



# Ecclesiastes

CHASING WISDOM

*“Hevel, hevel, everything is utterly  
hevel.”*

## Ecclesiastes 7:1-3

1 A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth. 2 It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart. 3 Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness of face the heart is made glad.

## Ecclesiastes 7:4-6

4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth. 5 It is better for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise than to hear the song of fools. 6 For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fools; this also is *hevel*.

Why is the day you die better than  
the day you were born?

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Accept that your death is coming and live accordingly. Let your future impact your present. Come to grips with the end of your story and live life backward.

## Ecclesiastes 12:1-3

1 Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, "I have no pleasure in them"; 2 before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, 3 in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent...



## Ecclesiastes 12:3-4

...and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, 4 and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low—

## Ecclesiastes 12:5-6

5 they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets — 6 before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken...

## Ecclesiastes 12:6-7

...or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain,  
or the wheel broken at the cistern, 7 and the  
dust returns to the earth as it was, and the  
spirit returns to God who gave it.

In light of this inexorable, downward journey, remember your Creator. Lift your eyes and look beyond this earthly smoke to our God who made us for Himself.

Why would Solomon call the end  
of our story “evil”?

The world is a place of unique joys and passions that a person has the chance to experience only once. Value and appreciate your opportunity. Don't waste it.

## Ecclesiastes 9:7-10

7 Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do. 8 Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head. 9 Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your *hevel*-filled life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. 10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

## Ecclesiastes 9:1-2

1 But all this I laid to heart, examining it all, how the righteous and the wise and their deeds are in the hand of God. Whether it is love or hate, man does not know; both are before him. 2 It is the same for all, since the same event happens to the righteous and the wicked, to the good and the evil, to the clean and the unclean, to him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As the good one is, so is the sinner, and he who swears is as he who shuns an oath.



## Ecclesiastes 9:3-4

3 This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that the same event happens to all. Also, the hearts of the children of man are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead. 4 But he who is joined with all the living has hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion.

## Ecclesiastes 9:5-6

5 For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. 6 Their love and their hate and their envy have already perished, and forever they have no more share in all that is done under the sun.

## John 3:16-18

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already.”*