in his wickedness."

- The author calls his life empty and frustrating.
- There are righteous people who die because of their righteousness.
- There are wicked people who prolong their life through wickedness.
- Sometimes righteousness can get us killed.



- Sometimes wickedness can extend our life.
- There are times when the wicked live longer than the righteous.
- There are times when righteousness can hurt a person.
- There are times when wickedness can help a person.
- Sometimes the just die and the righteous live.
- The righteous don't always win in this world.
- The wicked don't always lose in this world.

**Ecclesiastes 7:16:** "Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself?"

- Don't be overly righteous. (This seems to be talking about going beyond the standard of righteousness that God has set.)
- Being overly righteous (going beyond what God has said) can destroy you.
- Don't be overly wise. (This seems to be talking about going beyond what God has said.)
- Being overly wise (going beyond what God has said) can destroy you.
- It's possible for us to go too far and destroy ourselves.

**Ecclesiastes 7:17:** "Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?"

- There's a time for us to die.
- It's possible to die before our time.

- It's possible for foolishness to kill us before our time.
- Don't be overly wicked. (There's no one who can claim they've never sinned or done evil.)
- Being overly wicked can kill you before your time.
- Don't be foolish.
- Being foolish can kill you before your time.
- There's a time for us to die.

**Ecclesiastes 7:18:** "It is good that thou shouldest take hold of this; yea, also from this withdraw not thine hand: for he that feareth God shall come forth of them all."

- It's good to understand that going beyond what God has said can destroy you.
- It's good to understand that wickedness can kill you.
- It's good to understand that foolishness can kill you.
- The material in this book is good. It's not evil, sinful, or corrupt.
- We should learn the material in this book and take it to heart. This is a book of wisdom.
- We need to accept what this book has to teach us and learn what it has to say.
- Those who fear God won't be overly righteous, overly wise, overly wicked, or foolish. Instead they'll do *exactly* what God has said and won't go beyond the commands or wisdom that God has given us.
- It's very important in life to fear God and obey Him. All other paths lead to destruction and an early death.

- If you want to do well in life then fear death.

**Ecclesiastes 7:19:** "Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten mighty men which are in the city."

- Wisdom strengthens the wise.
- Wisdom does more good to the wise than 10 mighty men do to the defense of a city.
- In ancient times, cities were defended by mighty men.
- In ancient times, individual cities had their own defenses.
- In ancient times, cities depended on people for protection.
- In ancient times, a city could be defended by a small number of mighty men.
- Wisdom is a valuable thing to have.
- Wisdom is a great blessing to those who are wise.

**Ecclesiastes 7:20:** "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not."

- There's no one who does good.
- There's no one who doesn't sin.
- There's no one who's just and never sins.
- Everyone has sinned.
- No one can claim that they're perfect.

**Ecclesiastes 7:21:** "Also take no heed unto all words that are spoken; lest thou hear thy servant curse thee:"

- Don't take to heart everything that you hear.
- Sometimes you may hear other people curse you.
- Sometimes you may hear the people who work for you curse you.
- You shouldn't take to heart all of the bad things that other people say about you.
- There may be times when other people say bad things about you.

**Ecclesiastes 7:22:** "For oftentimes also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself likewise hast cursed others."

- The reason we shouldn't take the bad things that other people say to heart is because there have been times when we've said bad things about others.
- Since there are times when we've said bad things about others, we shouldn't be quick to take it to heart when others say bad things about us.

**Ecclesiastes 7:23:** "All this have I proved by wisdom: I said, I will be wise; but it was far from me."

- The author proved all of the statements in this book through wisdom.
- The statements in this book are wise.
- The author strove to be wise.
- The author wanted to be wise.
- The author was unable to attain the level of wisdom that he wanted.

**Ecclesiastes 7:24:** "That which is far off, and exceeding deep, who can find it out?"

- Some wisdom is far off.
- Some wisdom is exceedingly deep.
- Wisdom that's far off can't be found.
- Wisdom that's exceedingly deep can't be found.
- Some wisdom can't be attained.
- It's possible for us to desire wisdom that can't be obtained.

**Ecclesiastes 7:25:** "I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness:"

- The author applied his heart to know wisdom.
- The author applied his heart to search for wisdom.
- The author applied his heart to seek out wisdom.
- The author had a passionate desire to acquire wisdom.
- The author applied his heart to understand the reason why things happened.
- The author sought to understand the wickedness of folly.
- Foolishness is actually wicked.
- The author sought to understand the wickedness of madness.
- Being mad (insane or crazy) is actually wicked.

**Ecclesiastes 7:26:** "And I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart is snares and nets, and her hands as bands: whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her."

- Wicked women are more bitter than death.
- There's something that's more bitter than death.
- Death isn't the worst thing.
- There are some women who are exceedingly dangerous.
- There are some women whose heart is a snare.
- There are some women whose hands are chains.
- Those who please God will escape dangerous women.
- Those who don't please God won't escape dangerous women.
- Those who are sinners will be ensnared by dangerous women.
- Not all women can be trusted.
- Some women seek to ensnare men.
- The way to escape dangerous women is to fear God and please Him.

