

# Book of Ecclesiastes

## Study BIBLE



## Introduction

Book No	21
Name	Ecclesiastes
Written By	Solomon
Testament	Old
Category	Wisdom
Date Written	Approx. 935 BC
Place Written	Jerusalem
Audience	To the people of Israel
Purpose	To spare future generations the bitterness of learning through their own experience that life is meaningless apart from God
History Covered	NA
Chapters	12
Verses	222
Key Verse	Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. (12:13)
Key People	NA
Key Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Israel</li> <li>❖ Gibeon</li> <li>❖ Jerusalem</li> </ul>

## Purpose of the Book

Empty, futile, hollow, nothing—the words have a ring of disappointment and disillusionment. Yet this is the life experience of many. Grasping the sweet things—possessions, experience, power, and pleasure—they find nothing inside. Life is empty, meaningless—and they sink into despair.

Almost 3,000 years ago, Solomon spoke of this human dilemma; but the insights and applications of his message are relevant to our time. Ecclesiastes, Solomon's written sermon, is an analysis of life's experiences and a critical essay about life's true meaning. In this profound book, Solomon takes us on a reflective journey through his life, explaining how everything he had tried, tested, or tasted had been "meaningless"—useless, irrational, pointless, foolish, and empty—an exercise in futility. And remember, these words are from one who "had it all"—tremendous intellect, power, and wealth. After this biographical tour, Solomon made his triumphant conclusion: "Fear God and obey his commands, for this is the duty of every person. God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad" (12:13-14).

When Solomon became king, he asked God for wisdom (2 Chronicles 1:7-12), and he became the wisest man in the world (1 Kings 4:29-34). He studied, taught, judged, and wrote. Kings and leaders from other nations came to Jerusalem to learn from him. But with all of his practical insight on life, Solomon failed to heed his own advice, and he began a downward spiral. Near the end of his life, Solomon looked back with an attitude of humility and repentance. He took stock of his life, hoping to spare his readers the bitterness of learning through personal experience that everything apart from God is empty, hollow, and meaningless.

Although the tone of Ecclesiastes is negative and pessimistic, we must not conclude that the only chapter worth reading and applying is the last one, where he draws his conclusions. In reality, the entire book is filled with practical wisdom (how to accomplish things in the world and stay out of trouble) and spiritual wisdom (how to find and know eternal values). Solomon had a very honest approach to life. All of his remarks relating to the futility of life are there for a purpose: to lead us to seek fulfillment and happiness in God alone. He was not trying to destroy all hope, but to direct our hopes to the only one who can truly fulfill them and give our life meaning. Solomon affirms the value of knowledge, relationships, work, and pleasure, but only

in their proper place. All of these temporal things in life must be seen in light of the eternal.

The determination of the Preacher to find what is of real value in this life should be a challenge for any true believer in Jesus Christ, “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). The Preacher’s failure to find real value in earthly things and comfortable lifestyles challenges the Christian who lives in this age of greed and materialism to concentrate on the things that are above (Col. 3:1) and not to glorify greed and possessions.

Read Ecclesiastes and learn about life. Hear the stern warnings and dire predictions, and commit yourself to remember your Creator now (12:1).

### Overview

- ❖ 21<sup>st</sup> book of the BIBLE, Old Testament and 4<sup>th</sup> of the wisdom or poetic books
- ❖ Solomon was looking back on his life, much of which was lived apart from God.
- ❖ The key word in Ecclesiastes is “vanity.”
- ❖ Vanity is the futile emptiness of trying to be happy apart from God.
- ❖ The word “vanity” occurs some 37 times in Ecclesiastes.
- ❖ Life (“under the sun” is used 29 times) seems to be filled with:
  - Inequities
  - Changes in fortune
  - Uncertainties
  - Violations of justice
- ❖ The Book of Ecclesiastes is the record of an intense search for meaning and satisfaction in life on the earth.
- ❖ Live lived without regard for God is life lived without value.

