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Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes 1

Ecclesiastes 1:1

ULT

¹ The words of Qoheleth, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

UST

¹ These are the words and sayings of the descendant of King David, who is king in Jerusalem. The people call me 'The Teacher.'

Of whom was the Teacher a descendant?

The Teacher was a descendant of David, king in Jerusalem.

Ecclesiastes 1:2

ULT

² "Most futile of futile things, Qoheleth has said, "Most futile of futile things, the entirety is futile."

UST

² The Teacher says, "Nothing is permanent. It is all like the morning mist or the wind; It goes and comes, but for what reason?"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 1:3

ULT

³ What profit is for mankind in all his toil that he continually toils under the sun?

UST

³ What do people gain from all the work that they do here on the earth?"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 1:4**ULT**

⁴ A generation is going, and a generation is coming, but the earth remains for forever.

UST

⁴ Each year old people die and babies are born, but the earth never changes.

What remains forever?

The earth remains forever.

Ecclesiastes 1:5**ULT**

⁵ Likewise, the sun rises, and the sun comes in, and comes panting to its place, it rises there.

UST

⁵ Each morning the sun rises, and each evening it sets, and then it hurries around to where it started from.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 1:6**ULT**

⁶ Going towards south and circling towards north, circling, circling, the wind goes and upon its circuits the wind returns.

UST

⁶ The wind blows south, and then it turns around to start blowing to the north. It goes around and around in circles.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 1:7**ULT**

⁷ All the rivers are flowing to the sea, but the sea, it is not full. To a place where the rivers are going, there they are returning to go.

UST

⁷ All the streams flow into the sea, but the sea is never full. The water returns to the sky, and when it rains, the water returns to the rivers, and it flows again to the sea.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 1:8**ULT**

⁸ All the things are wearisome, man is not able to explain. An eye is not satisfied by seeing, likewise an ear is not fulfilled from hearing.

UST

⁸ Everything is so unsatisfactory that we do not even want to talk about it. We see the same things, and we become bored with them. We hear the same things, but we want to hear something more.

By what is the eye not satisfied?

The eye is not satisfied by what it sees.

Ecclesiastes 1:9**ULT**

⁹ Whatever that has been, it is what will be, and whatever that has been done, it is what will be done. So there is not anything new under the sun.

UST

⁹ Everything continues to be the same as it has always been. Things that happen have happened previously, and they will happen again. What has been done before will be done again. There is nothing really new in this world.

What will be done?

Whatever has been done is what will be done.

Ecclesiastes 1:10**ULT**

¹⁰ Is there anything about which one may say, 'See this, it is new'? Formerly it existed in ages that existed from before our faces.

UST

¹⁰ Sometimes people say, "Look at this! This is something new!" But it has existed previously. It existed before we were born.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 1:11**ULT**

¹¹ There is not a remembrance of former things, or even of latter things which may be. There will not be a remembrance of them like what will be of the latter things.”

UST

¹¹ People do not remember the things that happened long ago, and in the future, people will not remember what we are doing now.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 1:12**ULT**

¹² I am Qoheleth, I have been king over Israel in Jerusalem.

UST

¹² I, the Teacher, have been the king of Israel for many years, ruling in Jerusalem.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 1:13**ULT**

¹³ Now I gave my heart to study and to search out with the wisdom about everything that has been done under the sun. It is a frustrating task God has given to the sons of the human to be busy with it.

UST

¹³ By using my wisdom, I concentrated on understanding everything that was being done on the earth. It is a task that wears me out, just like anyone else who tries it.

To what did the Teacher apply his mind?

The Teacher applied his mind to study and to search out by wisdom everything that is done under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 1:14**ULT**

¹⁴ I have seen all the deeds that have been done under the sun, and look, the entirety is futile as tending wind.

UST

¹⁴ It seems that nothing that happens on the earth really enables us to do anything useful. It is like trying to control the wind.

To what do all the deeds that are done under the sun amount?

