

Ecclesiastes Wrap-Up

THANKFUL, FEARLESS LIVING
AMID LIFE'S SMOKE

- Be bold (Dan)
- Be joyful, be godly (Lars)
- Be in community (Larry)
- Be in Christ! (everyone!)

What Ecclesiastes tells us we do NOT know ...

- We do not know how to predict the future
- We do not know how to do that which only God can do
- We do not know how to guarantee success and avoid failure

How do we live well when we don't know and aren't in control?

- Wise living means holding loosely to life and its possessions.
- Wise living means neither success nor failure is ultimate.
- Wise living is its own reward.

Be bold



Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

¹ Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days. ² Give a portion to seven, or even to eight, for you know not what disaster may happen on earth. ³ If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves on the earth, and if a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie. ⁴ He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap. ⁵ As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything. ⁶ In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.

Ecclesiastes 11:1-2

¹ Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days. ² Give a portion to seven, or even to eight, for you know not what disaster may happen on earth.

- Cast your bread
 - Invest your talents, plant a crop
- Give a portion
 - Diversify

Ecclesiastes 11:3-4

³ If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves on the earth, and if a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.

⁴ He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap.

- Rain, disaster
 - Risk
 - Opposition
- Try anyway
 - Perfect timing is elusive

Ecclesiastes 11:5-6

⁵ As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything. ⁶ In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.

- Unknowable to us
- Known to God
- Be bold, do something, do several things

Be bold

Failure is
not trying,
not doing



Be Joyful.
Be godly.



Ecclesiastes 11:7-10 (ESV)

⁷ Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun. ⁸ So if a person lives many years, let him rejoice in them all; but let him remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that comes is hevel. ⁹ Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment. ¹⁰ Remove vexation from your heart, and put away pain from your body, for youth and the dawn of life are hevel.

Ecclesiastes 11:7-8 (ESV)

⁷ Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun.

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Ecclesiastes 11:9 (ESV)

⁹ Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.

Ecclesiastes 11:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ Remove vexation from your heart, and put away pain from your body, for youth and the dawn of life are hevel.



BE IN COMMUNITY

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

- ⁷ Again, I saw vanity (*hevel*) under the sun: ⁸ one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, "For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?" This also is vanity and an unhappy business.
- ⁹ Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰ For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! ¹¹ Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? ¹² And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.