### Hebrew Names of GOD used in Ecclesiastes

- ❖ ELOHIM

### Revelation of JESUS CHRIST

Although the Book of Ecclesiastes contains no direct or typological prophecies of Jesus Christ, it anticipates a number of teachings of Him who was the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets (Matt. 5:17).

In Matthew 6:19–21 Jesus warned against seeking wealth in this life, urging instead that it be sought in the next, a perspective that echoes the Preacher’s indictment of materialism in 2:1–11, 18–26; 4:4–6; 5:8–14. The stress Jesus laid on heaven likewise mirrors the Preacher’s despair of finding true value “under the sun” (in this life). The conclusion to which the Preacher is driven, that true value lies only in reverence and obedience to God (12:13), mirrors the teachings of Jesus that one’s values should be first determined by a proper attitude toward God (Matt. 22:37, quoting Deut. 6:5) and then a proper attitude toward one’s fellow human beings (Matt. 22:39, quoting Lev. 19:18).

### Work of THE HOLY SPIRIT

All references to “spirit” in Ecclesiastes are to the life-force that animates the human or the animal (see 3:18–21). The book nevertheless anticipates some of the problems faced by the apostle Paul in the implementation of spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12–14. People who believe that God speaks to them through the Holy Spirit in dreams and visions (Joel 2:28–32; Acts 2:17–21) would do well to heed the wise advice of the Preacher that not every dream is the voice of God (5:3). Paul seems to have a caution like this in mind for the revelatory gifts of tongues and prophecy in 1 Corinthians 14:29, when he advises an orderly manifestation followed by a judgment on the utterance by the assembly. Likewise, the Preacher’s stress on reverence and obedience to God parallels Paul’s concern for the edification of the church (1 Cor. 14:5). True spiritual gifts—genuine manifestations of miraculous utterance or deed—will be used in a spirit of reverence for the glory of God through Christ and for the edification of the believers.

### Mega Themes of Ecclesiastes

#### SEARCHING

Solomon searched for satisfaction almost as though he was conducting a scientific experiment. Through this process, he discovered that life without God is a long and fruitless search for enjoyment, meaning, and fulfillment. True happiness is not in our power to attain because we always want more than we can have. In addition, there are circumstances beyond our control that can snatch away our possessions or attainments.

People are still searching. Yet the more they try to get, the more they realize how little they really have. No pleasure or happiness is possible without God. Without him,

satisfaction is a lost search. Above everything we should strive to know and love God. He gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy.

### EMPTINESS

Solomon shows how empty it is to pursue the pleasures that this life has to offer rather than seek to have a relationship with the eternal God. The search for pleasure, wealth, and success is ultimately disappointing. Nothing in the world can fill the emptiness and satisfy the deep longings in our restless hearts.

The cure for emptiness is to center on God. His love also can fill the emptiness of human experience. Fear God throughout your life, and fill your life with serving God and others rather than with selfish pleasures.

### WORK

Solomon tried to shake people's confidence in their own efforts, abilities, and wisdom and to direct them to faith in God as the only sound basis for living. Without God, there is no lasting reward or benefit in hard work.

Work done with the wrong attitude will leave us empty. But work accepted as an assignment from God can be seen as a gift. Examine what you expect from your efforts. God gives you abilities and opportunities to work so that you can use your time well.

### DEATH

The certainty of death makes all human achievements futile. God has a plan for each one of us that goes beyond life and death. The reality of aging and dying reminds each individual of the end to come when God will judge each person's life.

Because life is short, we need wisdom that is greater than this world can offer. We need the words of God so we can live right. If we listen to him, his wisdom spares us the bitterness of futile human experience and gives us a hope that goes beyond death.

### WISDOM

Human wisdom doesn't contain all the answers. Knowledge and education have their limits. To understand life and make right choices, we need the wisdom that can be found only in God's Word—the Bible.

When we realize that God will evaluate all that we do, we should learn to live wisely, remembering that he is present each day, and learn to obey his guidelines for living. But in order to have God's wisdom, we must first get to know and honor him.