**Ecclesiastes 7:27:** "Behold, this have I found, saith the preacher, counting one by one, to find out the account:"

- The author performed a careful search.

**Ecclesiastes 7:28:** "Which yet my soul seeketh, but I find not:

one man among a thousand have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found."

- The author looked for one truly good woman.
- The author was unable to find any good women. All of them were corrupt. (Solomon married a thousand pagan women who turned his heart away from God, so that may have been part of the problem.)
- The author found one truly good man out of a thousand.
- Some women are dangerous.
- Some women aren't as they appear. They are deceptive.

**Ecclesiastes 7:29:** "Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions."

- When God initially created mankind, the human race was upright. The human race was sinless when God first created it.
- Although the human race was sinless in the beginning, mankind sought out sin.
- Mankind wanted sin from the beginning. It sought sin out and went after it, even though mankind was originally sinless.
- People want to sin. They have a desire for it and they seek it out.

# Chapter 8

**Ecclesiastes 8:1:** "Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed."

- There are some people who are wise.
- Those who are wise know how to properly interpret things.
- If you want to know how to interpret things then become wise.
- It's possible to know how to interpret things.
- A person's wisdom makes his face shine.
- There's a difference in countenance between those who are wise and those who aren't.
- Those who are wise have a certain boldness about their face that other people don't have.
- There's a visible physical difference between those who are wise and those who aren't.

**Ecclesiastes 8:2:** "I counsel thee to keep the king's commandment, and that in regard of the oath of God."

- Obey the commandments of the king.
- It's wise to obey the king and keep the law.
- The king has the right to issue commandments.

**Ecclesiastes 8:3:** "Be not hasty to go out of his sight: stand not in an evil thing; for he doeth whatsoever pleaseth him."



- Don't be quick to leave the presence of the king.
- Don't do evil things.
- Kings do whatever pleases them.

**Ecclesiastes 8:4:** "Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou?"

- There's power behind the words of the king.
- No one in this world has the authority to hold the king accountable.

**Ecclesiastes 8:5:** "Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment."

- Those who keep the commandments of the king will generally not face the wrath of the king (since they're doing what the king wants them to do).
- Those who are wise have discernment.
- Those who are wise can discern the proper time for things.
- Those who are wise can discern judgment and justice.
- If you want to know the proper time for things then seek wisdom.
- If you want to become discerning then seek wisdom.
- If you want to understand judgment and justice then seek wisdom.
- There's a proper time and season for things.

**Ecclesiastes 8:6:** "Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man is great upon him."

- There's a time for every purpose.
- There's a coming judgment for every purpose.
- The reason this life is so miserable is because there's a time for every purpose (both good and evil).
- This life is exceedingly miserable.
- Everything will be held to account. Nothing will escape judgment.
- There are good seasons in life and there are evil seasons in life.

**Ecclesiastes 8:7:** "For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be?"

- One of the reasons life is miserable is because we don't know the future, and no one can tell us what the future will hold.
- We don't know what will happen in the future.
- No one can tell us what will happen in the future.

**Ecclesiastes 8:8:** "There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it."

- No one can retain their spirit when death comes.
- No one in this world has power over death. Instead death has power over us.

- Death is when our spirit leaves our body.
- No one can flee from death, or escape death, or find some way to avoid death. When our day of death comes it will take us.
- There is a day of death coming.
- Those who are wicked can't escape death by their wickedness. The wicked will die as well.
- Even if the wicked prolong their life through wickedness, they still can't escape death. It will come for them.

**Ecclesiastes 8:9:** "All this have I seen, and applied my heart unto every work that is done under the sun: there is a time wherein one man ruleth over another to his own hurt."

- The author has personally seen all of the things that he's talk about in this book. He's not relaying the wisdom of someone else.
- The author applied himself to everything that's done in this life.
- There are times when having authority over another person, and ruling over them, actually makes life worse.
- Being a ruler, and ruling over others, doesn't always make life better. Sometimes it makes life worse.

**Ecclesiastes 8:10:** "And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done: this is also vanity."

- The wicked died, and were buried, and were forgotten in

the city where they were wicked.

- One day the wicked will be forgotten about.
- The fact that the wicked are forgotten about after they die is empty and unsatisfying. Their wickedness isn't remembered.
- The crimes of the wicked aren't remembered. The city in which the wicked committed their crimes doesn't remember them. Instead their crimes are forgotten, and the wicked are forgotten as well.

**Ecclesiastes 8:11:** "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil."

- The reason people do evil is because the sentence against evil isn't quickly carried out.
- The sentence against evil must be carried out quickly or else it's not a deterrent.
- Evil must be punished.
- Evil must be punished quickly.
- People are determined to do evil.
- The way to discourage people from doing evil is to quickly punish evil.

