



ECCLESIASTES

Eccl. 12:1-8

Eccl. 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

2 While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain:

3 In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened,

4 And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low;

5 Also *when* they shall be afraid of *that which is* high, and fears *shall be* in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:

6 Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

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

8 Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all *is* vanity.

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

III. THE PREACHER'S SUMMARY, 11:1-12:14

A. He Repeats His Complaints About Life, 11:1-10

1. Look Well to Life's Future Prospects, 11:1-6

2. Look Well to Life's Fleeting Present, 11:7-8

a. Light Is An Enjoyable Thing, 11:7

b. Life Is An Enjoyable Thing, 11:8

(1) Oh, Happy Day, 11:8a

(2) Oh, Hateful Darkness, 11:8b-c

(a) How Endless It Will Be, 11:8b

(b) How Empty It Will Be, 11:8c

3. Look Well to Life's Frivolous Past, 11:9-10

a. A Call to Rejoice, 11:9

(1) The Young and Their Good Cheer, 11:9a

(2) The Young and Their Grave Choices, 11:9b-

(a) What the Young Decide, 11:9b

(b) What the Young Dismiss, 11:9c

b. A Call to Despond, 11:10

(1) The Cynical Challenge of the Sage, 11:10a

(2) The Cynical Chime of the Sermon, 11:10b

B. He Relates His Conclusions About Life, 12:1-14

1. Man and His Maker, 12:1

a. Remember Your Creator, 12:1a

“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth...”

- The imperative verb, “remember,” is focusing upon two things: the immediate, “now,” and the individual, “thy” – used twice.

Original Word: זָכַר

Transliteration: zakar

Definition: remember

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/2142.htm>

- "Remember" means to live your life with what you know about God clearly in view, not just to remember that there is a God.

Deut. 8:18 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.

Psa. 119:55 **I have remembered thy name, O LORD**, in the night, and have **kept thy law**.

- "Creator" connotes God as the One to whom we are responsible because we are His creatures.
- The emphasis "in the days of thy youth" indicates the imperative of children's ministries vs. the humanistic denial of Creation in our elementary schools.

b. Remember Your Condition, 12:1b
"...while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;"

- The "evil days" are the days of old age and death.
- The "innocency" of youth is contrasted with the "experience of sin" as a child ages.
- Thus Solomon urged consideration of the beginning ("Creator") and the end ("the evil days") of life.
- Our lives pass quickly, as the following poem says:

"When as a child, I laughed and wept, Time crept;
When as a youth, I dreamed and talked, Time walked;
When I became a full grown man, Time ran;
When later as I older still grew, Time flew;
Soon I shall find in traveling on, Time will soon be gone."

Author Unknown

flowerblessing

*"But by the grace of GOD
I am what I am, and His
grace toward me was not in
vain; but I labored more
abundantly than they all,
yet not I, but the grace of
GOD which was with me."
~1 Corinthians 15:10*

http://flowerbless.blogspot.com/2015_06_01_archive.html

- “Youth is heat without light; old age is light without heat.” Dr. Peter Ruckman, “The Book of Ecclesiastes,” p. 334.
- Future adjustments are not pleasant – “...when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;”

2. Man and His Mortality, 12:2-8

a. The Outward Permanence of the Heavenly Order of Things, 12:2

Eccl. 12:2 While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain:

1 Kings 1:1 Now king David was old *and* stricken in years; and **they covered him with clothes, but he gat no heat.**

2 Wherefore his servants said unto him, Let there be sought for my lord the king a young virgin: and let her stand before the king, and let her cherish him, and let her lie in thy bosom, that my lord the king may get heat.

3 So they sought for a fair damsel throughout all the coasts of Israel, and found Abishag a Shunammite, and brought her to the king.

4 And the damsel *was* very fair, and cherished the king, and ministered to him: but the king knew her not.

Psa. 18:4 **The sorrows of death compassed me**, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.

5 The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me.

Psa. 88:3 For my soul is full of troubles: and **my life draweth nigh unto the grave.**

4 I am counted with them that go down into the pit: I am as a man *that hath* no strength:

b. The Obvious Impermanence of the Human Order of Things, 12:3-8

(1) The Increasing Feebleness of the Aged, 12:3-4

(a) The Arms, 12:3a “In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble...”

- "The house" is probably the inhabitant of a house (i.e., a person).
- The "keepers" of the house (v. 3) probably refer to one's arms and hands, and legs.

(b) The Back and Legs, 12:3b “...and the strong men shall bow themselves...”

- The "strong men" refer to the back and legs.

(c) The Teeth, 12:3c "...and the grinders cease because they are few..."

- The "grinding ones" are the teeth.

(d) The Eyes, 12:3d "...and those that look out of the windows be darkened..."

- "those who look through windows" are the eyes.

(e) The Lips, 12:4a "And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low..."

- "The doors shall be shut in the streets" are probably the lips that are shut because of the absence of teeth in the mouth, "the sound of the grinding is low."

(f) The Ears, 12:4b “...and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low;”

- When one “shall rise at the voice of the bird,” the indication is the ability of older people to sleep soundly.
- When “the daughters of musick shall be brought low,” the indication is diminished ability to hear.

(2) The Involuntary Fears of the Aged, 12:5a-b

(a) Fear of the Heights, 12:5a “Also *when* they shall be afraid of *that which is high...*”

- Aged individuals become more fearful of heights, traffic, and travel.
- Too often the young people are oblivious to the danger of heights, while older people “over-think” the risk.

(b) Fear of the Highways, 12:5b
“...and fears *shall be* in the way...”

- Unpleasant experiences plague the older generation regarding traveling concerns: danger, fatigue, expense, being a nuisance, etc.

(3) The Incurable Failings of the Aged, 12:5c-e

(a) The Loss of Dominance – **Hair**, 12:5c
b” ... and the almond tree shall flourish...”

- The "almond tree" blossoms white like the hair of an old person, and the hair falls off as he or she ages, like the almond tree casts its white flowers.

Hos. 7:9 Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth *it* not: **yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him**, yet he knoweth not.

Prov. 16:31 **The hoary head is a crown of glory**, *if* it be found in the way of righteousness.

(b) The Loss of Drive – **Strength**,
12:5d “...and the grasshopper shall
be a burden, and desire shall fail...”

- An elderly person is less sprightly in his or her movements as “the grasshopper shall be as a burden...” and little things become a nuisance.
- The idea of lack of strength leads to desire being present, but failing.

2 Sam. 19:34 And Barzillai said unto the king, How long have I to live, that I should go up with the king unto Jerusalem?

35 I *am* this day fourscore years old: *and* can I discern between good and evil? can thy servant taste what I eat or what I drink? can I hear any more the voice of singing men and singing women? wherefore then should thy servant be yet a burden unto my lord the king?

(c) The Loss of Desire – **Life**, 12:5e

“...because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:”

Conclusion

2 Cor. 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

4 In whom **the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not**, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

6 For **God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts**, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

7 But **we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.**