## Life Lessons in Ecclesiastes

<b>Truth</b>	<b>Lesson</b>
<p><b>Growing in Godliness</b></p> <p>The Book of Ecclesiastes encourages the reader to live a godly life. Futility and meaninglessness describe the life lived apart from God. When we lose our focus on God, all of the effort, toil, energy, and thought we put into our work on earth is compared to “grasping for the wind.” Meaning and fulfillment are found in a life lived in faithfulness and integrity toward God and others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Seek to please the Lord and honor Him in your work. As you do, God gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy.</li> <li>❖ Endeavor to enjoy life and the work you do.</li> <li>❖ Avoid quick and angry responses. Do not make rash decisions. It is better to be patient than proud.</li> <li>❖ Live your life for the Lord. Enjoy your work, enjoy your spouse, and do everything you undertake with all of your strength.</li> <li>❖ Fear the Lord, and obey Him. It is not enough just to know about God—to write or read about Him—we must know Him and follow Him. This is the goal, the greatest achievement, and the fulfillment of a person.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cultivating Dynamic Devotion</b></p> <p>Ecclesiastes speaks clearly to the culture of our day. While experiencing every conceivable pleasure and earnestly pursuing and achieving unprecedented success and wealth, “the Preacher” concludes that life is meaningless. Not until the end of his journey to find meaning in life does he realize the answer that he seeks lies simply</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Learn from these verses: unrestrained lust and desire for pleasure, wealth, success and self gratification will not satisfy you. In the end, they leave you depressed, empty, and hopeless.</li> <li>❖ Be vitally connected to God; that is the answer to every longing for fulfillment and meaning.</li> <li>❖ Recognize that no amount of silver or increasing abundance will ever satisfy the human soul.</li> </ul>

<p>in devotion to God and obedience to His ways. A life of meaning, purpose, great joy, and fulfillment can be ours if we will devote our lives to the Lord and follow Him all of our days.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ We are uniquely created to worship God alone; nothing else can truly bring lasting peace and satisfaction.</li> <li>❖ Hear the conclusion of the matter: after Solomon had tried every possible experience that the world said would bring happiness, he found it all to be futile and pointless. Devote yourself to God, who alone gives true meaning to life.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pursuing Holiness</b></p> <p>It is out of God's deep love and care for us that He calls us to live holy lives. True freedom is found in holiness; for when we willfully practice sin, we become its slave, unable to break free in our own strength from its bondage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Run from evil and sin. Our inability to break free from bondage to sin is likened to our inability to overcome physical death. Know that in Jesus Christ, both sin and death have been defeated (Rom. 6:11–23).</li> <li>❖ Carry out necessary discipline of bad behaviour promptly. Understand that to delay loving discipline only encourages and reinforces negative behavior.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The Walk of Faith</b></p> <p>Part of the growth process in our walk of faith is learning to live wisely.</p> <p>Ecclesiastes teaches that we are living wisely when we know God and seek to honor Him in all that we do. Faithfilled living involves learning to make wise choices, choosing those things that glorify God and have lasting and eternal value.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Understand that wisdom is only a means to an end. Wisdom is not the ultimate goal; but God is our goal, and wisdom is a means of knowing Him and walking in His ways. Solomon found that earthly wisdom apart from God cannot fix what is broken or supply what is lacking; but with Christ, the wisdom of God, all things are possible (1 Cor. 1:24).</li> <li>❖ Find a job you can enjoy and do with a thankful heart. Staying busy with the things that bring joy to your heart is a gift from the Lord.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Understand that to work so hard that you cannot enjoy the fruit of your labor is meaningless.</li> <li>❖ Ask God to bring a healthy balance into your life.</li> <li>❖ Guard your heart, your speech, and your conduct.</li> <li>❖ Even a seemingly small foolish act can taint your good reputation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Knowing GOD and HIS ways</b></p> <p>We are to revere GOD as the creator who works everything perfectly after the counsel of HIS own will</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ believe that everything GOD does is perfect</li> <li>❖ establish your relationship with GOD while you are young, before the evils of life harden your heart</li> </ul>
<p><b>Steps to developing humility</b></p> <p>One message in ecclesiastes comes through loud and clear. Walk gently and humbly before the LORD. GOD is in heaven and you on earth. The more we know about GOD the more humble we will be. The humble person recognizes his own limitations and accepts them</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ accept and recognize that human understanding of history is partial and distorted.</li> <li>❖ Know that the facts mankind has forgotten could change your perspective entirely</li> <li>❖ Accept your limitations.</li> <li>❖ Know that you can not comprehend eternity</li> <li>❖ Learn to accept GOD's perfect timing</li> <li>❖ Understand that the pursuit of personal ambition is vain and futile</li> <li>❖ Be mindful of your mortality.</li> <li>❖ Let bereavement bring you times of sober self assessment</li> </ul>
<p><b>Keys to handling money</b></p> <p>Being a righteous steward of worldly wealth flows out of a godly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Consider and understand that wealth is intrinsically elusive</li> <li>❖ Understand that wealth is by its very nature deceptive</li> </ul>