All the deeds that are done under the sun amount to vapor and an attempt to shepherd the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:15**ULT**

¹⁵ Twisted is not able to be straight, and missing is not able to be counted!

UST

¹⁵ Many things that are crooked cannot be caused to become straight. We cannot count things that we cannot see.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 1:16**ULT**

¹⁶ I, myself, have spoken with my heart, by saying, "Myself, look, I have amassed and I have increased wisdom over all who were before my face in Jerusalem. Indeed, my heart has seen much wisdom and knowledge."

UST

¹⁶ I said to myself, "I am wiser than any of those who ruled in Jerusalem before me. I am wiser and know more than any of them!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 1:17**ULT**

¹⁷ So I gave my heart to know wisdom and knowledge, foolishness and folly. I have known that even this, it is tending wind.

UST

¹⁷ So I determined to learn more about being wise, and also to learn about doing things that are very stupid and foolish. But I found out that trying to understand those things was also useless, like trying to control the wind.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 1:18**ULT**

¹⁸ For with abundance of wisdom is much sorrow, and one adding knowledge, he will add anguish.

UST

¹⁸ Anyone who becomes very wise also becomes very frustrated. The more one knows, the sadder he becomes.

Where is there much frustration?

In the abundance of wisdom there is much frustration.

Ecclesiastes 2

Ecclesiastes 2:1

ULT

¹ I myself said in my heart, "Come now! Let me test you with joy, so experience with pleasure." But look, it also was futile.

UST

¹ Then I said to myself, "Well, I will try to do everything that I enjoy. I will find out whether doing what I enjoy can truly enable me to be happy." But I found out that doing that was also useless.

What was just a temporary breeze?

Pleasure was just a temporary breeze.

Ecclesiastes 2:2

ULT

² About laughter I said, "Making one a fool," and about joy, "What is this doing?"

UST

² So I said to myself, "It is foolish to laugh all the time, and continually doing what makes me happy does not bring any lasting benefit."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 2:3

ULT

³ I sought out in my heart to expand my flesh with wine, while my heart was guiding into the wisdom, although by holding on to folly, until that I would see how this is good for the sons of the man, what they would do under the heavens the number of the days of their lives.

UST

³ So, after thinking a lot about it, I decided to cheer myself up by drinking a lot of wine. While I was still trying to be wise, I acted stupidly. I tried to learn what people can do to be happy during the short time that they are alive on the earth.

What did the Teacher want to find out?

The Teacher wanted to find out what was good for people to do under heaven during the days of their lives.

Ecclesiastes 2:4**ULT**

⁴ I expanded my works. I built houses for myself. I planted vineyards for myself.

UST

⁴ I did great things. I caused houses to be built for myself and vineyards to be planted.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 2:5**ULT**

⁵ I made for myself gardens and parks, and I planted a tree of every kind of fruit in them.

UST

⁵ I made gardens and parks. Then I planted the gardens with many kinds of fruit trees.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 2:6**ULT**

⁶ I made for myself reservoirs of waters in order to irrigate from them a forest sprouting up trees.

UST

⁶ I built pools of water to store water to irrigate the fruit trees.

Why did the Teacher create pools of water?

The Teacher created pools of water to water a forest where trees were grown.

Ecclesiastes 2:7**ULT**

⁷ I acquired male servants and maidservants, and sons of the house were for me; also property, cattle and a flock of small animals. Much was for me, more than all who were before me in Jerusalem.

UST

⁷ I bought male and female slaves. Babies who later became my slaves were born in my palace. I also owned more livestock than any of the previous kings in Jerusalem had owned.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 2:8**ULT**

⁸ I also amassed for myself silver and gold, and valued property of kings and the provinces. I prepared male singers and female singers for myself, and the luxuries of the sons of the man, a concubine, indeed concubines. ^[1]

UST

⁸ I also accumulated large amounts of silver and gold that were acquired from the treasures of kings and rulers of provinces. I owned men and women who sang for me, and I had many wives and concubines, whom men all over the world would enjoy possessing.

