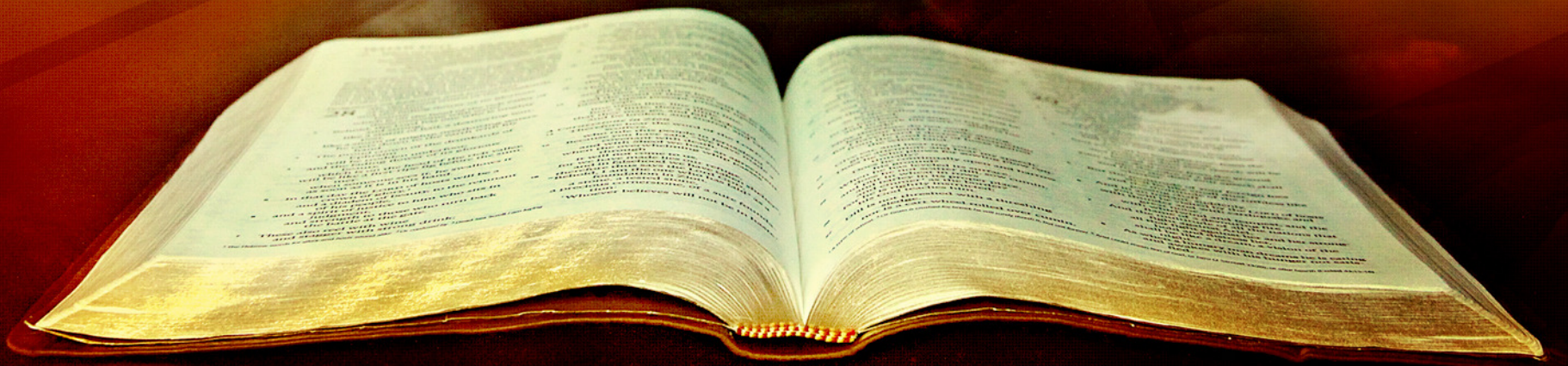


ECCLESIASTES

Eccl. 8:1-9



Eccl. 8:1 Who *is* as the wise *man*? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed.

2 I *counsel thee* to keep the king's commandment, and *that* in regard of the oath of God.

3 Be not hasty to go out of his sight: stand not in an evil thing; for he doeth whatsoever pleaseth him.

4 Where the word of a king *is*, *there is* power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou?

5 Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment.

6 Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man *is* great upon him.

7 For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be?

8 *There is* no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither *hath he* power in the day of death: and *there is* no discharge in *that* war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

9 All this have I seen, and applied my heart unto every work that is done under the sun: *there is* a time wherein one man ruleth over another to his own hurt.

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
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 - (1) Cynicism About the Well Doing, 7:15-19
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 - (a) A Word of Advice, 7:21
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i. What He Desired, 7:23a

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(b) A Realization, 7:24-25

i. The Failure of His Research, 7:24

ii. The Fervor of His Research, 7:25a

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

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(b) Their Scarcity, 7:27-28

i. His Frustration, 7:27-28a

ii. His Finding, 7:28b

(6) Cynicism About Worldliness, 7:29

(a) God’s Intention, 7:29a

(b) Man’s Inventions, 7:29b

2. Life's Fallacies, 8:1-17

a. The Fiction About Being Great, 8:1-9

(1) King Solomon and His Wisdom, 8:1

(a) The Challenge, 8:1a “Who *is as the wise man?* and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing?...”

1 Kings 3:28 And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for **they saw that the wisdom of God was in him**, to do judgment.

- When one is “as the wise *man*,” the “interpretation of a thing” is the expectation of discernment.

Original Word: פֶּשֶׁר

Transliteration: peshher

Definition: solution, interpretation

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/6592.htm>

Heb. 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

13 For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

14 But **strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age**, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised **to discern both good and evil**.

- The “interpretation of a thing” is connected to the work of the Holy Spirit.

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. ...

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.

2 Pet. 1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, **as unto a light that shineth in a dark place**, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

20 Knowing this first, that **no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation**.

21 For **the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man**: but **holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost**.

- *Inspiration, illumination, and interpretation* are dependent upon the Holy Spirit.

(b) The Change, 8:1b “...a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed.”

Psa. 104:15 And **wine** *that* maketh **glad the heart** of man, *and* **oil to make his face to shine**, and **bread** *which* **strengtheneth man's heart**.

