

PETE BUMGARNER MINISTRIES

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ECCLESIASTES

STUDY GUIDE



ECCLESIASTES

SCRIPTURE READING:

The Book of Ecclesiastes

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Ecclesiastes means “the convener of the assembly” or “preacher to the assembly.”
- B. Although some scholars do not agree, it appears that King Solomon wrote the book of Ecclesiastes.
- C. The futility of human achievements is the underlying message throughout the book of Ecclesiastes.
- D. After trying everything he knew to obtain fulfillment, the author concluded that fearing God and keeping His commandments is the only way to be fully satisfied.

II. CHAPTER ONE

- A. Verse one identifies whose words are being recorded. The author identifies himself as “The Preacher,” “the son of David,” and “the king in Jerusalem.” (Ecclesiastes 1:1)
- B. The “preacher” declares that all things are futile and worthless. (Ecclesiastes 1:2)
- C. The preacher questions the profit of all man’s efforts of labor done in this world. (Ecclesiastes 1:3)
- D. The following remarks are observations of the preacher:
 - 1. One generation passes away and another generation comes, but the earth stands forever. (Ecclesiastes 1:4)
 - 2. The sun rises, sets in its place, then hurries to rise again. (Ecclesiastes 1:5)
 - 3. The wind blows toward the south, then turns to the north going round and round; according to its course, it turns again. (Ecclesiastes 1:6)

4. All streams run into the sea, yet the sea is not full; to the place from which the streams come, they return. (Ecclesiastes 1:7)
5. All matters are wearisome. Cannot man say that the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear satisfied with hearing? (Ecclesiastes 1:8)
6. What has been will be and what was done will be done, so there is nothing new under the sun. (Ecclesiastes 1:9)
7. Can it be said of anything, "Look, this is new!"? It existed in the past; it existed before us. (Ecclesiastes 1:10)
8. There is no remembrance of the former or of that which is to come; neither will that which comes afterward be remembered. (Ecclesiastes 1:11)
9. I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. (Ecclesiastes 1:12)
10. I caused my heart to pursue and search wisdom about all that is done under the sky. God has given this unpleasant pursuit to the sons of men, and it is depressing. (Ecclesiastes 1:13)
11. I have observed all the works done under the sun and lo, all is vanity, like trying to catch the wind. (Ecclesiastes 1:14)
12. The twisted cannot be straightened, and that which is lacking cannot be counted. (Ecclesiastes 1:15)
13. I spoke with my heart, saying, "Lo, I have become great and have gotten more wisdom than all who have been before me in Jerusalem. My heart has experienced increase in wisdom and knowledge." (Ecclesiastes 1:16)
14. I made my heart to know wisdom, folly, and silliness. I realized that this also is like desiring the wind. (Ecclesiastes 1:17)
15. With much wisdom is much grief, and increasing knowledge increases sorrow. (Ecclesiastes 1:18)

III. CHAPTER TWO

- A. After realizing that striving after wisdom was unfulfilling, Solomon pursued cheerfulness and pleasure, but these also were unfulfilling. (Ecclesiastes 2:1)
- B. He said that laughter was foolish and questioned what cheerfulness did. (Ecclesiastes 2:2)
- C. Solomon sought to gratify the flesh with wine and foolishness while remaining wise in heart. He stated that his motive for this pursuit was to see what people should do during their life here on earth. (Ecclesiastes 2:3)
 - 1. He did great things such as building houses and planting vineyards for himself. (Ecclesiastes 2:4)
 - 2. He made gardens and parks and planted fruit trees in them. He also built reservoirs to irrigate the things he planted. (Ecclesiastes 2:5-6)
 - 3. He acquired both male and female servants who bore children in his house. (Ecclesiastes 2:7)
 - 4. He possessed more herds and flocks than any who were before him in Jerusalem. (Ecclesiastes 2:7)
 - 5. He became wealthy from the silver and gold collected from kings and provinces. (Ecclesiastes 2:8)
 - 6. He appointed singers and acquired musical instruments that brought delight to those who heard them. (Ecclesiastes 2:8)
- D. Solomon was great and surpassed all who had been in Jerusalem before him. At the same time, his wisdom remained with him. (Ecclesiastes 2:9)
- E. Whatever Solomon's eyes desired, he got. He deprived himself of nothing. (Ecclesiastes 2:10)
- F. His heart rejoiced in all his accomplishments, and obtaining whatever he desired was his reward. (Ecclesiastes 2:10)

