



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

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

1. Man and His Maker, 12:1

a. Remember Your Creator, 12:1a

b. Remember Your Condition, 12:1b

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

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

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

(b) The Back and Legs, 12:3b

(c) The Teeth, 12:3c

- (d) The Eyes, 12:3d
- (e) The Lips, 12:4a
- (f) The Ears, 12:4b
- (2) The Involuntary Fears of the Aged, 12:5a-b
 - (a) Fear of the Heights, 12:5a
 - (b) Fear of the Highways, 12:5b
- (3) The Incurable Failings of the Aged, 12:5c-e
 - (a) The Loss of Dominance – **Hair**, 12:5c
 - (b) The Loss of Drive – **Strength**, 12:5d

We pick up tonight where we left off last week in Eccl 12:5 – Solomon describes the aging process.

(c) The Loss of Desire – **Life**, 12:5e
“...because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:”

- Life is fading, the elderly are “moving” from the temporal home to the “long home” that is eternal
→ moving from earth to heaven.

2 Cor. 5:1 For **we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved**, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, **eternal in the heavens.**

2 For in this we groan, earnestly **desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:**

3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

4 For we that are in *this* tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, **but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.**

5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing *is* **God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.**

6 Therefore *we are* always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

7 (For *we walk by faith, not by sight*.)

8 *We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*

- Such a “move” will be observed as “the mourners go about the street” during a funeral.

(4) The Inescapable Fate of the Aged, 12:6

(a) The Spine, 12:6a “Or ever the silver cord be loosed...”

- When the "silver cord" is "loosed," or breaks, Solomon described it as the end of life, in which he first describes it as the extinguishing of a light contained in the "golden bowl."

(b) The Skull, 12:6b "...or the golden bowl be broken..."

- The "golden bowl" is a bowl that holds a flame. When the "silver cord" that holds it breaks, the bowl crashes to the floor and **the light goes out.**

(c) The Blood, 12:6c “...or the pitcher be broken at the fountain...”

- The second description of death is water that one can no longer be drawn out of a well.
- Circulation is diminished, the “fountain of life” or “blood” cannot flow as in youth.

(d) The Heart, 12:6d “...or the wheel broken at the cistern.”

- The wording gives us a picture of the ruined “wheel” that is not pumping as it should, and they have crashed down into the old cistern. So man’s body breaks down with “heart-failure.”
- The first figure emphasizes the value or preciousness of life, this one stresses its fragile nature.
- The pitcher would have been clay.

Job 4:17 Shall **mortal man** be more just than God?
shall a man be more pure than his maker? ...

19 How much less *in* **them that dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, which** are crushed before the moth?

Rom. 9:21 **Hath not the potter power over the clay,** of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

(5) The Inevitable Funeral of the Aged,
12:7-8

(a) The Doom Triumphs, 12:7

Eccl. 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

- This verse describes the reversal of the process by which God originally created man.
- The inevitable triumph of doom is mankind's destiny with dust.

Gen. 2:7 And **the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground**, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Gen. 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for **dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.**

Job 34:14 If he set his heart upon man, *if* he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath;

15 All flesh shall perish together, and **man shall turn again unto dust.**

Psa. 104:29 Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and **return to their dust.**

30 Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth.

Here is a good prayer for the elderly:

"Thou knowest, Lord, I'm growing older.
My fire of youth begins to smolder;
I somehow tend to reminisce
And speak of good old days I miss.
I am more moody, bossy, and
Think folk should jump at my command.
Help me, Lord, to conceal my aches
And realize my own mistakes.
Keep me sweet, silent, sane, serene,
Instead of crusty, sour, and mean."

