



ECCLESIASTES

Eccl. 12:9-12

Eccl. 12:9 And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, *and* set in order many proverbs.

10 The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and *that which was written was* upright, *even* words of truth.

11 The words of the wise *are* as goads, and as nails fastened *by* the masters of assemblies, *which* are given from one shepherd.

12 And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books *there is* no end; and much study *is* a weariness of the flesh.

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

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
 - (c) The Loss of Desire – **Life**, 12:5e
- (4) The Inescapable Fate of the Aged, 12:6
 - (a) The Spine, 12:6a “Or ever the silver cord be loosed...”
 - (b) The Skull, 12:6b “...or the golden bowl be broken...”
 - (c) The Blood, 12:6c “...or the pitcher be broken at the fountain...”
 - (d) The Heart, 12:6d “...or the wheel broken at the cistern.”

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

(a) The Doom Triumphs, 12:7

(b) The Gloom Triumphs, 12:8

- In conclusion, Solomon repeated his original thesis:

Eccl. 1:2 Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all *is* vanity.

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

3. Man and His Mind, 12:9-12

a. The Preacher's Wisdom, 12:9

(1) His Mission, 12:9a “And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge...”

- In spite of Solomon's carnality, and sins of the past, the Scripture indicates that in his aged estate, he “...was wise, he still taught the people knowledge...”

- Perhaps Solomon remembered his father's repentance (Psa. 51) and God's gracious forgiveness to David, thus following his example of repentance.

1 Kings 15:5 Because **David did *that which was right in the eyes of the LORD***, and turned not aside from any *thing* that he commanded him **all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.**

- Why would God allow Solomon to pen the Book of Ecclesiastes if he had not repented?

Neh. 13:26 Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, **who was beloved of his God**, and God made him king over all Israel: **nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin.**

- Perhaps his act of repentance was written “in the book of the acts of Solomon.”

1 Kings 11:41 And the rest of the acts of Solomon, and **all that he did**, and **his wisdom**, *are* they not **written in the book of the acts of Solomon?**

- For the writer of Second Chronicles to not say anything negative about Solomon, especially about the horrific ending of his life would be unintelligible if there were such a written record of Solomon's complete and final apostasy.

(2) His Method, 12:9b "...yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, *and* set in order many **proverbs**."

- Throughout the Book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon's previous concerns were exhibited by *thoughts* and *experiences* "under the sun."

- Consider Solomon's method in regard to his usage of terms:

Eccl. 12:9 And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, *and* set in order many **proverbs**.

10 The preacher sought to find out **acceptable words**: and ***that which was written*** was upright, *even* **words of truth**.

11 The words of the wise *are* as goads, and as nails fastened *by* the masters of assemblies, *which* are given from one shepherd.

12 And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making **many books** *there is* no end; and **much study** *is* a weariness of the flesh.

- Solomon is exposing the intellectual challenge of the future → deemphasizing the importance of the Bible in favor of anemic dependence upon education.

b. The Preacher's Words, 12:10

Eccl. 12:10 The preacher sought to find out **acceptable words**: and *that which was written was* upright, *even words of truth*.

- Solomon is moved to write about “acceptable word” and “*even words of truth*.”

Jn. 1:1 In the beginning was **the Word**, and **the Word** was with God, and **the Word** was God.

Jn. 18:38a “Pilate saith unto him, **What is truth?**”

- The world of academia feigns a concern for truth while rejecting the real “Truth.”

Jn. 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am** the way, **the truth**, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

c. The Preacher's Worth, 12:11

Eccl. 12:11 **The words of the wise** are as goads, and as nails fastened *by* **the masters of assemblies**, which are given from one shepherd.

- The phrase, "The words of wise men," appears only four times in the Bible:

Prov. 1:6 To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; **the words of the wise**, and their dark sayings.

Prov. 22:17 Bow down thine ear, and hear **the words of the wise**, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge.

Eccl. 9:17 **The words of wise** *men are* heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools.

Eccl. 12:11 **The words of the wise** *are* as goads, and as nails fastened *by* the masters of assemblies, *which* are given from one shepherd.

- “The words of the wise *are* as goads...” = the power and influence of the Word of God as it affects mankind: like a spiritual kick in the pants.
- The effect of Stephen’s preaching for Saul – before he became known as Saul:

Acts 9:5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: ***it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.***

- God's word is powerful!

Heb. 4:12 For ***the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword***, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Jer. 23:29 *Is not my word like as a fire?* saith the LORD; and ***like a hammer that*** breaketh the rock in pieces?

Isa. 55:11 So shall **my word** be that goeth forth out of my mouth: **it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please**, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.

- The Preacher fastens a truth like driving a nail
 - “...*by* the masters of assemblies...” = pastors who are preachers.

1 Cor. 1:18 For **the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness**; but **unto us which are saved it is the power of God**.

1 Cor. 1:21 For after that **in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God**, it pleased God by the **foolishness of preaching to save them that believe**.

d. The Preacher's Work, 12:12

Eccl. 12:12 And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books *there is* no end; and much study *is* a weariness of the flesh.

“Today's Library of Congress is an unparalleled world resource. The collection of more than **170 million items** includes more than **39 million cataloged books and other print materials in 470 languages; more than 73 million manuscripts;** the largest rare book collection in North America; and the world's largest collection of legal materials, films, maps, sheet music and sound recordings.” <https://loc.gov/about/general-information/>

1. “A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education.” Theodore Roosevelt
2. “Within the covers of the Bible are the answers for all the problems men face.” Ronald Reagan
3. “I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from The Savior of the world is communicated to us through this Book.” Abraham Lincoln
4. “No educated man can afford to be ignorant of the Bible.” Theodore Roosevelt
5. “A Bible that’s falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn’t.” — Charles H. Spurgeon

2 Tim. 3:5 **Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:** from such turn away. ...

7 **Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**

Amos 8:11 **Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:**

Conclusion

1 Cor. 1:20 **Where is the wise?** where *is* the scribe?
where *is* the disputer of this world? **hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?**

21 For after that in the wisdom of God **the world by wisdom knew not God**, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

1 Cor. 2:4 And my speech and **my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom**, but in demonstration of **the Spirit and of power**:

5 That **your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.**