- G. After observing all his accomplishments and the labor involved, he concluded that all was vanity and as futile as trying to catch the wind, and that nothing under the sun is profitable. (Ecclesiastes 2:11)
- H. Solomon began to consider wisdom, folly, and foolishness, realizing that whoever succeeded him as king would not do anything that he had not already done. (Ecclesiastes 2:12)
- I. After observing, Solomon concluded that wisdom excels folly just as light excels darkness. (Ecclesiastes 2:13)
- J. A wise man's eyes are in his head, but a stupid man walks in darkness; yet, the same event happens to all, both wise and stupid--they die. (Ecclesiastes 2:14)
- K. After realizing that he would die along with the stupid, Solomon concluded that his wisdom was also vanity--it was temporary. (Ecclesiastes 2:15)
- L. Considering that in the days to come all will be forgotten, the wise man has no advantage over the stupid man at death--they both die. (Ecclesiastes 2:16)
- M. After observing man's achievements and his end, Solomon hated life because everything appeared to be as meaningless as chasing the wind. (Ecclesiastes 2:17)
- N. Solomon detested having to leave all his achievements in life to someone else, not knowing if his successor would be wise or foolish. Everything accomplished and gained by Solomon would be under the control of someone else, whether wise or foolish--how futile! (Ecclesiastes 2:18-19)
- O. When Solomon realized what would happen with all he had done, he ceased trying to get satisfaction from his labors. (Ecclesiastes 2:20)
- P. Men labor with wisdom and knowledge and become successful only to leave their heritage to someone who has not worked at all to bring about this success. This bequeathal is vanity and very bad. (Ecclesiastes 2:21)
- Q. What becomes of all man's labor and the desires of his heart that he accumulates in this life? His days are distressful, his work irritating, and his nights restless. These efforts are futile. (Ecclesiastes 2:22-23)

- R. Solomon surmised that a man should eat, drink, and enjoy his labor; this opportunity comes from God. Besides, who could eat better or have more enjoyment than wisest and richest ruler? (Ecclesiastes 2:24-25)
- S. God gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy to the man who is good in His sight, but to the sinner He gives the task of gathering and collecting for the purpose of giving to those who, in God's estimation, are good. The labor of the sinner is as vain as chasing the wind. (Ecclesiastes 2:26)

IV. CHAPTER THREE

- A. Everything has a season, and every desire in this earth has a time. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)
 - 1. There is a time to be born and a time to die. (Ecclesiastes 3:2)
 - 2. There is a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted. (Ecclesiastes 3:2)
 - 3. There is a time to kill and a time to heal. (Ecclesiastes 3:3)
 - 4. There is a time to break down and a time to build. (Ecclesiastes 3:3)
 - 5. There is a time to weep and a time to laugh. (Ecclesiastes 3:4)
 - 6. There is a time to lament and a time to dance. (Ecclesiastes 3:4)
 - 7. There is a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones. (Ecclesiastes 3:5)
 - 8. There is a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing. (Ecclesiastes 3:5)
 - 9. There is a time to search and a time to lose. (Ecclesiastes 3:6)
 - 10. There is a time to keep and a time to throw away. (Ecclesiastes 3:6)

