

The background is a light gray with a complex, low-poly geometric pattern. Overlaid on this is a network of eight colored dots (red, orange, teal, purple, green, blue, purple, and teal) connected by thin, light gray dashed lines. The dots are arranged in a roughly circular pattern around the center, with lines connecting them in a web-like structure.

ECCLESIASTES

Eccl. 10:8-11

Eccl. 10:8 He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him.

9 Whoso removeth stones shall be hurt therewith; *and* he that cleaveth wood shall be endangered thereby.

10 If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom *is* profitable to direct.

11 Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment; and a babbler is no better.

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, 1:12-10:2

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
2. Life's Fallacies, 8:1-17
3. Life's Finalities, 9:1-10
4. Life's Falseness, 9:11-10:15
 - a. The Triumph of Fate, 9:11-12
 - b. The Triumph of Forgetfulness, 9:13-18
 - c. The Triumph of Folly. 10:1-7
 - (1) Over All That Is Reasonable, 10:1-3
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 - ii. The Dandified Flunky, 10:7

d. The Triumph of Futility, 10:8-15

(1) Over the Lawless Man, 10:8-9

(a) Preparing Evil, 10:8

- i. Digging: A Great Fall Awaits,
10:8a “He that diggeth a pit
shall fall into it...”

- Sinning against the Lord equates to digging a hole of destruction for oneself.

- Such a hole becomes a trap to capture and bind against the freedom of the future.

Prov. 26:27 Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him.

- Digging a hole to trap someone else may be a trap of God's vengeance.

Rom. 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, **Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.**

Jer. 18:19 Give heed to me, O LORD, and hearken to the voice of them that contend with me.

20 Shall evil be recompensed for good? for **they have digged a pit for my soul**. Remember that I stood before thee to speak good for them, *and* to turn away thy wrath from them.

21 Therefore deliver up their children to the famine, and pour out their *blood* by the force of the sword; and let their wives be bereaved of their children, and *be* widows; and let their men be put to death; *let* their young men *be* slain by the sword in battle.

22 Let a cry be heard from their houses, when thou shalt bring a troop suddenly upon them: for **they have digged a pit to take me, and hid snares for my feet**.

23 Yet, LORD, thou knowest all their counsel against me to slay *me*: forgive not their iniquity, neither blot out their sin from thy sight, but let them be overthrown before thee; deal *thus* with them in the time of thine anger.

Psa. 57:6 They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down: **they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen themselves.** Selah.

ii. Destroying: A Great Foe Awaits, 10:8b “...and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him.”

- ❖ The one destroying the boundaries will not go unpunished.
- ❖ The hedge-breaker will face unexpected retribution – “...a serpent shall bite him.”
- ❖ Broken hedges lead to vulnerability.

Psa. 80:12 Why hast thou *then* broken down her hedges, so that all they which pass by the way do pluck her?

Psa. 89:40 Thou hast broken down all his hedges; thou hast brought his strong holds to ruin.

- Hedges of separation distinguishes a faithful follower of Christ from a compromising backslider and/or of the world.

2 Cor. 6:14 **Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers:** for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 **Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord,** and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

(b) Prosecuting Evil, 10:9

i. Deception Practiced: Hurt
Lurks Unseen, 10:9a “Whoso
removeth stones shall be hurt
therewith...”

- Simple tasks may incur unexpected and unforeseen injuries = life is uncertain.

ii. Destruction Practiced: Harm
Lurks Unseen, 10:9b “...*and* he
that cleaveth wood shall be
endangered thereby.”

- The load you carry may be the one that breaks your back = beware of doing too much.

(2) Over the Laboring Man, 10:10

(a) Why He Works So Hard, 10:10a “If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength...”

- You can make it easier for yourself or more difficult.
- Take time to sharpen the dull edges in your life.

(b) Why He Wants to Heed, 10:10b
“...but wisdom *is* profitable to direct.”

- Work smarter, not harder.
- The quality of work employed will become responsible for the profit achieved.

(3) Over the Loquacious Man, 10:11

Eccl. 10:11 Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment; and a babbler is no better.

- The enchantment will prevent the attack of the serpent, and without it, the strike will occur.
- A babbler is like the unenchanted serpent, a dangerous annoyance.

Acts 17:18 Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, **What will this babbler say?** other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.

Original Word: σπερμολόγος

Transliteration: spermologos

Definition: a seed picker, one who picks up scraps of knowledge

Usage: a babbler, gossip, one who picks up seeds and trifles as does a bird.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4691.htm>

Conclusion

1 Cor. 15:31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, **I die daily**.

Gal. 2:20 **I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live**; yet not I, but **Christ liveth in me**: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies **a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, **which is your reasonable service**.

2 And **be not conformed to this world**: but **be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what *is* that **good**, and **acceptable**, and **perfect, will of God**.