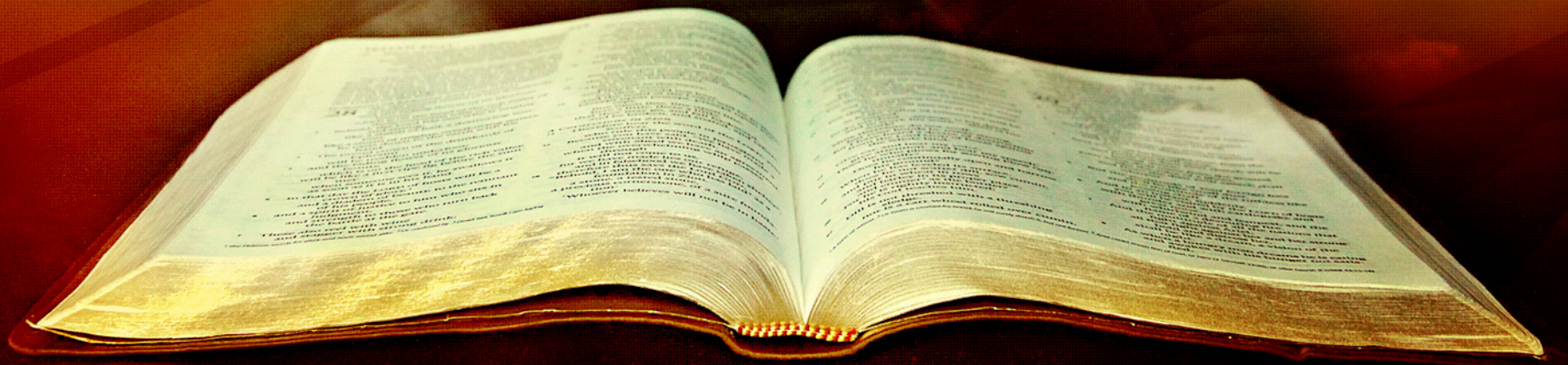


# ECCLESIASTES

Ecccl. 7:20-29





Eccl. 7:20 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:

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.



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
- C. Things He Had Studied, 7:1-10:20

1. Life’s Frustrations, 7:1-29

- a. Cynicism About the Better Things of Life, 7:1-14
- b. Cynicism About the Bitter Things of Life, 7:15-29

(1) Cynicism About the Well Doing, 7:15-19

(a) What Solomon Saw, 7:15

- i. Good Behavior Does Not Guarantee a Prolonged Life, 7:15a
- ii. Bad Behavior Does Not Guarantee a Premature Death, 7:15b



(b) What Solomon Suggested, 7:16-17

i. Be Moderately Religious, 7:16

ii. Be Moderately Rebellious, 7:17

(c) What Solomon Sensed, 7:18-19

i. The Support of Wisdom Recommended, 7:18

ii. The Superiority of Wisdom Recorded, 7:19

## (2) Cynicism About Wickedness, 7:20

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

Psa. 14:3 They are all gone aside, they are *all* together become filthy: ***there is none that doeth good, no, not one.***

Psa. 53:3 Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; ***there is none that doeth good, no, not one.***



Rom. 3:12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; **there is none that doeth good, no, not one.**

Rom. 3:23 For **all have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God;

Rom. 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that **all have sinned**:

### (3) Cynicism About Wordiness, 7:21-22

#### (a) A Word of Advice, 7:21

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

- Pay no attention to “fake news” or rumors from a biased source (servants with an ax to grind.)



## (b) A Word of Admonition, 7:22

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

- Over the 40 years of his reign, Solomon had times when he berated his staff.

## (4) Cynicism About Wisdom, 7:23-25

### (a) A Resolve, 7:23

i. What He Desired, 7:23a “All this have I proved by wisdom: I said, I will be wise...”

- Solomon desired to be wise, but became his own roadblock to accomplishment.



ii. What He Discovered, 7:23b “...but it *was* far from me.”