11. There is a time to rend and a time to sew. (Ecclesiastes 3:7)
 12. There is a time to remain silent and a time to speak. (Ecclesiastes 3:7)
 13. There is a time to love and a time to hate. (Ecclesiastes 3:8)
 14. There is a time for war and a time for peace. (Ecclesiastes 3:8)
- B. What does a worker gain from his labor? (Ecclesiastes 3:9)
 - C. Solomon declares that he has seen the job God has given as a burden unto the sons of men. (Ecclesiastes 3:10)
 - D. God has made everything beautiful in its time. (Ecclesiastes 3:11)
 - E. God has put eternity in the hearts of men, yet they have not discovered the works of God from beginning to end. (Ecclesiastes 3:11)
 - F. In Solomon's estimation, there is nothing better for man to do than be happy and do good as long as he lives. (Ecclesiastes 3:12)
 - G. Every man should eat, drink, and see the good of all his labor; it is a gift from God. (Ecclesiastes 3:13)
 - H. Solomon realized that everything God does will last forever; nothing can be added to it or taken from it; therefore, people should revere Him. (Ecclesiastes 3:14)
 - I. Whatever is and whatever will be has already been; therefore, strive for and run after God. (Ecclesiastes 3:15)
 - J. Solomon observed the judicial systems operating in the world and realized the corruptness of the system--wickedness prevailed over righteousness. (Ecclesiastes 3:16)
 - K. After his observation, Solomon said within his heart, "God will judge both the righteous and wicked. In due season, He will judge everything man does, both good and bad." (Ecclesiastes 3:17)

- L. Solomon understood that not only would God judge, but that He would also examine people according to their lifestyle; afterwards, they would see their similarity to animals. Just as the animals die, so do people. Because they depend on the same air, people have no advantage over animals in death--when their breath leaves, they all die. (Ecclesiastes 3:18-19)
- M. Solomon's observation causes him to declare that all is vanity. Both people and animals came from and are going to the same place. They all came from the dust, and they will all return to the dust. (Ecclesiastes 3:19-20)
- N. Who knows that the spirit of man ascends above, or that the spirit of animals descends below to the earth? (Ecclesiastes 3:21)
- O. According to Solomon, the best thing man can do is to rejoice in his own works; that is his allotment. Who can take him to see what shall be after him? (Ecclesiastes 3:22)

V. CHAPTER FOUR

- A. Solomon turned back to observe for himself all the oppressions that are done in this world. The weeping of the oppressed got his attention; they had no one to console them. The hand of the oppressors was hard, but there was no one to console the oppressed. (Ecclesiastes 4:1)
- B. Solomon resounded to himself that the dead who are already dead are separated from the living who are still living. Better than the living or dead are those who have not yet been born to see the evil deeds that are done in this world. (Ecclesiastes 4:2-3)
- C. He observed for himself all the toil and every successful deed. These accomplishments result in jealousy between a man and his associates; this rivalry is as worthless as chasing the wind. (Ecclesiastes 4:4)
- D. A fool folds his hands and eats his own flesh. (His laziness destroys him.) (Ecclesiastes 4:5)
- E. Better is a handful with restfulness than both fists full and wearisome labor, which is like chasing the wind. (Ecclesiastes 4:6)

- F. He turned back and saw the emptiness of this world. (Ecclesiastes 4:7-8)
 - 1. There are those who have neither son nor brother; however, they labor endlessly, although their eyes are never satisfied with riches. (Ecclesiastes 4:8)
 - 2. Those who follow this pattern never stop and ask, "Who benefits from my labor while I deprive myself of good?" (Ecclesiastes 4:8)
 - 3. This senseless labor is futile and certainly not good practice. (Ecclesiastes 4:8)
- G. Two are better than one because there is better compensation for their hard work. If one falls, his associate will pick him up. Woe to him who is alone; if he falls, there is no one to pick him up. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)
- H. If two lie together they can keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? (Ecclesiastes 4:11)
- I. One may be overpowered, but two can resist the opposition; a threefold cord is not quickly broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:12)
- J. A poor and wise child is better than an old and foolish king who will not accept instruction--even if the child, who was born in poverty, comes from prison to rule. (Ecclesiastes 4:13-14)
- K. Solomon observed for himself all the living who walk in this world with the child who will arise in his place. There is no end of all the people who are before him, and those who follow will not be delighted in his rule. His achievements are as futile as chasing the wind. (Ecclesiastes 4:15-16)