<p>perspective with regard to money. Money is a servant to utilize not a god to serve. One's motives in acquiring and using money are the determining factors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Know the difference between wealth that has been sought and wealth that has come from the hand of GOD</li> <li>❖ Understand that the latter has no curse associated with it</li> </ul>
<p><b>Steps to dealing with sin</b></p> <p>The wise person understands that to wilfully practice sin is to become its slave and to delay in dealing with sin appropriately is to promote it</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Understand that you are the slave of any wickedness that you practice</li> <li>❖ Carry out any discipline you determine is necessary without delay because delay may foster wrong doing</li> </ul>
<p><b>How to tame the tongue</b></p> <p>When we speak we must be aware that the LORD hears every word we say. Presumptuous speech displeases the LORD and can bring discipline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Be quick to listen and slow to speak</li> <li>❖ Cultivate humility and learn to walk softly before the LORD</li> <li>❖ Do not speak presumptuously of spiritual commitment or endeavour.</li> <li>❖ Cultivate reverence for the LORD</li> </ul>

### Praise Points in Ecclesiastes

- ❖ Giving us the pleasures of food, work, and sleep (2:24-25; 5:12)
- ❖ Giving wisdom, knowledge, and joy to those who please him (2:26; 5:20)
- ❖ Planting eternity in the human heart (3:11)
- ❖ Acting with finality and judging us for what we do (3:14, 17-18; 12:14)
- ❖ Refining us through both hard and prosperous times (7:3, 14)
- ❖ Punishing the wicked, although they may be buried with honor (8:10-13)
- ❖ Blessing the godly, though they may die in disfavor (9:1)
- ❖ Rewarding generosity (11:1).

### Worship Insights in Ecclesiastes

According to the Teacher, God is worthy of worship simply because he is God. The circumstances of human existence, for good or ill, do not offset God's worthiness to be worshiped. Even when life is filled with injustice, uncertainty, and pain, God remains worthy, and we must decide if we will "fear God and obey his commands" (12:13).

- ❖ Knowledge divorced from God cannot satisfy us (1:18).
- ❖ God enables us to enjoy the good things in life (2:24-25).
- ❖ God has made us in his image by planting eternity in our heart (3:11).
- ❖ God's work is final—nothing can be added to or taken from it (3:14).
- ❖ We should be cautious about making glib promises to God (5:1).
- ❖ We should not fight against the ways of God but, instead, accept them willingly (7:13).
- ❖ Nothing is certain in life except the constancy of God (7:14).
- ❖ God created us to live upright lives (7:29).
- ❖ We should be thankful when God gives us a partner to accompany us in this life (9:9).
- ❖ To fear God and obey his commands sums up wisdom (12:13).