How did the Teacher do things that would bring pleasure to any man on earth?

By means of numerous wives and concubines, he did things that would bring pleasure to any man on earth.

Ecclesiastes 2:9**ULT**

⁹ So I became wealthy and I added more than all who were before me in Jerusalem, moreover my wisdom stood with me.

UST

⁹ So I gained more power and wealth than any king who had ruled before me in Jerusalem, and I allowed my wisdom to continue to guide me.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 2:10**ULT**

¹⁰ Thus all that my eyes asked, I did not refuse from them. I did not deny my heart from any joy, because my heart was joyful from all my toil and this was my portion from all my toil.

UST

¹⁰ I got everything that I saw and wanted. I did everything that I thought would enable me to be happy. All the things that I enjoyed were like a reward for all my hard work.

In what did the Teacher's heart rejoice?

The Teacher's heart rejoiced in all his labor.

Ecclesiastes 2:11**ULT**

¹¹ Then I turned myself toward all my works that my hands had done, and at toil that I have toiled to do, and look, the entirety is futile as tending wind. Thus there was not an advantage under the sun.

UST

¹¹ But then I thought about all the hard work that I had done to obtain all those things. I saw that none of my work brought me any lasting benefit. It was all like trying to control the wind.

Where was there no profit?

There was no profit under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 2:12**ULT**

¹² Also I turned myself to see wisdom, and foolishness and folly, for who is the man who would come after the king? What already exists, they have done it.

UST

¹² Then I started to think about being wise, and also about being foolish. I said to myself, "I certainly do not think that anybody will be able to do anything better than I can."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 2:13**ULT**

¹³ Then I myself saw that there is an advantage to the wisdom more than the folly, as the advantage of the light over the darkness.

UST

¹³ And I thought, "Surely it is better to be wise than to be foolish, like light is better than darkness,

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 2:14**ULT**

¹⁴ The wise, his eyes are in his head, but the fool is walking in the darkness, although I know, even myself, that one event will happen to all of them.

UST

¹⁴ because wise people walk in the daylight and can see where they are going, but foolish people walk in the darkness and cannot see where they are going." But I also realized that both wise people and foolish people eventually die.

What is in store for everyone?

The same destiny is in store for everyone.

Ecclesiastes 2:15**ULT**

¹⁵ Then I myself said in my heart, "As the fate of the fool, also myself, it will happen to me. So how am I myself wise, then, abundantly?" So I spoke in my heart, that also this is futile.

UST

¹⁵ So I said to myself, "I am very wise, but I will die at the end of my life like foolish people do. So how has it benefited me to be very wise? I do not understand why people consider that it is valuable to be wise.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 2:16**ULT**

¹⁶ For there is no remembrance of the wise man, equally with the fool for forever, in that already the coming days the entirety is forgotten, and how the wise along with the fool will die.

UST

¹⁶ Wise people and foolish people all die. And after we die, we will all eventually be forgotten."

Who is not remembered for very long?

The wise man, like the fool, is not remembered for very long.

Ecclesiastes 2:17**ULT**

¹⁷ So I hated this life because of evil around me, the work that was being done under the sun, for the entirety was futile as tending wind.

UST

¹⁷ So I hated being alive, because all the work that we do here on the earth distressed me. It all seemed to be useless, like trying to control the wind.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 2:18**ULT**

¹⁸ Moreover I myself hated all my toil, that I had become a toiler under the sun since I must bestow it to the man who will come after me.

UST

¹⁸ I also began to hate all the hard work that I had done here on the earth, because when I die, everything that I have acquired will belong to the one who inherits it after me.

Why did the Teacher hate all his accomplishments?

The Teacher hated all his accomplishments because he had to leave them behind to the man who came after him.

Ecclesiastes 2:19**ULT**

¹⁹ For who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will rule over all my toil which I have toiled and for which I have acted wisely under the sun. Also this is futile.