VI. CHAPTER FIVE

- A. Be cautious when you go to the house of God; approach to hear. Fools give sacrifices, not realizing that they are doing evil. (Ecclesiastes 5:1)
- B. Do not speak impulsively, and do not let your heart quickly speak before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth; therefore, let your words be few. (Ecclesiastes 5:2)

- C. Dreams bring an abundance of business; the voice of a fool brings an abundance of words. (Ecclesiastes 5:3)
- D. When you make a promise to God, do not delay in keeping it because God does not receive pleasure from fools; whatever you promise, fulfill it. (Ecclesiastes 5:4)
 - 1. Not promising is better than promising and not keeping your promise. (Ecclesiastes 5:5)
 - 2. Do not make your mouth sin against you; neither say before God's messengers that you made a mistake. (Ecclesiastes 5:6)
 - 3. Why arouse God's anger with such a statement and bring destruction to the deeds you have done? (Ecclesiastes 5:6)
- E. When dreams increase, vain words increase. We should fear God. (Ecclesiastes 5:7)
- F. If you see the poor oppressed and judgment and justice abused in a district, do not panic over the matter because the Power above powers watches from high above. (Ecclesiastes 5:8)
- G. Everyone profits from the earth; the king himself is served by the field. (Ecclesiastes 5:9)
- H. One who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; he that loves wealth will not be satisfied with increase. This insatiable love is futile. (Ecclesiastes 5:10)
- I. When goods increase, consumption increases. What advantage is it to the owner only to see it with his eyes? (Ecclesiastes 5:11)
- J. The sleep of the laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but the abundance of the rich will not allow him to sleep. (Ecclesiastes 5:12)
- K. There is a distressing evil seen in the world--wealth kept to the owner's detriment. (Ecclesiastes 5:13)
 - 1. Through bad business dealings, he loses his wealth; afterwards, he becomes the father of a son. (Ecclesiastes 5:14)

2. He has nothing left to give his son--nothing! (Ecclesiastes 5:14)
 3. As he came from his mother's womb with nothing, so shall he depart with nothing. (Ecclesiastes 5:15)
 4. His labor has left him empty-handed. (Ecclesiastes 5:15)
 5. Another distressing evil in this situation is that just as he came so he goes; in regard to his labor, his profit is gone like the wind. (Ecclesiastes 5:16)
 6. His days are miserable, consumed with much irritation, affliction, and strife. (Ecclesiastes 5:17)
- L. Behold what I have seen to be good and also becoming: eat, drink, and enjoy the good of the labor done in this world all the days of your life, which God gives you. These things are your allotment. (Ecclesiastes 5:18)
- M. Also, every person whom God has given an increase in wealth and permission to partake from his allotment should rejoice in his labor; it is God's gift to him. (Ecclesiastes 5:19)
- N. He will not overemphasize himself throughout his life because a joyful heart responds to God. (Ecclesiastes 5:20)

VII. CHAPTER SIX

- A. There is an evil that Solomon saw in the world and it is common among people. (Ecclesiastes 6:1)
1. God gives man accumulation of wealth and honor so that his soul lacks nothing it desires, yet God does not empower him to consume it; a stranger consumes it. (Ecclesiastes 6:2)
 2. This experience is futile; it is an unfortunate calamity. (Ecclesiastes 6:2)
- B. A man may father a hundred children and live a long time, but if he is not satisfied with good and does not have a burial place, a miscarriage is better than he. (Ecclesiastes 6:3)
1. The miscarried child was short-term, carried in darkness, and no one knew its name. (Ecclesiastes 6:4)

2. The stillborn never saw the sun or knew it. (Ecclesiastes 6:5)
 3. This child experienced more tranquility than the old man, even if the man lived to be a thousand years but never experienced satisfaction. (Ecclesiastes 6:5-6)
 4. Both the stillborn and the old man go to the same place--they leave the natural world and enter into the spirit world. (Ecclesiastes 6:6)
- C. Everyone's labor is for his mouth, but a person is never satisfied. (Ecclesiastes 6:7)
 - D. What does the wise have over the fool? Why do the oppressed know to behave before the strong? (Ecclesiastes 6:8)
 - E. The vision of the eyes is better than the wandering of the mind, which is as futile as chasing the wind. (Ecclesiastes 6:9)
 - F. That which has already been has been named, and it is recognized by man who is not able to contend with One more powerful than he. (Ecclesiastes 6:10)
 - G. Forasmuch as there are many possessions, events, and circumstances, vanity increases; how is man better? (Ecclesiastes 6:11)
 - H. Who knows what is good for man in this life? All the days of his empty life are like a shadow which disappears. (Ecclesiastes 6:12)
 - I. Who can tell man what will come to pass after he leaves this world? (Ecclesiastes 6:12)

