



ECCLESIASTES

Eccl. 10:16-20

Eccl. 10:16 Woe to thee, O land, when thy king *is* a child, and thy princes eat in the morning!

17 Blessed *art* thou, O land, when thy king *is* the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness!

18 By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.

19 A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all *things*.

20 Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter.

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
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
 - d. The Triumph of Futility, 10:8-15
 - (1) Over the Lawless Man, 10:8-9
 - (2) Over the Laboring Man, 10:10
 - (3) Over the Loquacious Man, 10:11
 - (4) Over the Learned Man, 10:12-15

(a) His Words Described, 10:12a

(b) His Words Disregarded, 10:12b-15

i. The Words of a Fool, 10:12b-14

❖ They Are Self-Destructive, 10:12b-13

○ Who They Devour, 10:12b

○ How They Develop, 10:13

❖ They Are Self-Deceptive, 10:14

○ The Fool's Talkativeness, 10:14a

○ The Fool's Thickheadedness, 10:14b

ii. The Works of a Fool, 10:15

❖ The Weariness of His Works, 10:15a

❖ The Waywardness of His Works, 10:15b

5. Life's Fickleness, 10:16-20

a. Something to Watch Out For, 10:16-17

(1) A Key to Bad Government, 10:16

(a) An Immature Sovereign, 10:16a

“Woe to thee, O land, when thy king *is* a child...”

- Solomon was probably less than thirty years old when he became king, and it appears he is referring to his son, Rehoboam “...when thy king *is* a child...”

1 Kings 14:21 And Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. **Rehoboam was forty and one years old when he began to reign**, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD did choose out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name *was* Naamah an Ammonitess.

Isa. 3:1 For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water,

2 The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient,

3 The captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator.

4 And **I will give children *to be* their princes, and babes shall rule over them. ...**

11 Woe unto the wicked! *it shall be ill with him*: for the reward of his hands shall be given him.

12 *As for* my people, **children *are* their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause *thee* to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.**

1 Cor. 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but **as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.**

2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto **ye were not able to bear it**, neither yet now are ye able.

(b) An Immoderate Senate, 10:16b
“...and thy princes eat in the morning!”

- All-night partying with “friends” should be a concern regarding the character of leaders.

2 Chron. 10:8 But he forsook the counsel which the old men gave him, and **took counsel with the young men that were brought up with him**, that stood before him.

(2) A Key to Better Government, 10:17

(a) A Truly Royal Prince, 10:17a

“Blessed *art* thou, O land, when thy king *is* the son of nobles...”

- Solomon recognized the value of good leadership.

(b) A Truly Responsible Prince,
10:17b “...and thy princes eat in due
season, for strength, and not for
drunkenness!”

- The best leaders are those who have character.

Prov. 28:2 **For the transgression of a land many *are* the princes thereof:** but by a man of understanding *and* knowledge the state *thereof* shall be prolonged.

Prov. 29:2 **When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice:** but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

b. Something to Wake Up To, 10:18-20

(1) A Warning About Laziness, 10:18

Eccl. 10:18 By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.

Prov. 13:4 The soul of the sluggard desireth, and *hath* nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

- Note the contrast between the sluggard and the diligent, not only in regard to character, but also in the results.

Prov. 20:4 The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; *therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.*

- Lazy sluggards will give reasons for their “inactivity.”

Prov. 26:16 **The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.**

- Trying to reason with a sluggard is an exercise of futility – like arguing with a tree.

(2) A Word About Life, 10:19-20

(a) As to One's Mirth, 10:19a "A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry..."

Gal. 5:19 Now **the works of the flesh are manifest**, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,
20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,
21 Envyings, murders, **drunkenness, revellings, and such like**: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

(b) As to One's Money, 10:19b "...but money answereth all *things*."

1 Tim. 6:9 But **they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts**, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For **the love of money is the root of all evil**: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

(c) As to One's Mouth, 10:20a "Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber..."

2 Kings 6:11 Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not shew me which of us *is* for the king of Israel?

12 And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: **but Elisha**, the prophet that *is* in Israel, **telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber.**

(d) As to One's Matter, 10:20b "...for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter."

"A little birdy told me."

Conclusion

Observe principles of leadership, good and bad.

Maintain a good, Scriptural attitude when facing the fickleness of life.

Phil. 2:14 **Do all things without murmurings and disputings:**

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye **shine as lights in the world;**

16 **Holding forth the word of life;** that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.