**Ecclesiastes 8:12:** "Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:"

- Even though a wicked person might do a hundred terrible things and prolong his days, it's still not going to be well

with him.

- Even though the wicked may prolong their life, it's still better to be righteous than to be wicked.
- It will be well with them that fear God.
- It will *not* be well with those who don't fear God.
- Those who do evil don't fear God.
- It's better to fear God and live a short life than to prolong your life through wickedness.
- The length of our life isn't as important as whether we feared God.
- We must fear God.
- We must not do evil.
- We must not prolong our lives through evil.

**Ecclesiastes 8:13:** "But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God."

- It won't be well with the wicked.
- The wicked won't live forever. In the end their life is a passing shadow that quickly disappears.
- Since the wicked don't fear God, it won't be well with them.
- Since the wicked don't fear God, they won't live forever.
- One day judgment will come upon the wicked. They won't escape.

**Ecclesiastes 8:14:** "There is a vanity which is done upon the earth; that there be just men, unto whom it happeneth according to the work of the wicked; again, there be wicked men, to whom it happeneth according to the work of the righteous: I said that this also is vanity."

- There are times when those who are righteous are treated as if they're wicked.
- There are times when those who are wicked are treated as if they're just.
- The world isn't fair.
- Just because you're righteous doesn't mean you'll be treated as someone who's righteous.
- The wicked aren't always treated as if they're wicked.
- It's unsatisfying and frustrating the righteous may be persecuted and punished, even though they're innocent.
- It's unsatisfying and frustrating that society may love the wicked and treat them as if they're good people.

**Ecclesiastes 8:15:** "Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry: for that shall abide with him of his labour the days of his life, which God giveth him under the sun."

- Mirth is a good thing.
- The best thing in this life is to eat and drink and be merry.
- It's a great blessing to be able to enjoy the things that God has given us.
- If we're merry and rejoice in what God has given us then that will abide with us.

- God has given us the life that we have in this world.
- Mirth isn't a sin.

**Ecclesiastes 8:16:** "When I applied mine heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done upon the earth: (for also there is that neither day nor night seeth sleep with his eyes:)"

- The author applied himself to wisdom. He sought to become wise.
- The author applied himself to see the things that were done in the world.
- There are some people who don't sleep, day or night. They never find rest.
- This book is a look at the things that are done in this world. It's an examination of what life is like, and how it's frustrating and empty and unsatisfying. It's written by a wise person from a standpoint of wisdom. The things that it says are true.

**Ecclesiastes 8:17:** "Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea farther; though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it."

- This world is the work of God.
- The things that happen in this world are the work of God.
- It's impossible for us to find out what God is doing in this world.

- God has hidden what He's doing in this world.
- Although we might try to find out what God is doing in this world, it's impossible to do so.
- Although the wise may think that they know what God is doing in this world, they're wrong.
- There are times when the wise are wrong. There are times when they think they know something, but in fact they don't.
- Even the wise can't find out what God is doing in this world.

## Chapter 9

**Ecclesiastes 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."

- The righteous are in the hand of God.
- The wise are in the hand of God.
- The works of the righteous are in the hand of God.
- The works of the wise are in the hand of God.
- It's impossible to look at what's going on in your life and tell if God loves you. (This is because good things also happen to the wicked.)
- It's impossible to look at what's going on in your life and tell if God hates you. (This is because bad things also happen to the righteous.)
- We must not use what's going on in our life to determine



how God feels about us.

- The events of our life, and the things that happen to us, are incapable of telling us what God thinks of us or how God feels about us.

**Ecclesiastes 9:2:** "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."

- Both good and bad things happen to those who are wicked.
- Both good and bad things happen to those who are righteous.
- Since both good and bad things happen to the righteous and to the wicked, the things that happen to us can't be used to determine how God feels about us.
- Both good and bad things happen to those who are clean in the sight of God.
- Both good and bad things happen to those who are unclean in the sight of God.
- Both good and bad things happen to those who sacrifice to God.
- Both good and bad things happen to those who don't sacrifice to God.
- Both good and bad things happen to those who do what's right.
- Both good and bad things happen to those who are sinners.

- Both good and bad things happen to those who swear oaths.
- Both good and bad things happen to those who don't swear oaths.
- It's impossible to look at the events that happen to other people and tell if God loves them or hates them.
- It's wrong to look at the good things that are happening to evil people and decide that God must love them. This is because both good and bad things happen to everyone.
- The fact that sometimes good things happen to evil people doesn't mean God loves them or favors them.
- Don't think that those who are righteous will be given better lives than those who are wicked. That's not how life works.
- The righteous will die.
- The wicked will die.
- The good will die.
- The clean will die.
- The unclean will die.
- Those who sacrifice to God will die.
- Those who don't sacrifice to God will die.
- The sinner will die.
- Those who swear oaths will die.
- Those who don't swear oaths will die.