UST

¹⁹ And who knows whether that person will be wise or foolish? But even if he is foolish, he will acquire all the things that I worked very hard and wisely to get.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 2:20**ULT**

²⁰ Therefore I turned myself to despair in my heart about all the toil which I had toiled under the sun.

UST

²⁰ I thought about all the hard work that I had done in this world. It seemed useless, and I became depressed.

How did the Teacher's heart feel about his work?

The Teacher's heart began to despair over all the work that he did.

Ecclesiastes 2:21**ULT**

²¹ For there is a man whom his toil is with wisdom, and with knowledge, and with skill, but to a man who has not toiled over it, he will give it as his portion. This also is futile and a great calamity.

UST

²¹ Some people work wisely and skillfully, using the things that they have learned. But when they die, they leave everything, and someone who has not worked for those things acquires them. That fact also seemed to be senseless and caused me to be discouraged.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 2:22**ULT**

²² For what happens to the man in exchange for all his toil, and concerning the striving of his heart for which he is toiling under the sun?

UST

²² So it is useless for people to work for all they do.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 2:23**ULT**

²³ Because all his days are sorrows, and grievous is his travail. Even in the night his heart does not take rest. Also this, it is futile.

UST

²³ Every day the work that they do causes them to experience pain and to be worried. And during the night their minds are not able to rest. That also shows how temporary everything is.

Why does the soul of the hard worker not find rest at night?

Every day his work is painful and stressful, so at night his soul does not find rest.

Ecclesiastes 2:24**ULT**

²⁴ There is nothing good in the man who would eat and he would drink then he would show his innermost being good in the toil of him. Also this I myself saw that from the hand of the true God it is.

UST

²⁴ So I decided that the best thing that we can do is to enjoy what we eat and drink, and also to enjoy our work. And I realized that those things are what God intends for us.

What is there nothing better than for anyone?

There is nothing better for anyone than to simply eat and drink and be satisfied with what is good in his work.

Ecclesiastes 2:25**ULT**

²⁵ For who may eat and who may have enjoyment further than me?

UST

²⁵ There is absolutely no one who is able to enjoy those things if God does not give those things to him.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 2:26**ULT**

²⁶ For to a man who is good before his face, he gives wisdom and knowledge and joy. But to the one who sins he gives travail to gather and to heap up in order to give to a good one before the face of the true God. This also is futile as tending wind.

2:8 ^[1] , , etc.

UST

²⁶ God enables those who please him to be wise, to know many things, and to enjoy many things. But if sinful people work hard and become rich, God can take their money away from them and give it to those who please him. However, the reason for that is also something that is difficult for me to understand. It seems useless that they worked so hard; it is like trying to control the wind.

What does God give to the sinner?

To the sinner, God gives the work of gathering and storing up so that he may give it away to someone who pleases God.

Ecclesiastes 3

Ecclesiastes 3:1

ULT

¹ For the entirety there is a set time, and a proper time for every experience under the heavens:

UST

¹ There is a right time for everything, a time for everything that we do in this world.

For what things is there a season?

There is a season for every purpose under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:2

ULT

² a proper time for bearing and a proper time for dying, a proper time for planting and a proper time for plucking up what was planted,

UST

² There is the right time for any certain person to be born, and there is the right time for him to die. There is the right time to plant crops, and there is the right time to harvest crops.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 3:3

ULT

³ a proper time for slaying and a proper time for healing, a proper time for breaking down and a proper time for building,

UST

³ There is the right time to kill people, and there is the right time to heal people. There is the right time to tear things down, and there is the right time to build things.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 3:4**ULT**

⁴ a proper time for weeping and a proper time for laughing, a proper time of wailing and a proper time of skipping about,

UST

⁴ There is the right time to cry, and there is the right time to laugh. There is the right time to mourn, and there is the right time to dance joyfully.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 3:5**ULT**

