

Ecclesiastes Chapter 7

1 A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth.

The House of Mourning

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.

3 Sorrow is better than laughter:

- for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.

4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

5 It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.

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

What is the value of Patience?

7 Surely oppression maketh a wise man mad; and a gift destroyeth the heart.

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

9 Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry:

- for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.

10 Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these?

- for thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this.

What is the profit of Wisdom?

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

- 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.

What is God's Work?

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

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.

The Righteous vs the Wicked

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 prolongeth his life in his wickedness.

16 Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise:

❑ why shouldest thou destroy thyself?

17 Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish:

❑ why shouldest thou die before thy time?

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.

The problem of Sin

19 Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten mighty men which are in the city.

20 For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

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

22 For oftentimes also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself likewise hast cursed others.

23 ¶ All this have I proved by wisdom:

❑ I said,

I will be wise; but it was far from me.

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

❑ 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 Strange Woman

❑ 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.

27 Behold, this have I found,

saith the preacher, counting one by one, **to find out** the account:

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**.

29 Lo, this only have I found,

that **God** hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.