**Ecclesiastes 9:3:** "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."

- It's an evil and terrible thing that both the wicked and the righteous die. The righteousness of the righteous doesn't prevent them from dying. They die just like everyone else.
- The heart of the people of mankind is full of evil.
- Mankind is inherently evil.
- People's heart is full of madness.
- People live evil lives and then die.
- Everyone is subject to death – both the righteous and the unrighteous.
- Death is a bad thing.

**Ecclesiastes 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."

- There's still hope as long as we're alive.
- A live dog is better than a dead lion.
- Those who are still alive in this world, even if they're very lowly, can do more than all the powerful men of the past who are now dead. (This is because the dead have no part in this world and can do nothing.)

**Ecclesiastes 9:5:** "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."

- The living know that they will die.
- It's not possible for those who are dead to earn a reward.

- Rewards can only be earned in this life.
- Over time, the memory of the dead is forgotten.
- Those who are dead don't know anything. (But those who are saved will never die.)

**Ecclesiastes 9:6:** "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."

- When a person dies, their love dies with them. Their love is no longer a part of this world.
- When a person dies, their hatred dies with them. Their hatred is no longer a part of this world.
- When a person dies, their envy dies with them. Their envy is no longer a part of this world.
- When a person dies, they're no longer involved in what goes on in this life.
- The dead are incapable of interfering with the events of this world. Once a person dies, their ability to impact this world is over.
- The only chance we have to make a difference in this world is while we're alive.

**Ecclesiastes 9:7:** "Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works."

- We should eat our bread (our meals) with joy.
- We should drink our wine with a merry heart.

- It's good to eat and rejoice.
- It's good to drink and rejoice.
- It's not a sin to drink wine.
- The reason we should eat and drink with joy is because God accepts our works.
- It's not a sin to rejoice.
- It's not a sin to have a merry heart.

**Ecclesiastes 9:8:** "Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment."

- We should let our garments be white.
- It's not a sin to wear nice clothing.
- We should anoint our head with ointment.
- In ancient times, people anointed their head with ointment.

**Ecclesiastes 9:9:** "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."

- We should live joyfully with our wives.
- We should love our wives.
- It's not a sin to be married.
- This life is empty and unsatisfying.
- God is the one who has given us this life.

- Our portion in life is to eat, and drink, and love our wives, and be merry. Even though life is frustrating and unsatisfying, we can take joy in the blessings that God has given us and enjoy them. That's our portion in life.
- The reward for our labor in this world is to eat and drink and be merry.
- Our response to the teachings of this book shouldn't be depression and despair. Instead we should rejoice in our blessings.

**Ecclesiastes 9:10:** "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."

- Whatever we do, we should do with all our might.
- We should make the most of our life while we have it.
- Those who are dead are no longer able to do any work in this world.
- Those who are dead are no longer able to share any knowledge with those in this world.
- Those who are dead are no longer able to share any wisdom with those in this world.

**Ecclesiastes 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."

- The fastest person isn't necessarily the one who wins the race. Instead the race is determined by chance.

- The strongest person isn't necessarily the one who wins the battle. Instead the battle is determined by chance.
- Those who are wise aren't always able to make a good living. Instead it's determined by chance.
- Those who are people of understanding don't always become wealthy. Instead it's determined by chance.
- Those who are skilled don't always find favor. Instead it's determined by chance.
- Don't think that just because you're the fastest, that means you'll win the race.
- Don't think that just because you're the strongest, that means you'll win the battle.
- Don't think that just because you're the wisest, that means you'll earn a good living.
- Don't think that just because you have great understanding, that means you'll be rich.
- Don't think that just because you have skill, that means you'll be favored.
- In the end, our lives are determined by chance. It's possible to have all the advantages, talents, and wisdom and still lose.
- Whether we win or lose may be determined by things that are outside of our control.

**Ecclesiastes 9:12:** "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."

- People don't always know when they'll die. Death can come suddenly and unexpectedly.
- There are times when fish are suddenly and unexpectedly caught in a net and then die.
- There are times when birds are suddenly and unexpectedly caught in a snare and then die.
- There are times when something suddenly happens to people and they die.

**Ecclesiastes 9:13:** "This wisdom have I seen also under the sun, and it seemed great unto me:"

- The author noticed something that happened in this world, and it seemed very important to him.

**Ecclesiastes 9:14:** "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:"

- There was a small city with only a few inhabitants.
- A great king came against this small city. He besieged it and built bulwarks against it.

**Ecclesiastes 9:15:** "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."

- Inside that small city was a poor wise man.
- The poor wise man saved the city from the great king by means of his wisdom.



- After the city was saved, everyone forgot the poor wise man.
- There are times when the wisdom of a single person is more powerful than the armies of a great king.
- There are times when wisdom can prevail over a mighty army.
- Just because you save a city from certain doom doesn't mean people will remember you.
- Just because you do great things doesn't mean people will remember you.
- Just because you saved many lives doesn't mean people will remember you.

