

ECCLESIASTES

Eccl. 6:1-6



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

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.

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.

4 For he cometh in with vanity, and departeth in darkness, and his name shall be covered with darkness.

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

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

This evening, we continue on a wonderful, spiritual journey through the Book of Ecclesiastes, known also as “The Preacher.”

I. THE PREACHER’S SUBJECT, 1:1-11

- A. The Preacher, 1:1
- B. The Problem, 1:2-3
- C. The Process, 1:4-11

II. THE PREACHER’S SERMON, 1:12-10:20

- A. Things He Had Sought, 1:12—2:26
- B. Things He Had Seen, 3:1—6:12
 - 1. The Problem of Time Without Eternity, 3:1-11
 - 2. The Problem of a New Leaf Without a New Life, 3:12-17
 - 3. The Problem of Mortality Without Immortality, 3:18-22
 - 4. The Problem of Might Without Right, 4:1-3
 - 5. The Problem of Prosperity Without Posterity, 4:4-12
 - 6. The Problem of Sovereignty Without Sagacity, 4:13-16
 - 7. The Problem of Religion Without Reality, 5:1-7

8. The Problem of Wealth Without Health, 5:8-20

a. Words About the Desire for Riches, 5:8-11

(1) Wealth Acquired, 5:8-9

(a) By Injustice, 5:8

i. The Woe, 5:8a

ii. The Warning, 5:8b

(b) By Integrity, 5:9

i. The Principle Inculcated

ii. The Prince Included, 5:9b

(2) Wealth Accumulated, 5:10-11

(a) The Limitation of Wealth, 5:10

(b) The Liability of Wealth, 5:11a

(c) The Lamentation of Wealth,

b. Words About the Deceitfulness of Riches, 5:12-20

(1) How Wealth Disturbs, 5:12

(2) How Wealth Disappears, 5:13-14

(a) The Reasons, 5:13

(b) The Result, 5:14

(3) How Wealth Derides, 5:15-16

(a) What Does the Rich Man Leave, 5:15

(4) How Wealth Darkens, 5:17-20

(a) The Misery it Brings, 5:17

(b) The Materialism it Breeds, 5:18-20

i. The Materialist's Narrow Views, 5:18

ii. The Materialist's Neglected Values,
5:19-20

- What He Forgets, 5:19
- What He Faces, 5:20

Deut. 8:11 **Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God**, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: ...

17 **And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.**

18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for **it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth**, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as *it is* this day.

9. The Problem of Treasure Without Pleasure, 6:1-6

a. Take a Good Look at the Gift, 6:1-2

(1) The Evil Seen, 6:1

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

- From the earthly perspective, a common occurrence happens which is evil.

(2) The Evil Stated, 6:2

(a) Great Gifts Bestowed, 6:2a “A man **to whom God hath given riches**, wealth, and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth...”

1 Tim. 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in **the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy**;

(b) Great Grief Bestowed, 6:2b “...yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: **this is vanity, and it is an evil disease.**”

- The evil mentioned is when one has everything to enjoy, but cannot.

Job 21:25 And **another dieth in the bitterness of his soul, and never eateth with pleasure.**

- The greatest joy in life is to know and serve the Lord Jesus Christ!

Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for **a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.**

1 Jn. 4:9 In this was manifested **the love of God toward us**, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, **that we might live through him.**

b. Take a Good Look at the Grave, 6:3-5

(1) A Comfortable Journey, 6:3a-b

(a) A Large and Living Legacy, 6:3a
“If a man beget an hundred *children...*”

Psa. 127:3 **Lo, children *are* an heritage of the LORD: *and* the fruit of the womb *is his* reward.**

4 As arrows *are* in the hand of a mighty man; so *are* children of the youth.

5 **Happy *is* the man that hath his quiver full of them:** they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

(b) A Long and Lengthy Life, 6:3b “...and live many years, so that the days of his years be many...”

Prov. 3:1 My son, forget not my law; but **let thine heart keep my commandments:**

2 For **length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.**

(2) A Coming Judgment, 6:3c-5

(a) A Blighted Soul, 6:3c “...and **his soul be not filled with good**, and also *that* he have no burial...”