- Solomon discovered that the wisdom he desired was out of his reach.

Isa. 55:8 For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

9 For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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!

34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?

35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?



## (b) A Realization, 7:24-25

Eccl. 7:24 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**:

### i. The Failure of His Research, 7:24

Eccl. 7:24 That which is far off, and exceeding deep, who can find it out?

- Solomon deviated from “the right path” in his personal relationship with God.

1 Kings 3:9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, **that I may discern between good and bad**: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?



- As great as Solomon was, he was not above the Lord's concern for righteousness.

Job 32:9 Great men are not *always* wise: neither do the aged understand judgment.

1 Kings 11:4 For it came to pass, **when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God**, as *was* the heart of David his father.

9 And **the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God** of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice,

ii. The Fervor of His Research, 7:25a “I applied mine heart **to know**, and **to search**, and **to seek out wisdom**, and **the reason of things...**”



- The original intent of Solomon appears commendable:
  - “to know”
  - “to search”
  - “to seek out wisdom, and the reason *of things...*”
- Solomon’s curiosity propelled his quest for the “...wickedness of folly, even of foolishness *and* madness:”

“Curiosity is the lust of the mind.” – **Thomas Hobbes**

<https://everydaypower.com/curiosity-quotes/#:~:text=60%20Curiosity%20Quotes%20Encouraging%20You%20to%20Keep%20Learning,wait%20for%20every%20secret.%20-%20More%20items...>

iii. The Focus of His Research, 7:25b “...and **to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness *and* madness:”**”



## (5) Cynicism About Women, 7:26-28

### (a) Their Schemes, 7:26

Eccl. 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.

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.**

Prov. 6:24 To keep thee from the evil woman, from **the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman**.

25 **Lust not after her beauty in thine heart**; neither let her **take thee with her eyelids**.

26 For **by means of a whorish woman *a man is brought to a piece of bread***: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.



## (b) Their Scarcity, 7:27-28

i. His Frustration, 7:27-28a “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...”

- The word “behold” meant “to hold in high regard.”

ii. His Finding, 7:28b “...one man among a thousand have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found.”

- So....Solomon in all his wisdom admitted that he couldn't figure out women;-).
- No mention is made of the virtuous woman in Prov. 31:10-31, nor the woman he wrote about in Song of Solomon.



## (6) Cynicism About Worldliness, 7:29

(a) God's Intention, 7:29a "Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright..."

Isa. 43:7 *Even* every one that is called by my name: for I **have created him for my glory**, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

Rom. 3:23 For all have sinned, and **come short of the glory of God**;

(b) Man's Inventions, 7:29b "...but they have sought out many inventions."

**Original Word:** חִשְׁבֹּן

**Transliteration:** chishshabon

**Definition:** device, invention (scheme)

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/2810.htm>



**Original Word:** חֶשְׁבֹן

**Transliteration:** cheshbon

**Definition:** a reckoning, **account (reason, device)**

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/2808.htm>

Eccl. 7:25 I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and **the reason** [H2808] *of things*, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness *and* madness:

Eccl. 7:27 Behold, this have I found, saith the preacher, *counting* one by one, to find out **the account**: [H2808]

Eccl. 9:10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do *it* with thy might; for *there is* no work, nor **device**, [H2808] nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.



- In the context, Solomon was talking about God's plan. Failing to fully understand God's scheme of things, people have turned aside to their own explanations of these things.
- “Great” people, intelligent people, without God fall into the traps of mental “inventions” of secular humanism, evolution,



## Conclusion

Solomon's dreadful path of cynicism led him to question the following:

- Well-doing
- Wickedness
- Wordiness
- Wisdom
- Women
- Worldliness

Solomon's frustration is compounded by his focus "under the sun" and not considering the spiritual illumination that only God can give.

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!

34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?



1 Cor. 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

10 But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