**Ecclesiastes 9:16:** "Then said I, Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard."

- Wisdom is better than strength.
- It's possible for wisdom to defeat strength.
- The wisdom of the poor is despised.
- If a person is poor then people won't listen to him, even if he has great wisdom, and even if he's right.
- People care more about a person's wealth than they do about his wisdom. If a person lacks wealth then he won't be heard.
- It's frustrating and unsatisfying that people will refuse to listen to wisdom if it comes from a poor person.

**Ecclesiastes 9:17:** "The words of wise men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools."

- It's good to listen to the words of the wise.
- If you want to hear the words of the wise then remain quiet.
- It's easier to hear the wisdom of the wise than it is to listen to a person trying to make himself heard over the talking of a bunch of fools.
- A person who rules over fools is going to have a hard time getting people to listen to him, because the people he rules over are fools.
- Fools have no interest in listening to wisdom.

**Ecclesiastes 9:18:** "Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good."

- Wisdom is better than weapons of war.
- There are times when wisdom can overcome weapons of war.
- One sinner can destroy a lot of good.
- Sinners are dangerous.
- Sinners can be very destructive.
- Even a single sinner can be very dangerous.

## Chapter 10

**Ecclesiastes 10:1:** "Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little

folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour."

- Dead flies in ointment causes the ointment to stink.
- In ancient times, ointment was made by an apothecary.
- Folly is incompatible with wisdom.
- It's not good for the wise to engage in foolishness.
- A wise person who engages in foolishness is like ointment that contains dead flies.
- Folly is incompatible with honor.
- If you want to be wise you must lay aside foolishness.
- If you want to be honorable you must lay aside foolishness.
- An honorable person who engages in foolishness is like ointment that contains dead flies.
- It's not good for the honorable to engage in foolishness.
- We must not be foolish.
- We must not be even a little foolish. We must avoid foolishness altogether.

**Ecclesiastes 10:2:** "A wise man's heart is at his right hand; but a fool's heart at his left."

- The heart of a wise man is at his right hand. (It leads him the right way.)
- The heart of a fool is at his left hand. (It leads him the wrong way.)
- In the Bible, the right hand is symbolic of something good and the left hand is symbolic of something bad.

- The heart of a wise man leads him in a better direction than the heart of a fool.
- The heart of a fool must not be trusted.
- Fools shouldn't trust their heart.
- The heart of a fool will lead him in the wrong direction.
- There's a difference between the heart of a wise man and the heart of a fool.

**Ecclesiastes 10:3:** "Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth him, and he saith to every one that he is a fool."

- When a fool walks about, the things he does reveals to everyone that he's a fool.
- A fool can be discovered by the things he does.
- Fools lack wisdom.

**Ecclesiastes 10:4:** "If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offences."

- Yielding pacifies great offenses.
- If you want to make peace with someone you've wronged, the way to do that is to yield to them.
- The way to pacify a ruler that you've offended is by yielding to them.
- Rulers want people to yield to them.

**Ecclesiastes 10:5:** "There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, as an error which proceedeth from the ruler:"

- The author saw an evil in this world. This evil was done by rulers.
- It's possible for rulers to do evil.
- Because of their position, rulers have the ability to inflict more evil than others.
- Rulers can be dangerous.
- Not all rulers are good.

**Ecclesiastes 10:6:** "Folly is set in great dignity, and the rich sit in low place."

- There are some rulers who dignify foolishness.
- There are some rulers who refuse to honor the rich.
- Rulers shouldn't dignify foolishness.
- It's bad for foolishness to be dignified.
- Rulers should give honor to the rich.
- The rich are worthy of honor.
- It's an evil thing when rulers elevate foolishness and give it honor.
- It's an evil thing when rulers dishonor the rich.
- People should give honor to those who deserve it.
- People shouldn't give honor to evil and bad things.
- It's not wrong to be rich.

**Ecclesiastes 10:7:** "I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth."

- It's evil for rulers to elevate servants and give dishonor to princes.
- Rulers should honor those who deserve honor.
- Rulers shouldn't take honor from someone who deserves it, and give that honor to someone who doesn't deserve it.
- Princes should be treated better than servants.
- In ancient times, riding on a horse was a position of honor.
- In ancient times, walking on the ground was not a position of honor.
- In ancient times, people rode horses.
- Rulers need to be careful about who they honor and who they don't honor.

**Ecclesiastes 10:8:** "He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him."

- He who digs a pit (laying a trap for others) will fall into it.
- He who breaks a hedge (damaging their neighbor's property) will be bitten by a serpent.
- Those who do evil things to others will be bitten by evil themselves.
- It's bad to dig a pit (lay a trap) for others.
- It's bad to damage your neighbor's property.
- We must not lay traps to ensnare others.
- We must not damage our neighbor's property.
- There's a curse upon those who do evil to others.