- Outward circumstances look appealing, but an empty soul is miserable.

Job 24:12 “Men groan from out of the city, and **the soul of the wounded crieth out...**”

- Burials were significant displays of respect:

Gen. 50:13 For **his sons carried him into the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave** of the field of Machpelah, which Abraham bought with the field for a possession of a buryingplace of Ephron the Hittite, before Mamre.

Josh. 24:32 And **the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem**, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.

1 Sam. 31:13 And **they took their bones, and buried them** under a tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

2 Sam. 21:12 And David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from the men of Jabeshgilead, which had stolen them from the street of Bethshan, where the Philistines had hanged them, when the Philistines had slain Saul in Gilboa:

13 And he brought up from thence the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son; and they gathered the bones of them that were hanged.

14 **And the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son buried they in the country of Benjamin** in Zelah, in the sepulchre of Kish his father: and they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God was intreated for the land.

- Death with “no burial” or ceremony was considered repugnant.

Jer. 22:19 **He shall be buried with the burial of an ass**, drawn and cast forth beyond the gates of Jerusalem.

Jer. 8:2 And they shall spread them before the sun, and the moon, and all the host of heaven, whom they have loved, and whom they have served, and after whom they have walked, and whom they have sought, and whom they have worshipped: **they shall not be gathered, nor be buried; they shall be for dung upon the face of the earth.**

(b) A Barren Sepulcher, 6:3d “...I say, *that* an untimely birth *is* better than he.”

Psa. 58:8 As a snail *which* melteth, let *every one of them* pass away: **like the untimely birth of a woman, that they may not see the sun.**

"Better to miscarry at birth than to miscarry throughout life."

Eaton, Michael A. *Ecclesiastes: An Introduction and Commentary*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries series. Leicester, Eng., and Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1983. p. 106.

(c) A Burning Sorrow, 6:4-5

i. What Is So Bitter, 6:4

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

- The vanity of the unknown at birth is exacerbated by the anonymity at death.

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

Prov. 14:10 **The heart knoweth his own bitterness;** and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.

Heb. 12:14 Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; **lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;**

- The solution for bitterness is soul-loving forgiveness from God.

Isa. 38:17 **Behold, for peace I had great bitterness:** but **thou hast in love to my soul delivered it** from the pit of corruption: for **thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.**

ii. What is Much Better, 6:5

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

- A baby's death eliminates a life of suffering, and enters into eternal rest.

2 Sam. 12:22 And he said, **While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept:** for I said, Who can tell *whether* GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?

23 But **now he is dead**, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? **I shall go to him**, but he shall not return to me.

- Children who die are “safe” with the Lord:

Mt. 18:10 Take heed that ye despise not one of these **little ones**; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

11 For **the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.**

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come **to seek** and to save that which was lost.

c. Take a Good Look at the Ghost, 6:6

(1) Death Postponed at Length, 6:6a “Yea, though he live a thousand years twice *told...*”

- Hyperbole – long life without good = vanity of vanities → FUTILITY!

(2) Death Prevailing at Last, 6:6b “...**yet hath he seen no good**: do not all go to one place?”

Gen. 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for **dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.**

Job 34:15 All flesh shall perish together, **and man shall turn again unto dust.**

Psa. 103:14 For he knoweth our frame; **he remembereth that we *are* dust.**

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

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

Conclusion

Job 3:16 Or as an hidden untimely birth I had not been; as infants *which* never saw light.

17 There the wicked cease *from* troubling; and there the weary be at rest.

18 *There* the prisoners rest together; they hear not the voice of the oppressor.

19 The small and great are there; and the servant *is* free from his master.

20 Wherefore is light given to him that is in misery, and life unto the bitter *in* soul;

21 *Which* long for death, but it *cometh* not; and dig for it more than for hid treasures;

22 *Which* rejoice exceedingly, *and* are glad, when they can find the grave?

23 *Why is light given to a man whose way is hid, and whom God hath hedged in?*

24 For my sighing cometh before I eat, and my roarings are poured out like the waters.

25 For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.

26 I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet; **yet trouble came.**