⁵ a proper time for casting stones and a proper time of gathering stones, a proper time for embracing, and a proper time for refraining from embracing,

UST

⁵ There is the right time to throw away stones from a field, and there is the right time to gather stones to build walls. There is the right time to embrace people, and there is the right time to keep from embracing them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 3:6**ULT**

⁶ a proper time for searching and a proper time for letting go, a proper time for keeping and a proper time for throwing away,

UST

⁶ There is the right time to search for things, and there is the right time to stop searching for things. There is the right time to keep things, and there is the right time to throw things away.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 3:7**ULT**

⁷ a proper time for tearing apart and a proper time for sewing together, a proper time for keeping quiet and a proper time for speaking,

UST

⁷ There is the right time to tear our clothes because we are grieving, and there is the right time to mend our clothes. There is the right time to say nothing, and there is the right time for speaking.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 3:8**ULT**

⁸ a proper time for loving and a proper time for hating, a proper time of battle, and a proper time of peace.

UST

⁸ There is the right time when we should love things that people do, and there is the right time when we should hate things that people do. There is the right time for war, and there is the right time for peace.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 3:9**ULT**

⁹ What advantage is there for the one working? In exchange for what is he a laborer?

UST

⁹ What do people gain from all the work that they do?

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 3:10**ULT**

¹⁰ I have seen the travail that God has given to the sons of man to be occupied with it.

UST

¹⁰ I have seen the work that God has given people to do.

What did the Teacher see?

The Teacher saw the work that God gave to human beings to complete.

Ecclesiastes 3:11**ULT**

¹¹ The entirety he has made beautiful at its proper time. He has also given the concept of eternity in their heart, because without that the man would not discover the work that God has done, from beginning even to end.

UST

¹¹ God has fixed a time that is right for everything to happen. He has also caused people to realize that there are things that will last forever. But in spite of that, no one can completely understand everything that God has done, from the time that he starts doing things until he finishes them.

What did God place in people's hearts?

God placed eternity in their hearts.

Ecclesiastes 3:12**ULT**

¹² I know that there is no good in them, but only to rejoice and to do good during his life,

UST

¹² I know that the best thing for us people to do is to rejoice and to do good things during the time that we are alive.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 3:13**ULT**

¹³ and the whole of mankind, that he eats and he drinks and he sees good in all of his toil. It is a gift of God.

UST

¹³ And I also know that everyone should enjoy what they eat and drink, and enjoy the work that they do. Those are gifts that God gives to us.

What is a gift from God?

The good that comes from one's work is a gift from God.

Ecclesiastes 3:14**ULT**

¹⁴ I know that everything that the true God does, it will be for forever. To it there is nothing to add and from it there is nothing to remove, for the true God has acted so that they should fear from before his faces.

UST

¹⁴ I also know that what God does endures forever. No one can add to what God does, and no one can take away from the things that he does. God does those things in order that people will honor him.

Why can nothing be added to or taken away from whatever God does?

Nothing can be added to it or taken away from it, because it is God who has done it.

Ecclesiastes 3:15**ULT**

¹⁵ Whatever that is, formerly it was, and what is to be, formerly it was. So the true God searches out what is pursued. ^[1]

UST

¹⁵ Things that exist now have already existed previously, and things that will happen in the future have already happened previously; God causes us to want to understand mysteries.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 3:16**ULT**

¹⁶ Moreover, still I have seen under the sun the place of judgment, to there is the wicked one, and the place of the righteous, to there is the wicked one.

UST

¹⁶ Furthermore, I saw that on this earth, even in the courts where we expect judges to make right decisions about what people had done, they did many wicked things.

What is often found in place of righteousness?

In place of righteousness wickedness is often found.

Ecclesiastes 3:17**ULT**

¹⁷ I myself said in my heart, "The true God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for a proper time is for every experience and on account of all of the work there."