- We must not do evil to others.
- It's dangerous to do evil to others.
- There are times when God uses animals to punish evildoers.
- It's unwise to lay traps for others.
- It's unwise to destroy your neighbor's property.

**Ecclesiastes 10:9:** "Whoso removeth stones shall be hurt therewith; and he that cleaveth wood shall be endangered thereby."

- Those who remove their neighbor's boundary stones will be hurt by doing so.
- Chopping wood is an inherently dangerous activity.
- We shouldn't remove boundary stones.
- We shouldn't seek to seal our neighbor's property.
- Those who seek to steal from others will be hurt.
- There's a curse upon those who steal from others.
- It's unwise to steal your neighbor's property.
- Those who chop wood must be careful.

**Ecclesiastes 10:10:** "If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct."

- An iron tool that has a blunt edge requires more strength to use.
- If an iron tool has a sharp edge, it requires less strength

to use.

- It's a good idea to keep iron tools sharp.
- Wisdom is profitable.
- Wisdom is profitable to direct the course of our lives.
- Life is easier with wisdom.
- If you seek an easier life then seek wisdom.
- It's possible to use an iron tool without a sharp edge, but it's a lot harder.
- Life is a lot harder for those who lack wisdom.

**Ecclesiastes 10:11:** "Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment; and a babbler is no better."

- If a serpent isn't enchanted then it will bite people.
- If a serpent is enchanted then it won't bite people.
- It's possible to enchant serpents so that they don't bite people.
- In ancient times, people enchanted serpents.
- Those who babble foolishly are like a dangerous serpent.
- If a babbler isn't enchanted into being silent, he will babble and injure people.
- Those who babble foolishly are dangerous.
- Those who babble foolishly need to be silenced.

**Ecclesiastes 10:12:** "The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself."



- The words of the wise are gracious.
- Fools are destroyed by their words.
- It's good to be gracious.
- We should seek to be gracious.
- There's wisdom in gracious words.
- Fools are endangered by their own words.

**Ecclesiastes 10:13:** "The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness: and the end of his talk is mischievous madness."

- In the beginning, the words of a fool are foolish.
- In the end, the words of a fool are evil and full of madness.
- The words of a fool become worse the longer he talks.
- Fools become worse over time.
- It's bad for a fool to speak.

**Ecclesiastes 10:14:** "A fool also is full of words: a man cannot tell what shall be; and what shall be after him, who can tell him?"

- Fools have a lot to say.
- Even though fools have nothing worth saying, and even though their words are foolish and evil, fools still have a lot to say.
- It's impossible to tell what will happen in this world in the future.

- It's impossible to tell what will happen in this world after we're dead.
- No one can tell us what will happen in this world after we're dead.

**Ecclesiastes 10:15:** "The labour of the foolish wearieth every one of them, because he knoweth not how to go to the city."

- Fools are wearied by labor.
- Fools lack endurance.
- Fools don't understand life.
- Fools don't understand how to conduct themselves in society.

**Ecclesiastes 10:16:** "Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child, and thy princes eat in the morning!"

- It's a terrible thing for a nation when its ruler is a child.
- Nations must not be ruled over by children.
- Children don't make good rulers.
- It's a terrible thing for a nation when its princes feast in the morning. (The implication is they should be working for the benefit of the nation instead.)
- Nations shouldn't allow children to rule over them.
- Rulers must not feast at inappropriate times.

**Ecclesiastes 10:17:** "Blessed art thou, O land, when thy king is the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness!"

- It's a good thing when the king is a descendant of nobility.
- It's a good thing when princes eat at the proper time.
- It's a good thing when princes eat in order to gain strength.
- It's a good thing when princes are not drunkards.
- Princes should eat in due season, at the proper time.
- Princes must not be drunkards.
- It's a bad thing when a nation is ruled over by a drunkard.

**Ecclesiastes 10:18:** "By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through."

- Buildings fall into ruin because of laziness.
- If people don't care for buildings then they'll fall into ruin.
- A building that's falling apart is a sign of laziness. Someone isn't taking care of it.
- If a person is idle then his house will fall apart.
- It's bad for people to be idle and lazy.
- People need to work in order to maintain their homes. Otherwise their homes will be lost.
- Things that aren't cared for and maintained will decay and fall into ruin.
- People should take care of their homes.

**Ecclesiastes 10:19:** "A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things."

- A feast is designed to bring laughter into our lives.
- Wine is designed to make people merry.
- Feasts aren't evil.
- It's good to bring laughter into people's lives.
- Wine isn't evil.
- It's good to be merry.
- Money can resolve all sorts of problems in life.
- Money is more powerful than feasting or wine.