VIII. CHAPTER SEVEN

- A. Honor is better than riches, and the day of one's death is better than the day of one's birth. (Ecclesiastes 7:1)
- B. It is better to go to a house that is mourning than to go to a house that is feasting because mourning is the end of all men. The living should ponder this phenomena. (Ecclesiastes 7:2)
- C. Sorrow is better than laughter; sadness of face makes the heart better. (Ecclesiastes 7:3)

- D. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of the fool is in the house of the lighthearted. (Ecclesiastes 7:4)
- E. It is better to hear the rebuke of a wise man than to hear the song of a fool. (Ecclesiastes 7:5)
- F. As the sound of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of a fool; both are useless. (Ecclesiastes 7:6)
- G. Oppression makes a wise man foolish, and a bribe causes one's heart to go astray. (Ecclesiastes 7:7)
- H. The end of a matter is better than the beginning of it, and the patient in spirit are better than the proud in spirit. (Ecclesiastes 7:8)
- I. Do not be quick in spirit to be angry because anger rests in the bosom of the foolish. (Ecclesiastes 7:9)
- J. Do not say, "Why were the former days better than these?;" it is not wise to ask this question. (Ecclesiastes 7:10)
- K. Wisdom is good with an inheritance, exceeding all that is necessary for the living. (Ecclesiastes 7:11)
- L. Wisdom is a defense just as money is a defense. Wisdom gives life to those who have it as they gain knowledge. (Ecclesiastes 7:12)
- M. Observe God's work; who is able to make straight what God has made crooked? (Ecclesiastes 7:13)
- N. Good days bring good, but also observe bad days. Both are made by God; consequently, man cannot discover anything about his future. (Ecclesiastes 7:14)
- O. In the days of his vanity, Solomon observed all--the just perishing in his righteousness and the wicked persisting in his wickedness. (Ecclesiastes 7:15)
- P. Do not be overly righteous or overly wise; why destroy yourself? (Ecclesiastes 7:16)
- Q. Do not be overly evil or foolish; why die before your time? (Ecclesiastes 7:17)

- R. It is beneficial to embrace these truths; one who fears God will depart from all evil and foolishness. (Ecclesiastes 7:18)
- S. Wisdom strengthens the wise more than ten warriors strengthen a city. (Ecclesiastes 7:19)
- T. There is not a just man in the earth who does good and never sins. (Ecclesiastes 7:20)
- U. Do not pay attention to every word spoken, and you will not hear your servant speak bad about you. Your heart knows that many times you have spoken bad about others. (Ecclesiastes 7:21-22)
- V. Wisdom tested Solomon in all his endeavors. Solomon said he would be wise, but it was far from him. Who can find that which is very deep and far away? (Ecclesiastes 7:23-24)
- W. He thoroughly considered in his heart that he might know, develop, and search out wisdom and intelligence and to know the nonsense of foolishness and folly. (Ecclesiastes 7:25)
- X. He found more bitter than death the woman whose heart is snares and nets and her hands are shackles. (They capture and bind.) One who is good before God will escape, but the sinner will be captured by her. (Ecclesiastes 7:26)
- Y. “Look, this is what I have discovered,” says the preacher. “One after the other brought understanding. One man among a thousand I have been able to find, but a woman among all these I have not been able to find.” (Ecclesiastes 7:27-28)
 - 1. What is it that he is not able to find?
 - 2. Who is the one man he found?
- Z. After his observation, Solomon made this statement, “God made man upright, but men have sought many plans and schemes.” (Ecclesiastes 7:29)