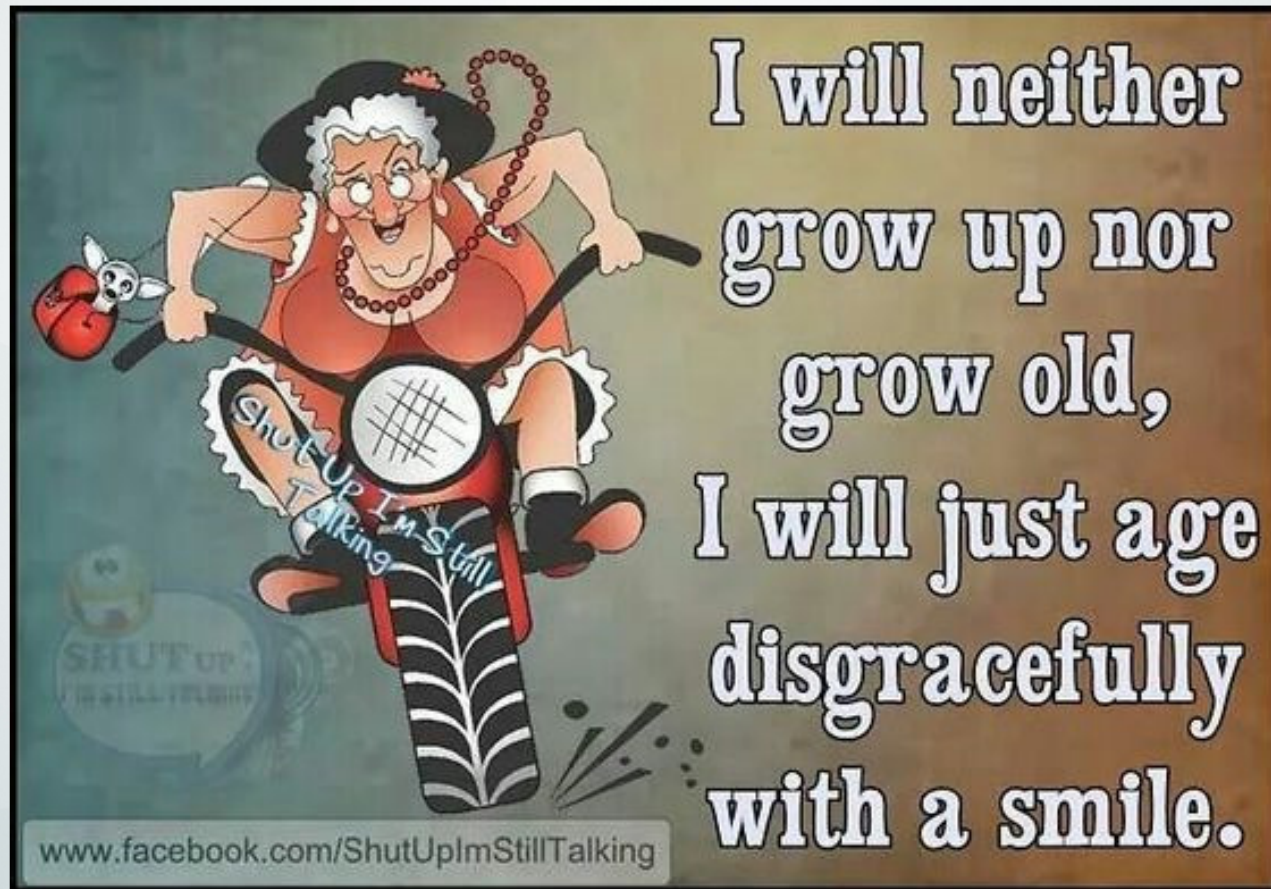
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<https://ttb.org/resources/study-guides/ecclesiastes-study-guide>

McGee, J. Vernon. *Thru the Bible with J. Vernon McGee*. 5 vols. Pasadena, Calif.: Thru The Bible Radio; and Nashville: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1983.
Anonymous, quoted in McGee, 3:139

(b) The Gloom Triumphs, 12:8

Eccl. 12:8 Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all *is* vanity.



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Conclusion

Psa. 90:12 So teach *us* to number our days, **that we may apply *our* hearts unto wisdom.**