**Ecclesiastes 10:20:** "Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter."

- Don't curse the king.
- Don't even curse the king in your thoughts.
- Don't curse the rich.
- Don't curse the rich even in your private chambers in your house.
- If you curse the king then other people will find out.
- If you curse the rich then other people will find out.
- Curses can't be kept secret. They will escape, and other people will find out.
- It's bad to curse the king.
- It's bad to curse the rich.
- We must not curse the king.

- We must not curse the rich.

## Chapter 11

**Ecclesiastes 11:1:** "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days."

- Sow your seed on fertile and well-watered ground.
- If you sow your seed on well-watered ground, you will reap a harvest after many days.
- It's important to sow seed.
- It's important to sow seed in a place where it will grow.
- We need to be wise about where we sow seed.
- It's good to sow seed.
- It's better to sow seed at some places than others.
- The way to reap a harvest is to sow seed.
- If you want to reap a harvest then you need to sow seed.
- If you want to reap a harvest then you need to think about where you're sowing seed.
- If you sow seed, you might not reap a harvest for many days. It may be a long time before you find the harvest.
- It's important to be patient when sowing seed.

**Ecclesiastes 11:2:** "Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth."

- Give food and other necessities to seven or eight people.

- By giving to others, you may find that they will help you later when you need help.
- In order to make sure that you have people to help you in the future, it's important to help people now (while you're in a position to do so).
- It's important to give to others.
- It's important to give to those who are in need.
- Giving to those who are in need could benefit us in the future.
- There's no way for us to know what evil things are going to happen in the future.
- Since the future is uncertain, we need to prepare for it.
- The way to prepare for an uncertain future is by giving to other people now (not by hoarding).
- To prepare for an uncertain future and guard against evil things that might happen, give to others now. Those people may help you in the future when you need it.

**Ecclesiastes 11:3:** "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."

- If a cloud is full of rain then it will rain.
- Clouds provide rain.
- Rain comes from clouds.
- Clouds water the ground.
- Wherever a tree falls, that's where it's going to be.

**Ecclesiastes 11:4:** "He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap."

- Those who observe weather conditions will never sow their seed.
- Those who observe clouds will never reap a harvest.
- It's important to sow seed in spite of what the weather conditions are.
- It's important to reap the harvest in spite of what's going on with the clouds.
- Those who are too cautious will never sow seed or reap a harvest.
- Being too cautious is dangerous. It can keep us from ever sowing seed.
- Being too cautious is dangerous. It can keep us from ever reaping a harvest.
- We need to move forward with sowing seed in spite of the risks.
- We need to move forward with sowing seed in spite of imperfect conditions.
- We need to move forward with reaping in spite of the risks.
- We need to move forward with reaping in spite of imperfect conditions.

**Ecclesiastes 11:5:** "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."

- We don't know the way of the Spirit.
- We don't know how children are developed in the womb.
- Women have a womb.
- The unborn life that's in the womb of a woman is a child (a human being).
- The Bible refers to pregnant women as women who are "with child". They have a child within them.
- We don't know as much as we think we do.
- We don't know the works of God.
- It's not wise to be overly cautious. We must never forget that we don't know what God is doing, which means we don't see the whole picture. There may be more going on.
- We need to take action, even in imperfect circumstances, because we don't know what God is doing.
- God is the one who makes everyone.

**Ecclesiastes 11:6:** "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."

- In the morning, sow your seed.
- In the evening, give to those who are in need.
- It's impossible to tell what seeds will grow.
- There's no way to tell in advance whether something will succeed or not.
- Since there's no way to tell whether a thing will succeed,



we should sow our seed and see what God does.

- It's possible that we will reap a harvest when we don't expect it. Things may succeed even though it seems like they couldn't possibly succeed.

**Ecclesiastes 11:7:** "Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun:"

- The light is sweet.
- It's a pleasant thing to see sunlight.
- Sunlight is good.
- Light is good.
- It's good to have access to sunlight.
- It's good to be able to see sunlight.

**Ecclesiastes 11:8:** "But if a man live many years, and rejoice in them all; yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many. All that cometh is vanity."

- Those who have a long life must not forget that death is coming.
- Those who have a joyous life must not forget that death is coming.
- Don't let a long and joyous life make you forget that death is coming.

**Ecclesiastes 11:9:** "Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but

know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment."

- The young should rejoice in their youth.
- The heart of the young should cheer them on.
- God will judge us for all the things that we do.
- If we follow our heart, we must remember that God will bring into judgment the things that we do.
- If we follow our eyes, we must remember that God will bring into judgment the things that we do.
- One day God will bring us into judgment.
- Judgment is coming.
- It's important for the young to remember that God will bring them into judgment.

**Ecclesiastes 11:10:** "Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity."

- The young shouldn't have a sorrowful heart.
- The young should seek to banish sorrow from their heart.
- The young should seek after joy. They should rejoice in their youth.
- The young shouldn't do anything evil. They must put away evil.
- It's good for the young to rejoice and be happy.
- It's good for the young to not be sorrowful and sad.
- Childhood is vanity. It's passing away and won't last.