UST

¹⁷ So I said to myself, "God will judge both righteous people and wicked people. There is certainly a time for him to do that because there is a time for him to do everything."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 3:18**ULT**

¹⁸ I myself said in my heart, "Concerning the manner of the sons of man, upon the true God purging them and upon seeing that they, themselves are an animal by themselves,

UST

¹⁸ And regarding humans, I also said to myself, "God is testing us, to show us that in one way people are no different than animals."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 3:19**ULT**

¹⁹ because a destiny awaits the sons of man and a destiny awaits the animal. So one destiny for them as a death this one, so a death this one. Now one spirit for the entirety and an advantage of the man over the beast, there is none, for the entirety is futile.

UST

¹⁹ What happens to people happens to animals. Animals die, and people die. We all must breathe to remain alive. People have no advantage over animals in that way. Everything disappears so quickly.

How are people like animals? (vv19-20)

Like animals, people all die. They all must breathe the same air. Everything comes from the dust, and everything returns to the dust.

Ecclesiastes 3:20**ULT**

²⁰ The entirety is going to one place. The entirety was from the dust, and the entirety returns to the dust.

UST

²⁰ People and animals all die and are buried. We are all made of soil, and when we die, our corpses become soil again.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 3:21**ULT**

²¹ Who knows, the spirit of the sons of man, that it is going up towards upward or the spirit of the beast, that it is going down, towards downwards into the earth? ^[2]

UST

²¹ No one knows for sure that when we die, our souls go up to heaven and the souls of animals go down to the place where the dead are."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 3:22**ULT**

²² So I saw that there is nothing better than that the man would rejoice in his works, because it is his portion. For who will bring him to see about what that will be after him?"
 3:15 ^[1], other modern versions interpret this line in different ways.
 3:21 ^[2]

UST

²² So I think that the best thing for us people to do is to be happy about the work that we do, because that is what God has given to us. I say this because no one of us knows what happens to us after we die.

What is the assignment for each person?

The assignment for each person is to take pleasure in his work.

Ecclesiastes 4

Ecclesiastes 4:1

ULT

¹ Then I turned myself and I saw all those being oppressed, what was being done under the sun. Now look, the tears of those being oppressed, and there is not a comforter for them! Indeed, out of the hand of their oppressors is strength, but there is not a comforter for them!

UST

¹ I thought some more about all the suffering that people are made to experience on the earth. I thought about the tears of people who were oppressed and who had no one to comfort them. Those who oppress them have power, and there is no one able to comfort the oppressed.

For what is there no comforter?

There is no comforter for the tears of the oppressed.

Ecclesiastes 4:2

ULT

² So I myself commended the dead ones, who have already died, more than the living ones, who they are still alive.

UST

² So I thought that those who are already dead are more fortunate than those who are still alive.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 4:3

ULT

³ However, better than the two of them is the one who has not yet been, who has not seen the evil work that is being done under the sun.

UST

³ And those who have not yet been born are even more fortunate than those two kinds of people, because those who have not been born have not seen all the evil things that are done on the earth.

Who is more fortunate than both the living and the dead?

More fortunate than both the living and the dead is the one who has not yet lived.

Ecclesiastes 4:4**ULT**

⁴ Then I myself saw every accomplishment and every success of the work, that it was the envy of a man before his neighbor. This also is futile as tending wind.

UST

⁴ I also thought about all the hard work that people do and the things they are able to accomplish. And I thought about how someone who works hard sometimes makes his neighbor jealous. I decided that this also is something that is not accomplishing anything useful. It is like trying to control the wind.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 4:5**ULT**

⁵ The fool is clasping his hands, thus devouring his flesh.

UST

⁵ Foolish people refuse to work. They sit idly with their hands folded and do not work. So they ruin themselves.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 4:6**ULT**

⁶ Better is a fullness of palm at rest than a fullness of both fists with toil that is tending wind.

UST

⁶ So some say, "It is better to be content with working quietly for a little bit of money, than to work anxiously and try to get a lot of money, which is as useless as trying to control the wind."