## An Outline of Ecclesiastes

Introduction: [Ecc\\_1:1-3](#)

A. Title: [Ecc\\_1:1](#)

B. Theme: [Ecc\\_1:2-3](#)

1. Sweeping conclusion of : [Ecc\\_1:2](#)

2. Guiding question on : [Ecc\\_1:3](#)

I. First Demonstration of Theme: [Ecc. 1:4-2:26](#)

A. Introductory Poem: [Ecc\\_1:4-11](#)

1. Constancy of creation: [Ecc\\_1:4-8](#)

a. Cycles of nature and the stability of earth: [Ecc\\_1:4](#)

b. Sun's journey: [Ecc\\_1:5](#)

c. Wind's movement: [Ecc\\_1:6](#)

d. Rivers' flow: [Ecc\\_1:7](#)

e. Human response: [Ecc\\_1:8](#)

2. Absence of novelty: [Ecc\\_1:9-11](#)

B. Reflections on a Royal Experiment: [Ecc. 1:12-2:23](#)

1. Anguish of wisdom: [Ecc\\_1:12-18](#)

a. Preacher's self-introduction: [Ecc\\_1:12](#)

- b.** Account of Preacher's quest for wisdom: [Ecc\\_1:13](#)
  - c.** Negative summary appraisal: [Ecc\\_1:14](#)
  - d.** Proverb confirming the appraisal: [Ecc\\_1:15](#)
  - e.** Preacher's self-evaluation: [Ecc\\_1:16](#)
  - f.** Account of Preacher's quest for understanding: [Ecc\\_1:17](#)
  - g.** Negative summary appraisal: [Ecc\\_1:17](#)
  - h.** Proverb confirming the appraisal: [Ecc\\_1:18](#)
- 2.** Frustrations of pleasure: [Ecc\\_2:1-11](#)
  - a.** Decision to search for pleasure: [Ecc\\_2:1](#)
  - b.** Negative verdict against pleasure: [Ecc\\_2:12](#)
  - c.** Description of search: [Ecc\\_2:3-8](#)
  - d.** Positive results of search: [Ecc\\_2:9-10](#)
  - e.** Negative verdict against pleasure: [Ecc\\_2:11](#)
- 3.** Lack of permanence: [Ecc\\_2:12-23](#)
  - a.** Wise and fool both die: [Ecc\\_2:12-17](#)
  - b.** Labors may not last: [Ecc\\_2:18-23](#)
- 4.** *Alternative Conclusion*: [Ecc\\_2:24-26](#)
  - a.** Joy in the commonplace: [Ecc\\_2:24](#)
  - b.** Joy from God alone: [Ecc\\_2:25](#)
  - c.** Mystery of divine grace: [Ecc\\_2:26](#)

## II. Second Demonstration of Theme: Ecc. 3:1-4:16

- A.** Restriction of Human Freedom: [Ecc\\_3:1-15](#)
  - 1.** Introductory Statement: [Ecc\\_3:1](#)
  - 2.** Poem on fixity of time: [Ecc\\_3:2-8](#)
  - 3.** Reflections on fixity of time: [Ecc\\_3:9-11](#)
  - 4.** *Alternative Conclusion*: [Ecc\\_3:12-15](#)
    - a.** Joy in the commonplace: [Ecc\\_3:12-13](#)
    - b.** God's changeless ways: [Ecc\\_3:14-15](#)
- B.** Distortion of Justice: Ecc. 3:16-4:16
  - 1.** Oppression in the courts: [Ecc\\_3:16-21](#)