IX. CHAPTER EIGHT

- A. Who is wise? Who knows the interpretation of a thing? Wisdom makes a man’s face shine, changing strong faces. (Ecclesiastes 8:1)

- B. Keep the king's word and beyond reason, God's oath. (Ecclesiastes 8:2)
- C. Do not be hasty to walk before the king; nothing evil will stand. He does whatever pleases him. (Ecclesiastes 8:3)
- D. When the word of the king dominates, who can ask him what he is doing? Heed his commands and do not observe evil things. The heart of the wise understands both timing and way of expression. (Ecclesiastes 8:4-5)
- E. For every matter there is time and way of expression, and the evil person is greatly opposed. Who knows what shall come to pass? Who can announce when it will come to pass? (Ecclesiastes 8:6-7)
- F. No one has the power to retain his own spirit or dominion over the day of death. None are discharged during war, and there is no escape for those who do not take control over wickedness. (Ecclesiastes 8:8)
- G. Realizing all these facts, Solomon gave his heart to every work that is done in the earth. He recognized that there is a time when one man rules over another to his own hurt. (Ecclesiastes 8:9)
- H. Solomon saw the wicked buried. After going to their sacred place (cemetery), the city forgot the way the wicked had lived. This too is worthless. (Ecclesiastes 8:10)
- I. Because sentence is not executed speedily against evil deeds, the hearts of people are full of evil deeds. (Ecclesiastes 8:11)
- J. A sinner may commit a hundred evils and live long, yet it is better for those who fear God and are reverent in His presence. (Ecclesiastes 8:12)
- K. It shall not be well for the wicked; the prolonging of his days are as a shadow because he does not fear God. (Ecclesiastes 8:13)
- L. There is a vanity that takes place on earth: there are righteous people who are affected by the deeds of the wicked, and there are wicked people who are affected by the deeds of the righteous. These occurrences lack purpose. (Ecclesiastes 8:14)

- M. Solomon commended joyfulness because, in his estimation, there is nothing better for man in this world than to eat, drink, and be happy all the days of his life that God gives him here on earth. (Ecclesiastes 8:15)
- N. Solomon gave his heart to know wisdom and to see the business that takes place upon earth, men working day and night without sleep. (Ecclesiastes 8:16)
- O. He saw the works of God and realized that no effort put forth by men would be sufficient to discover all the deeds that God has done in this world. The wise may say he knows, but he is unable to find them. (Ecclesiastes 8:17)

X. CHAPTER NINE

- A. Solomon applied his heart to examine what he had seen. He concluded that the deeds of the righteous and the wise are in God's hands. No man knows whether love or hate awaits him. (Ecclesiastes 9:1)
- B. All people experience one righteous destiny--the good and bad, the clean and unclean, and those who sacrifice and those who do not. The good is no different from the sinner, and the one who swears is no different from the one who is afraid to swear. (Ecclesiastes 9:2)
- C. Out of all that is done in this world, one bad event is experienced by everyone. The hearts of people are full of evil. With foolish hearts they live; afterward, they die. (Ecclesiastes 9:3)
- D. One who is associated with the living has assurance; a living dog is better than a dead lion. (Ecclesiastes 9:4)
- E. The living know that they are going to die, but the dead do not know anything; neither is there any more compensation for them. The memory of them is forgotten. (Ecclesiastes 9:5)
- F. The love, hatred, and envy of the dead have vanished, and they no longer have a share of anything that is done in this world. (Ecclesiastes 9:6)
- G. An exhortation is given to go your way, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a cheerful heart. Long ago God accepted our deeds. (Ecclesiastes 9:7)