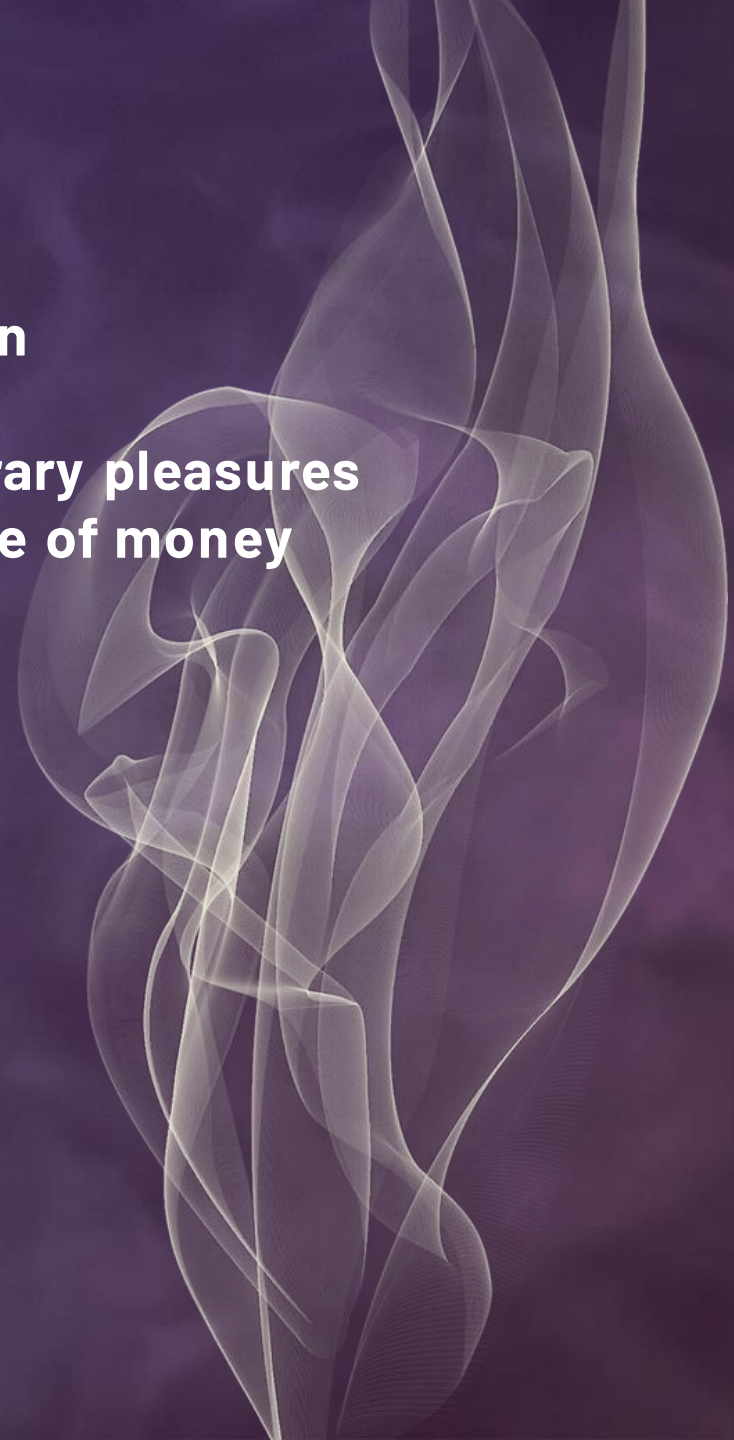
Hebrews 13:1-5

¹ Let brotherly love continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. ⁵ Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