- a. Observation of oppression: [Ecc\\_3:16](#)
  - b. Declaration of judgment: [Ecc\\_3:17](#)
  - c. Reflections on judgment: [Ecc\\_3:18-21](#)
2. *Alternative Conclusion*: [Ecc\\_3:22](#)
- a. Joy in the commonplace: [Ecc\\_3:22](#)
  - b. No possibility of return: [Ecc\\_3:22](#)
3. Oppression in the marketplace: [Ecc\\_4:1-3](#)
- a. Reflection on the fate of the oppressed: [Ecc\\_4:1](#)
  - b. Conclusion drawn from their fate: [Ecc\\_4:2-3](#)
4. Oppression through competition: [Ecc\\_4:4-6](#)
- a. Reflection on the harm of envy: [Ecc\\_4:4](#)
  - b. Conventional proverb on assertiveness: [Ecc\\_4:5](#)
  - c. Counter-Proverb on contentment: [Ecc\\_4:6](#)
5. Oppression through compulsiveness: [Ecc\\_4:7-12](#)
- a. Reflection on a workaholic: [Ecc\\_4:7-8](#)
  - b. Sayings on fellowship: [Ecc\\_4:9-12](#)
6. Oppression through fickleness: [Ecc\\_4:13-16](#)
- a. Proverb on an incorrigible king: [Ecc\\_4:13](#)
  - b. Explanation of proverb: [Ecc\\_4:14-16](#)

### III. First Words of Advice: [Ecc\\_5:1-12](#)

#### A. Prudence in Worship: [Ecc\\_5:1-7](#)

1. Listening to God is better than sacrifice: [Ecc\\_5:1](#)
2. Brevity in prayer is better than wordiness: [Ecc\\_5:2-3](#)
  - a. Admonition against rashness: [Ecc\\_5:2](#)
  - b. Proverb against verbosity: [Ecc\\_5:3](#)
3. Faithfulness is better than fickleness: [Ecc\\_5:4-7](#)
  - a. Admonition on paying vows: [Ecc\\_5:4-5](#)
  - b. Admonition against lying about vows: [Ecc\\_5:6](#)
  - c. Admonition to fear God: [Ecc\\_5:7](#)

**B. Caution Toward Government: [Ecc\\_5:8-9](#)**

1. Conspiracy of the bureaucracy: [Ecc\\_5:8](#)
2. Complicity of the king: [Ecc\\_5:9](#)

**C. Restraint of Greed: [Ecc\\_5:10-12](#)**

1. Proverb against love of money: [Ecc\\_5:10](#)
2. Proverb about expenses rising with income: [Ecc\\_5:11](#)
3. Proverb about the restlessness of the rich: [Ecc\\_5:12](#)

**IV. Third Demonstration of Theme: [Ecc. 5:13-6:12](#)****A. Reflection on Risks of Bad Investments: [Ecc\\_5:13-17](#)**

1. Nothing left for son to inherit: [Ecc\\_5:13-14](#)
2. No joy in life for the broken parent: [Ecc\\_5:15-17](#)

**B. *Alternative Conclusion*: [Ecc\\_5:18-20](#)**

1. Joy in the commonplace: [Ecc\\_5:18](#)
2. Ability to enjoy heritage as a divine gift: [Ecc\\_5:19](#)
3. Importance of being occupied with joy: [Ecc\\_5:20](#)

**C. Reflection on Frustrations of Fraud or Theft: [Ecc\\_6:1-9](#)**

1. Introduction of observation: [Ecc\\_6:1](#)
2. Content of observation: [Ecc\\_6:2](#)
3. Further thoughts on observation: [Ecc\\_6:3-6](#)
  - a. Dissatisfaction is worse than death: [Ecc\\_6:3-5](#)
  - b. No length of life can outweigh frustration: [Ecc\\_6:6](#)
4. Proverbs confirming observation: [Ecc\\_6:7-9](#)
  - a. Sheol has an insatiable appetite: [Ecc\\_6:7](#)
  - b. Sheol has a leveling quality: [Ecc\\_6:8](#)
  - c. Sheol prompts us to live now: [Ecc\\_6:9](#)

**D. Sayings on the Limits of Human Freedom: [Ecc\\_6:10-12](#)**

1. No one can contend with God: [Ecc\\_6:10](#)
2. Wordy arguments make things worse: [Ecc\\_6:11](#)
3. We cannot understand present or future: [Ecc\\_6:12](#)