- H. Always let your clothes be white and your head sufficiently anointed. (Ecclesiastes 9:8)
- I. See life with the wife whom you love all the days of your temporary life that has been given to you in this world. This is your allotment in life. (Ecclesiastes 9:9)
- J. Work because you are a laborer in this world. Do whatever your hands find to do with all your might. There is no activity, intelligence, knowledge, or wisdom in Sheol (the world of the dead), where you are going. (Ecclesiastes 9:10)
- K. Solomon observed that, in this world, the fastest do not always win the race, nor do the most powerful always win the battle. The wise do not always get the food, neither does wealth always come to those of understanding. Favor is not always given to the one with knowledge; time and chance affect all of them. (Ecclesiastes 9:11)
- L. Man does not know his time. As fish caught in a net and birds caught in a snare, so are people caught when evil times come upon them suddenly. (Ecclesiastes 9:12)
- M. Solomon saw this wisdom in the world and it seemed great to him: There was a small city with few people in it surrounded by a great king who built large bulwarks (embankments) against it. A poor wise man who lived in the city delivered it through his wisdom, but no one remembered him. (Ecclesiastes 9:13-15)
- N. Solomon's observation made him to realize that wisdom is better than strength, but a poor man's wisdom is discredited and attention is not given to his words. (Ecclesiastes 9:16)
- O. Listening to the quiet words of the wise is more beneficial than listening to the shouts of foolish rulers. (Ecclesiastes 9:17)
- P. Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but sin destroys much good. (Ecclesiastes 9:18)

XI. CHAPTER TEN

- A. A little foolishness affects the value of wisdom and honor just as dead flies produce a bad odor in the liquid of a perfume maker. (Ecclesiastes 10:1)

- B. A wise heart is directed to the right, but a foolish heart is directed to the left (opposite). (Ecclesiastes 10:2)
- C. Even as he walks down the road, the fool lacks understanding, so everyone says he is foolish. (Ecclesiastes 10:3)
- D. If the anger of a ruler rises against you, do not abandon your position; calmness prevents great offences. (Ecclesiastes 10:4)
- E. There is an evil that can be seen in this world--a mistake made by a ruler: the foolish are given positions of great honor, and the noble are placed in inferior positions. (Ecclesiastes 10:5-6)
- F. Solomon declared that he had seen servants riding horses, while the noblemen walked as servants. (Ecclesiastes 10:7)
- G. One who digs a pit will fall into it; one who breaks through a wall will be bitten by a snake. (Ecclesiastes 10:8)
- H. One who quarries stones or splits wood may be injured. (Ecclesiastes 10:9)
- I. If the dull blade of an axe is not sharpened, more strength must be used; therefore, wisdom is profitable for success. (Ecclesiastes 10:10)
- J. Without enchantment, a snake will strike; a gossip is no better. (Ecclesiastes 10:11)
- K. Words from the mouth of the wise are kind, but foolish lips destroy. The fool's words begin with foolishness and end with evil nonsense. (Ecclesiastes 10:12-13)
- L. A fool multiplies words, but no one knows the future. Who can predict what is going to take place? (Ecclesiastes 10:14)
- M. The labor of the foolish is exhausting; he does not even know how to get to town. (Ecclesiastes 10:15)
- N. Woe to the land whose king is a boy and its leaders eat in the morning. Happy is the land whose king is the son of nobles and its leaders eat at the proper time for strength, not excitement. (Ecclesiastes 10:16-17)
- O. Because of habitual laziness, a building is ruined; a house leaks because of negligent hands. (Ecclesiastes 10:18)

- P. Food produces laughter, wine makes life cheerful, but money gets everyone's attention. (Ecclesiastes 10:19)
- Q. Be alert! Do not speak lightly of the king in your bedroom; neither speak lightly of the rich because a bird of the air will carry your voice and reveal your words. (Ecclesiastes 10:20)