NOT Hevel

Hevel

- **Isolation**
- **Greed**
- **Temporary pleasures**
- **The love of money**

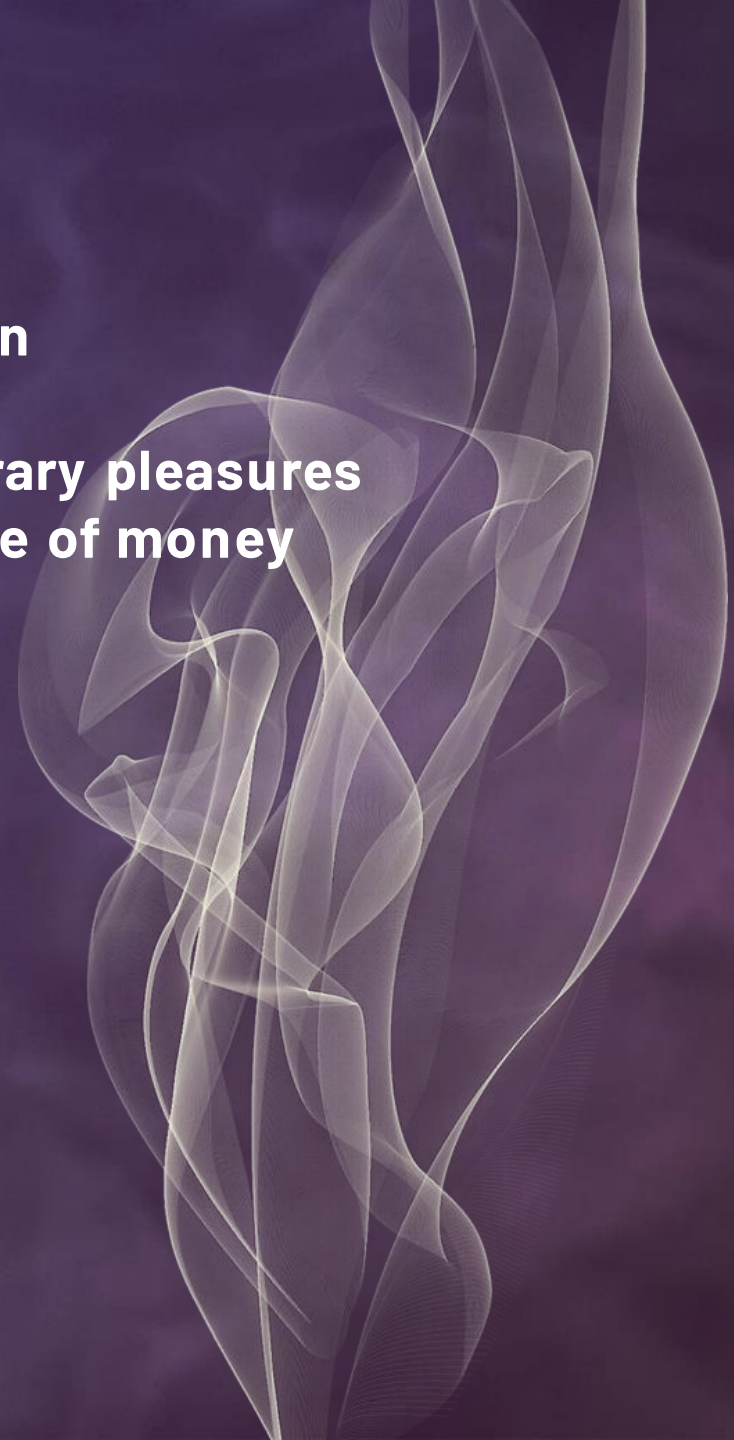


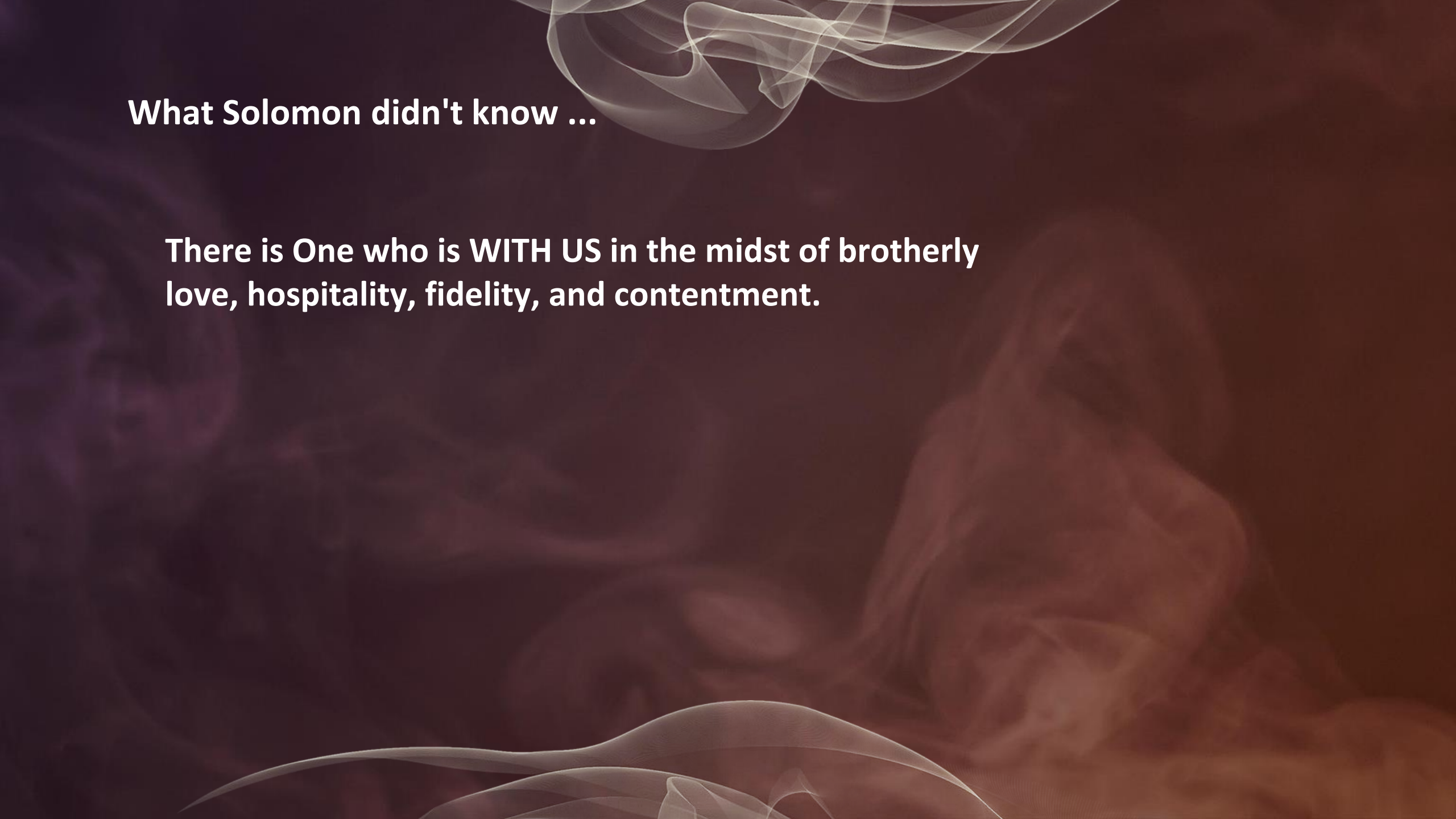
NOT Hevel

- **Brotherly love**
- **Hospitality**
- **Fidelity**
- **Contentment**

Hevel

- **Isolation**
- **Greed**
- **Temporary pleasures**
- **The love of money**





What Solomon didn't know ...