**V. More Words of Advice: Ecc. 7:1-8:9****A. Sobriety Is Better than Levity: [Ecc\\_7:1-7](#)**

1. In the face of death: [Ecc\\_7:1-4](#)
2. In the face of injustice: [Ecc\\_7:5-7](#)

**B. Caution Is Better than Rashness: [Ecc\\_7:8-10](#)****C. Wisdom Is Better than Folly: [Ecc\\_7:11-12](#)****D. Resignation Is Better than Indignation: [Ecc\\_7:13-14](#)****E. Integrity Is Better than Pretentiousness: [Ecc\\_7:15-22](#)**

1. Observation on unsuitable rewards: [Ecc\\_7:15](#)
2. Admonition against extremes in behavior: [Ecc\\_7:16-18](#)
3. Summary saying on the fear of God: [Ecc\\_7:18](#)
4. Implications of the fear of God: [Ecc\\_7:19-20](#)
  - a. We value wisdom: [Ecc\\_7:19](#)
  - b. We acknowledge sin: [Ecc\\_7:20](#)
5. Admonition to patience when spoken against: [Ecc\\_7:21-22](#)

**F. Reflections on Human Limitations: [Ecc\\_7:23-24](#)**

1. Confession of failure in test for true wisdom: [Ecc\\_7:23-24](#)
2. Summary of the test's intensity and breadth: [Ecc\\_7:25](#)
3. Statement of one discovery: dangers of a grasping woman: [Ecc\\_7:26](#)
4. Elaboration on the search and discovery: [Ecc\\_7:27-28](#)
5. Generalization on the contrast between people as God made them and as they are now: [Ecc\\_7:29](#)
6. Boast of wise man's success despite seeming failure: [Ecc\\_8:1](#)

**G. Admonitions on Respect for Authority: [Ecc\\_8:2-9](#)**

1. Admonition to obey the king: [Ecc\\_8:2](#)
2. Admonition not to revolt against the king: [Ecc\\_8:3](#)
3. Four proverbs on authority: [Ecc\\_8:4-7](#)
  - a. King's power is absolute: [Ecc\\_8:4](#)
  - b. Rebellion should wait for the right time: [Ecc\\_8:5](#)
  - c. Waiting is hard when disaster seems imminent: [Ecc\\_8:6](#)
  - d. Even kings can't read the future: [Ecc\\_8:7](#)

4. Proverb on certainty and untimeliness of death: [Ecc\\_8:8](#)
5. Concluding observation on oppressiveness of power: [Ecc\\_8:9](#)

## VI. Fourth Demonstration of Theme: Ecc. 8:10-9:12

### A. Reflections on the Mysteries of Divine Justice: [Ecc\\_8:10-14](#)

1. Wicked receive attention righteous are forgotten: [Ecc\\_8:10](#)
2. Delays in sentencing cause laxity toward righteousness: [Ecc\\_8:11](#)
3. God will ultimately set things right: [Ecc\\_8:12-13](#)

### B. *Alternative Conclusion*: [Ecc\\_8:15](#)

1. Joy in the commonplace: [Ecc\\_8:15](#)
2. Promise of its endurance: [Ecc\\_8:15](#)

### C. Reflections on the Mystery of All Divine Activities: [Ecc\\_8:16-17](#)

### D. Reflections on the Universality of Death: [Ecc\\_9:1-6](#)

1. Timing of death unconnected to human conduct: [Ecc\\_9:1-4](#)
2. Proverb on importance of life: [Ecc\\_9:4](#)
3. Poem on importance of life: [Ecc\\_9:5-6](#)

