

# ECCLESIASTES

A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, arranged in a diagonal pattern from the bottom-left towards the top-right. The lines are set against a blue gradient background that transitions from a lighter shade at the top to a darker shade at the bottom.

Ecclesiastes 7:21 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:

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.

## ECCLESIASTES 7:1-10 (June 2015)

CHALLENGE: Pursue what is better in life.

- A. Maintaining a good name, 7:1 a.
- B. Building a good conclusion to life, 7:1 b.
- C. Having a good perspective on life and death, 7:2.
- D. Having a good appreciation of sorrow, 7:3-4.
- E. Having a good appreciation for rebuke, 7:5-7.
- F. Maintaining a good spirit of patience and humility, 7:8-9.
- G. Having a good acceptance of present conditions, 7:10.

## ECCLESIASTES 7:11-20 (October 2015)

CHALLENGE: React wisely to the Workings/Providences of God in your life.

- A. Reacting wisely to what God has made crooked in your life, 7:13
- B. Reacting wisely to both prosperity and adversity in your life., 7:14
- C. Reacting wisely to the contradictions in life, 7:15-18
- D. Applying wisdom to overcome sinful inclinations, 7:19-20

## PITFALLS TO AVOID – ECCLESIASTES 7:21-29

CHALLENGE: Avoid the pitfalls of life

A. Do not take to heart what people say about you, 7:21-22

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.

"Heed" – the word for heart/inner man, 508 times in OT, so the sense is "do not take to heart" what others say about you.

"Curse" – this is not cursing in the sense we usually think of as language that is bleeping on the newscast. Def: to be slight, be trifling, be of little account, be light. Intensive form: to make despicable, to curse. It has the sense of making less than what God intended or is deserved.

Ge 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Ge 16:4 And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.

VERSE SENSE: Do not take heed to the nasty comments from others about yourself.

Christ in 1 Pet. 2:23, Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

Joseph in Gen. 50:20, But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

Remember 1 Cor. 13:5-7, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

B. Do not think that you will understand all things,  
7:23-24

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?

Psa. 139:6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.

Rom. 11:33, O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!



## C. Do not be taken in by the wickedness of folly, 7:25-29

1. Solomon applied himself to know the wickedness of folly, 7:25.

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:

2. His finding, 7:26. 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.

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.

The Bible denounces immorality in the strongest of terms. Do not let our present immoral culture dull your sensitivity to immorality. Listen to this verse.

Prov. 2:16, To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words; 17 Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God. 18 For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead. 19 None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life. 20 That thou mayest walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous.

Prov. 5:3, For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: 4 But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword. 5 Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell.

Pro. 22:14, The mouth of strange women is a deep pit: he that is abhorred of the LORD shall fall therein.

3. 7:27-28 is not easy to understand (wisdom literature); understand it in its context (v. 25, "to know wickedness & folly," studying the wicked, the worst).

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.

4. God made man upright, but man has rebelled and pursued wickedness, 7:29  
This is the history of mankind.

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

Jer. 4:22 says of Israel "they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge."

Eph. 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