- Youth is vanity. It's passing away and won't last.
- Childhood doesn't last forever.
- Youth doesn't last forever.

## Chapter 12

**Ecclesiastes 12:1:** "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;"

- God is our Creator. He is the one who created us.
- We must remember God while we're young.
- The life of the young is easier than the life of the old.
- Once we get old, our days become a lot harder. Life becomes more difficult and unpleasant.
- Old age is difficult.
- When we're old we will have years that don't please us at all.
- Although old age is difficult and our years may no longer make us happy, the Bible never presents suicide as an option. Instead it presents the difficulties of old age as a thing that we must endure.
- Since old age is hard and bitter, we should remember God while we're young, before life gets harder.
- It shouldn't surprise us if our life gets harder as we get older, and we no longer find pleasure in life.
- Youth is a time of joy. Old age is a time of suffering.

**Ecclesiastes 12:2:** "While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain:"

- When you get old, you lose your ability to see the light. It becomes harder to see.
- It's a joy to see the light, but as you get older you lose the ability to do that.

**Ecclesiastes 12:3:** "In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened,"

- When you get old, you start to tremble. You'll no longer be able to keep your hands steady.
- When you get old, you'll become weak. Instead of standing tall you'll be bent over.
- When you get old, you'll lose your teeth.

**Ecclesiastes 12:4:** "And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low;"

- When you get old, you'll keep your mouth shut (due to a lack of teeth).
- When you get old, the slightest noise will disturb you.
- When you get old, you'll find it difficult to hear things.
- When you get old, it will be difficult to speak.

**Ecclesiastes 12:5:** "Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:"

- When you get old, you'll become afraid of high places (because falling is dangerous to the elderly).
- When you get old, you'll become afraid of everything (because so many things are dangerous to the elderly).
- When you get old, your hair will turn white.
- When you get old, even small and light things will become a burden.
- When you get old, you'll no longer desire the things you once did.
- The reason all of these terrible things happen when we get old is because we're approaching death.
- When we get old, we're approaching the day when there will be mourners in the streets (who are mourning our passing).
- It's not wrong to mourn for those who have died.
- Death is an occasion for mourning.

**Ecclesiastes 12:6:** "Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern."

- When we get old, we may develop problems with our spine.
- When we get old, we may develop problems with our

brain.

- When we get old, we may develop problems with our heart.

**Ecclesiastes 12:7:** "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."

- When we die, our body will return to the dust.
- When we die, our spirit will return to God.
- God is the one who gave us our spirit.
- God is the one who gave us life.
- We are more than just a physical body. We have a spirit as well.
- Our spirit lives on after death.

**Ecclesiastes 12:8:** "Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity."

- The author of this book calls himself the preacher.
- All is vanity. All is empty, frustrating, and unsatisfying.
- There's nothing in this world that's satisfying. The things of this world are all unsatisfying.

**Ecclesiastes 12:9:** "And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs."

- The person who wrote this book was wise.
- This is a book of wisdom. It's not a book of foolishness or

despair.

- The teachings of this book are good, not evil.
- The person who wrote this book taught the people knowledge.
- The person who wrote this book set in order many proverbs.
- The person who wrote this book collected proverbs and taught them to the people.
- The person who wrote this book was very interested in proverbs.
- The proverbs that the author collected were intended to teach wisdom to the people.

**Ecclesiastes 12:10:** "The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth."

- The author searched for acceptable words. He wanted to make sure that the things he wrote were acceptable to God.
- The author searched for words of truth. He wanted to make sure the things he wrote were true.
- The author wanted to write a book that was upright.
- This book is acceptable in the sight of God.
- This book is true.
- This book is upright. It's not evil or cynical.
- This is a book of wisdom. It's true and upright, and the things it says are acceptable in the sight of God.

**Ecclesiastes 12:11:** "The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd."

- The author compares the words of the wise to nails that are fastened by a master.
- The words of the wise have a purpose.
- The words of the wise come from one shepherd (the Lord Jesus Christ).
- Since this book is full of wisdom, and since wisdom comes from one shepherd, that means the wisdom of this book comes from the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Ecclesiastes 12:12:** "And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh."

- The author of this book had a son.
- The author of this book admonished his son.
- There's no end to making books.
- It's always possible to write more books.
- Spending a lot of time in study wears a person out.

**Ecclesiastes 12:13:** "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

- The conclusion of this book is that we must fear God and keep His commandments. That's the point behind



everything the book says, and where its arguments lead.

- We must fear God.
- We must keep God's commandments.
- The whole duty of man is to fear God and keep His commandments.

**Ecclesiastes 12:14:** "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

- God will bring every work into judgment.
- God will bring every secret thing into judgment.
- God will bring every good thing into judgment.
- God will bring every evil thing into judgment.
- A day of judgment is coming.
- God is the judge.
- One day God will judge everything.