There is One who is WITH US in the midst of brotherly love, hospitality, fidelity, and contentment.

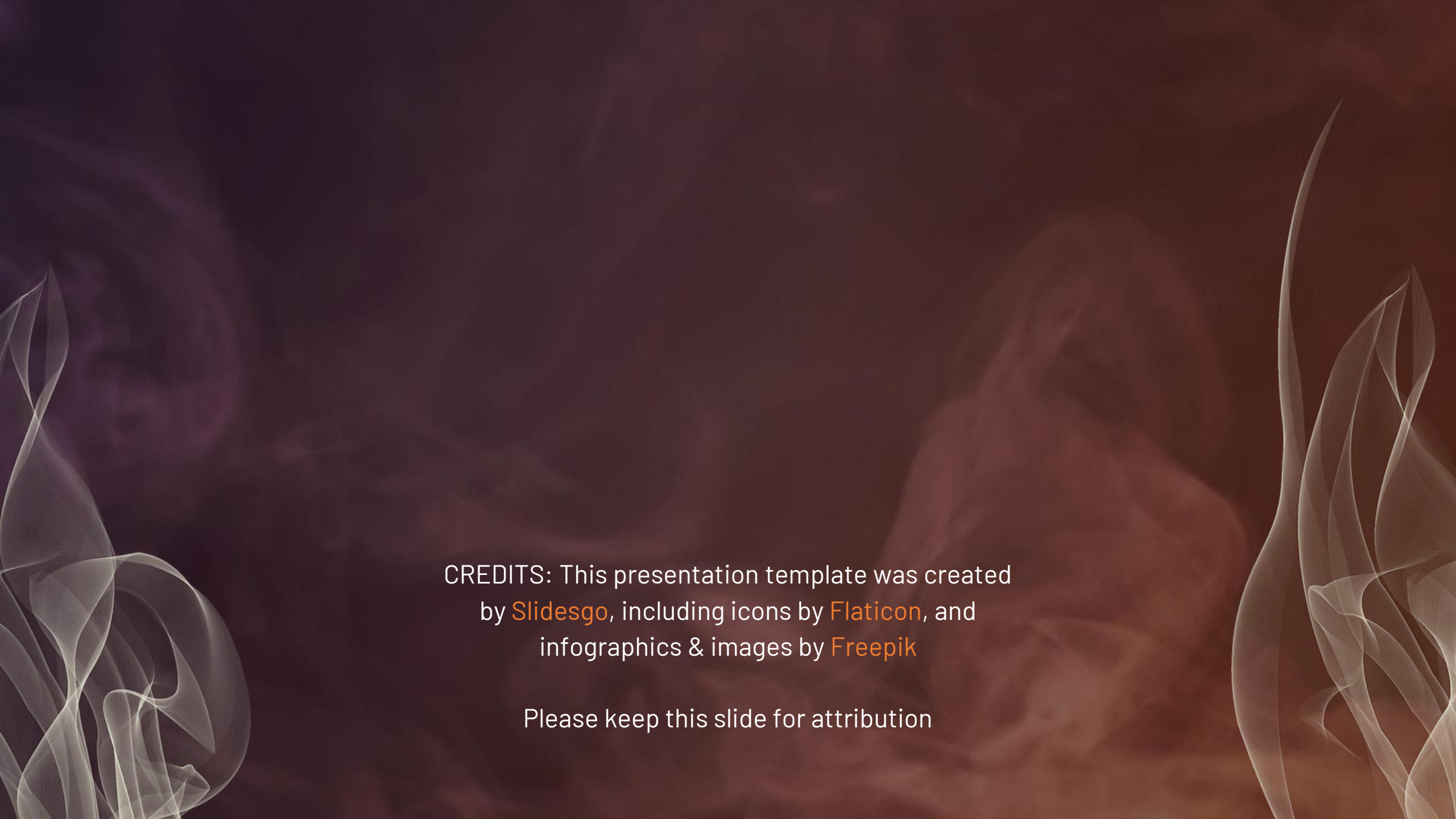
What Solomon didn't know ...

There is One who is WITH US in the midst of brotherly love, hospitality, fidelity, and contentment.

¹⁸ “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

BE IN CHRIST

Jesus Christ is our Third Strand, always with us if we let Him in. And life without Him is *hevel*.



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