What is better than two handfuls with the work that tries to shepherd the wind?

Better is a handful of profit with quiet work than two handfuls with the work that tries to shepherd the wind.

Ecclesiastes 4:7**ULT**

⁷ Then I myself turned and I saw futility under the sun.

UST

⁷ I thought about something else that happens on the earth that seems useless.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 4:8**ULT**

⁸ There is one and there is not a second. Even a son or a brother there is not for him, and there is not an end to all his toil. Even his eye is not satisfied with wealth. So for what am I a laborer and depriving my being of pleasure? This also is futile and an evil activity it is.

UST

⁸ There are people who live alone; they do not have a family nor even children or any brothers or sisters living with them. Every day they work very hard without stopping; they make a lot of money, but they are never satisfied with the things that they get. They ask themselves, "Why am I working so hard; whom am I actually helping? Why am I not doing things that I would enjoy doing? What I have been doing seems useless." This is very bad.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 4:9**ULT**

⁹ Better are the two than the one, because there is for them a good reward in exchange for their toil.

UST

⁹ Having someone work with you is better than being by yourself all the time. If you have a friend, he can help you to do your work.

Why are two people better than one in the case that one falls? (vv9-10)

Two people are better than one because if one falls, the other can lift up his friend.

Ecclesiastes 4:10**ULT**

¹⁰ For if the one should fall, he will lift up his companion. But woe to him, the one that would fall but there is not a second to lift him up.

UST

¹⁰ If you fall down, he can help you get up again. But if you fall down when you are alone, you will have trouble, because there is no one to help you stand up.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 4:11**ULT**

¹¹ Also if two would lie down, then it is warm for them, but for one, how will he be warm?

UST

¹¹ Similarly, if two people lie down together, they can help each other to remain warm. But someone who sleeps alone will certainly not be warm.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 4:12**ULT**

¹² Indeed, if the one would overpower him, the two would stand against him, and a tripled rope is not torn apart in a hurry.

UST

¹² Someone who is alone can easily be attacked and defeated by another person, but two people can help each other and resist someone who attacks them. Three people can defend themselves even more easily, like a rope that is made from three cords is harder to break than a rope made from two cords.

What is not quickly broken?

A three-strand rope is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 4:13**ULT**

¹³ Better is a poor but wise child than an old and foolish king who does not know to be admonished any longer.

UST

¹³ A young man who is poor but wise is a better person than a foolish old king who refuses to pay attention when people try to give him good advice.

What is better than to be an old and foolish king?

It is better to be a poor but wise youth than an old and foolish king.

Ecclesiastes 4:14**ULT**

¹⁴ For from the house of those who are imprisoned he came forth to become king, even if in his kingdom he was born being in want.

UST

¹⁴ It is possible for a young man like that to succeed and some day become king, even if his parents were poor or even if he was in prison in the past.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 4:15**ULT**

¹⁵ I saw all the living, those walking around under the sun, along with the second child who would stand in his place.

UST

¹⁵ But then some other young man becomes king, and everyone starts to support him.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 4:16

ULT

¹⁶ There is no end to all the people, to all who are before them, even though the ones afterward will not rejoice in him. But also this is futile as tending wind.

UST

¹⁶ Large crowds of people crowd around him. But after a few years, they will be tired of him, too. So it is all senseless, like trying to control the wind.

What do people want to do to the new king?

People want to obey the new king.

Ecclesiastes 5

Ecclesiastes 5:1

ULT

¹ Guard your feet accordingly when you go to the house of the true God, and draw near to listen rather than by the giving of the foolish ones, a sacrifice when there is not for them knowing of doing evil.

UST

¹ Be careful when you approach God in his house. Listen well to him. That is better than offering sacrifices to him and then not obeying him, which is foolish.

Why should people go to the house of God?

People should go to the house of God to listen.

Ecclesiastes 5:2

ULT

² Do not be hasty with regard to your mouth, and your heart, may it not hurry to bring forth a matter before the faces of the true God. For the true God is in the heavens, but you are on the earth, on account of this let your words be few.