- The “boldness of his face shall be changed” = encouragement by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 4:29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and **grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word**,

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and **they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness**.

(2) King Solomon and His Word, 8:2-5

(a) A Word of Counsel, 8:2

Eccl. 8:2 I *counsel thee* to keep the king's commandment, and *that* in regard of the oath of God.

- Take heed to follow the “king’s commandment” as it pertains to God’s absolute truth.

(b) A Word of Caution, 8:3-4

i. The King’s Presence, 8:3a “Be not hasty to go out of his sight...”

- Consider Jeroboam.

1 Kings 11:26 And **Jeroboam** the son of Nebat, an Ephrathite of Zereda, Solomon's servant, whose mother's name *was* Zeruah, a widow woman, even he lifted up *his* hand against the king.

28 And the man Jeroboam *was* a mighty man of valour: and **Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph.**

29 And it came to pass at that time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that **the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite** found him in the way; and he had clad himself with a new garment; and they two *were* alone in the field: ...

33 **Because that they have forsaken me**, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and **have not walked in my ways**, to do *that which is* right in mine eyes, and *to keep* my statutes and my judgments, as *did* David his father. ...

35 But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand, and **will give it unto thee, even ten tribes.**

40 **Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam. And Jeroboam arose, and fled into Egypt**, unto Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

Prov. 20:8 A king that sitteth in the throne of judgment scattereth away all evil with his eyes.

Prov. 16:14 The wrath of a king *is as* messengers of death: but **a wise man will pacify it.**

15 In the light of the king's countenance *is* life; and his favour *is* as a cloud of the latter rain.

ii. The King's Perception, 8:3b "...stand not in an evil thing..."

- Solomon is regarding discernment of motivation for a decision.

iii. The King's Prerogative, 8:3c n" ... for he doeth whatsoever pleaseth him."

- The wise man does not resign from his service (v. 3a) or join in a revolt against the king (v. 3b). Furthermore, he does not dispute the king's authority and sovereignty (v. 4).

iv. The King's Power, 8:4

Eccl. 8:4 Where the word of a king *is, there is* power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou?

- An absolute monarchy reflected complete power of everyone and everything – “Where the word of a king *is, there is* power...”
- No one was to question the King – “...who may say unto him, What doest thou?”

(c) A Word of Command, 8:5

i. Protection Available, 8:5a “Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing...”

- “Keep your nose clean, and you won't get yourself into trouble.”

ii. Prudence Advisable, 8:5b” ...and **a wise man's heart discerneth** both time and judgment.”

- The wise man has discernment to know when and what to do.

(3) King Solomon and His Wickedness, 8:6-9

(a) His Logic, 8:6

Eccl. 8:6 Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man *is* great upon him.

- Solomon knew his days were numbered, and Jeroboam was biding his time in Egypt.
- “Time and judgment” hovers over all of mankind, patiently chipping away at the inevitable demise of each person ever born.

(b) His Limitations, 8:7-8

i. A Future He Cannot Discern, 8:7

Eccl. 8:7 For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be?

- Solomon, in all of his wisdom and experience, learned the finite limitations of man – no knowledge of “what” will happen, nor “when” it will happen in the future.

ii. A Funeral He Cannot Defy, 8:8

Eccl. 8:8 *There is* no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither *hath he* power in the day of death: and *there is* no discharge in *that* war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

Psa. 89:48 **What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death?** shall he deliver his soul from **the hand of the grave?** Selah.

Prov. 30:16 **The grave;** and the barren womb; the earth *that* is not filled with water; and the fire **that saith not, It is enough.**

(c) His Lesson, 8:9

Eccl. 8:9 All this have I seen, and **applied my heart** unto every work that is done **under the sun:** *there is* a time wherein one man ruleth over another to his own hurt.

- Solomon's logic, of his limitations, led to the lesson learned regarding life "under the sun" – in all his greatness, all of his extravagance, all of his experiences, Solomon must face the two conclusions for himself:

1. Solomon has been his own worst enemy – "...*there is* a time wherein one man ruleth over another to his own hurt."

2. Death is inevitable, and is unstoppable, even for great kings.

Conclusion

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

1 Cor. 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where *is* thy sting? **O grave, where *is* thy victory?**

56 The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law.

57 But **thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, **be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.**