XII. CHAPTER ELEVEN

- A. Cast your bread on the surface of the water and, after many days, it will come forth. (Ecclesiastes 11:1)
- B. Give an allotment to seven, even eight because you do not know what evil will occur on earth. (Ecclesiastes 11:2)
- C. If the clouds are full of rain, they empty on the earth. If a tree falls to the south or north, wherever it falls, it lies. (Ecclesiastes 11:3)
- D. One who regards the wind will not sow; one who regards the clouds will not reap. (Ecclesiastes 11:4)
- E. We do not know the course of life or how a body is developed in a womb; likewise, we do not know the works of God Who makes everything. (Ecclesiastes 11:5)
- F. Sow your seed in the morning, and in the evening, do not withhold your hand because you do not know whether this or that will prosper. (Ecclesiastes 11:6)
- G. Light is pleasing; it is good for the eyes to see the sun. (Ecclesiastes 11:7)
- H. People who live many years should rejoice in them all, but we remember the days of sorrow because they are many. Everything that comes is futile. (Ecclesiastes 11:8)
- I. Young men, rejoice in your youth with a cheerful heart; follow the ways of your heart and the vision of your eyes, but know that God will judge all that you do. (Ecclesiastes 11:9)
- J. Stop vexing your heart and walk away from fleshly evil because childhood and youth are temporary. (Ecclesiastes 11:10)

XIII. CHAPTER TWELVE

- A. Remember your Creator in the days of your youth before the evil days come and you reach an age when you no longer have pleasure in them. (Ecclesiastes 12:1)
1. Before the light of the sun, moon, and stars becomes dark and the clouds return after the rain, remember. (This statement probably relates to impaired vision and depression.) (Ecclesiastes 12:2)
 2. Before the day when the guards of the house tremble and the strong men twist, remember. (This statement probably refers to the limbs.) (Ecclesiastes 12:3)
 3. Before the grinders stop because they are few, remember. (This statement probably refers to the teeth.) (Ecclesiastes 12:3)
 4. Before the windows appear dark, remember. (This statement probably refers to the eyes.) (Ecclesiastes 12:3)
 5. Before the doors to the street are shut, remember. (This statement probably refers to the lips.) (Ecclesiastes 12:4)
 6. Before the sound of the grinder in the mill becomes low, remember. (This statement probably refers to hearing.) (Ecclesiastes 12:4)
 7. Before you rise at the sound of a bird, remember. (This statement probably refers to awaking early.) (Ecclesiastes 12:4)
 8. Before all the daughters who sing become quiet, remember. (This statement probably refers to the voice.) (Ecclesiastes 12:4)
 9. Before you become afraid of heights and terrors along the road, remember. (Ecclesiastes 12:5)
 10. Before the almond tree blooms, remember. (This statement probably refers to white hair.) (Ecclesiastes 12:5)
 11. Before the locust becomes burdensome, remember. (This statement probably refers to small things being burdensome.) (Ecclesiastes 12:5)

12. Before desire is frustrated, remember. (This statement probably refers to sexual impotence.) (Ecclesiastes 12:5)
 13. Before people go to their eternal home and mourners walk the streets, remember. (Ecclesiastes 12:5)
 14. Before the silver cord is broken, remember. (This statement probably refers to the umbilical cord of life.) (Ecclesiastes 12:6)
 15. Before the golden bowl is broken, remember. (This statement probably refers to the heart.) (Ecclesiastes 12:6)
 16. Before the pitcher is broken at the fountain or the wheel broken at the cistern, remember. (This statement probably refers to the circulatory system.) (Ecclesiastes 12:6)
- B. The dust shall return to earth, and the breath will return to God Who gave it. (Ecclesiastes 12:7)
 - C. "Vanity of vanities!" The preacher declared all to be vanity. (Ecclesiastes 12:8)
 - D. Because the teacher was wise, he taught knowledge to others who listened. (Ecclesiastes 12:9)
 - E. Through listening and pondering, Solomon composed many proverbs. (Ecclesiastes 12:9)
 - F. The preacher sought to find acceptable words, and he correctly wrote words of truth. (Ecclesiastes 12:10)
 - G. The words of the wise are like goads (prodding sticks) and fixed pegs. (They provoke and establish.) This compilation of wise sayings was given by one Shepherd. (Ecclesiastes 12:11)
 - H. Be enlightened by these wise sayings. There is no end to making many books, and much study fatigues the flesh. (Ecclesiastes 12:12)
 - I. Listen to the whole conclusion of the matter. **Every person should fear God and obey His commandments.** (Ecclesiastes 12:13)
 - J. God will bring every action into judgment, including everything hidden, whether good or bad. (Ecclesiastes 12:14)