### E. *Alternative Conclusion*: [Ecc\\_9:7-10](#)

1. Joy in the commonplace: [Ecc\\_9:7-9](#)
2. Nothing in the grave: [Ecc\\_9:10](#)

### F. Reflections on the Mysteries of Divine Providence: [Ecc\\_9:11-12](#)

1. Sayings on time and chance: [Ecc\\_9:11](#)
2. Sayings on human limitations: [Ecc\\_9:12](#)

## VII. Closing Words of Advice: Ecc. 9:13-12:8

### A. Guidelines to Practicality: Ecc. 9:13-10:20

1. Reflection on wisdom's virtue and fragility: [Ecc\\_9:13-18](#)
  - a. Story of wisdom, effective yet forgotten: [Ecc\\_9:13-16](#)
    - (1) Introduction: [Ecc\\_9:13](#)
    - (2) Story: [Ecc\\_9:14-15](#)
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  - b. Proverbs praising wisdom yet warning of its limits: [Ecc\\_9:17-18](#)

**2. Sayings on dangers of folly: [Ecc\\_10:1-3](#)**

- a. Metaphor on folly's ability to spoil good achievements: [Ecc\\_10:1](#)**
- b. Literal descriptions of foolish behavior: [Ecc\\_10:2-3](#)**

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- a. Admonition to calmness in court: [Ecc\\_10:4](#)**
- b. Observations on royal folly: [Ecc\\_10:5-7](#)**

**4. Sayings on the consequences of carelessness: [Ecc\\_10:8-11](#)****5. Sayings on the consequences of unguarded speech: [Ecc\\_10:12-15](#)****6. Sayings on the foibles of the ruling class: [Ecc\\_10:16-20](#)**

- a. Woe to a land with an unfit ruler: [Ecc\\_10:16](#)**
- b. Beatitude to a land with disciplined leaders: [Ecc\\_10:17](#)**
- c. Sayings on dangers of laziness: [Ecc\\_10:18](#)**
- d. Saying on risk of excessive festivity: [Ecc\\_10:19](#)**
- e. Admonition on danger of demeaning nobility: [Ecc\\_10:20](#)**

**B. Principles of Financial Investment: [Ecc\\_11:1-8](#)****1. Admonitions to diversity: [Ecc\\_11:1-2](#)**

- a. Take a risk: [Ecc\\_11:1](#)**
- b. Expect a return: [Ecc\\_11:1](#)**
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**2. Examples of lessons learned from observation: [Ecc\\_11:3-4](#)**

- a. Cloud: [Ecc\\_11:3](#)**
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- a. Wind: [Ecc\\_11:5](#)**
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**4. Admonitions to timely action: [Ecc\\_11:6](#)**

- a. Sow seed: [Ecc\\_11:6](#)**
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- c. Reason: you don't know how growth works: [Ecc\\_11:6](#)**

**5. Conclusion on enjoying life: [Ecc\\_11:7-8](#)**

- a. Saying on life's joy: [Ecc\\_11:7](#)**
- b. Admonition to remember that death is coming: [Ecc\\_11:8](#)**

**C. Ground Rules for the Young: [Ecc. 11:9-12:8](#)****1. Admonitions to joy: [Ecc\\_11:9-10](#)**

- a. Live life of joy: [Ecc\\_11:9](#)**
- b. Motivation: God will judge: [Ecc\\_11:9](#)**
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- d. Motivation: youth is brief: [Ecc\\_11:10](#)**

**2. Admonition to faithfulness: [Ecc\\_12:1-7](#)**

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- b. Motivation: death is certain: [Ecc\\_12:1-7](#)**
  - (1) Literal description of old age: [Ecc\\_12:1](#)**
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**3. Summary of book: sweeping conclusion: [Ecc\\_12:8](#) Conclusion: [Ecc\\_12:9-14](#)****A. Description of Teacher's Discipline: [Ecc\\_12:9-11](#)**

- 1. Method of preparation: [Ecc\\_12:9](#)**
- 2. Chief aims: [Ecc\\_12:10](#)**
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**B. Admonitions on Student's Duty: [Ecc\\_12:12-14](#)**

- 1.** Beware of misleading books: [Ecc\\_12:12](#)
- 2.** Fear and obey God: [Ecc\\_12:13](#)
- 3.** Motivation: judgment is certain: [Ecc\\_12:14](#)