UST

² Do not speak too quickly without thinking about the words you say; and do not be too quick in your heart to complain about something to God. Do not forget that God is in heaven and he is all-powerful and you are here on the earth, so think carefully before you make any promises to God.

Why should people let their words be few?

God is in heaven, but people are on earth, so they should let their words be few.

Ecclesiastes 5:3

ULT

³ For the dream comes with much work activity, but the voice of a fool with many words.

UST

³ If you are continually thinking and worrying about things, you will have bad dreams about them and not rest well. And the more you talk, the more likely it will be that you will say things that are foolish.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 5:4**ULT**

⁴ Accordingly, when you vow a vow to God, do not delay to complete it, for there is no delight in the fools. What you vow, complete!

UST

⁴ When you solemnly promise God that you will do something, do not foolishly delay in doing it, because God is not pleased with foolish people. Do all the things that you promise God that you will do.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 5:5**ULT**

⁵ It is better that you would not vow, than that you would vow but you would not complete.

UST

⁵ It is better to not promise anything than to promise to do something and then not do it.

What is better for a person to do than to make a vow that he does not carry out?

It is better for a person not to make a vow than to make a vow that he does not carry out.

Ecclesiastes 5:6**ULT**

⁶ Do not give your mouth over to make your flesh sin, and do not say before the faces of the messenger that it was a mistake. Why should the true God be angry on account of your voice, that he would ruin the work of your hands?

UST

⁶ Do not let the things that you promise to do cause you to sin by not doing them. And if you promise God that you will do something but then do not do it, do not say to God's priest that it was a mistake for you to promise to do that. If you do that, God can destroy everything you have worked to accomplish.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 5:7**ULT**

⁷ For with many dreams, then futilities and many words. Instead fear God.

UST

⁷ Promising to do something and not doing it is like having a useless dream. Instead, honor God by doing what you promised him that you would do.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 5:8**ULT**

⁸ If you see oppression of poor and plunder of justice and righteousness in a district, do not marvel over the matter, for a higher one than over the high one is watching, and even higher ones over them.

UST

⁸ Do not be surprised if you see poor people being oppressed. There are people able to stop others from oppressing them, but even these people are under the power of someone even higher.

When someone sees the poor being oppressed and robbed of just and right treatment, why should no one be astonished as if no one knows?

When someone sees the poor being oppressed and robbed of just and right treatment, he should not be astonished because there are men in power who watch those under them, and there are even higher ones over them.

Ecclesiastes 5:9**ULT**

⁹ Moreover, an advantage for a land, along with everyone, it is a king being in a field being worked.

UST

⁹ Even though people throughout the land own their fields, the king forces them to give him some of the crops that they harvest.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 5:10**ULT**

¹⁰ A lover of silver is not satisfied with silver, and who loves being in abundance not by income. This also, is futile.

UST

¹⁰ Everyone who tries to get as much money as they can will never think that they have enough. They will never be satisfied with the money that they have. That fact also makes no sense.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 5:11**ULT**

¹¹ When goodness increases, ones consuming it increase. So what advantage is for the owner of it except if his eyes are beholding?

UST

¹¹ The more money that people have, the more they want to spend it. People who have a lot of money do not benefit from it, except to look at it and admire it.

What happens as prosperity increases?

As prosperity increases, so also do the people who consume it.

Ecclesiastes 5:12**ULT**

¹² Sweet is the sleep of the one working, whether a little or whether much he should eat, but the satiation of a rich one, it does not permit resting for him to sleep.

UST

¹² Those who work hard sleep peacefully at night, even if they do not have much food to eat. But rich people do not sleep well because they worry about their money.

What does not allow a rich person to sleep well?

The wealth of a rich person does not allow him to sleep well.

Ecclesiastes 5:13**ULT**

¹³ There is a sickening evil I have seen under the sun: wealth being kept by its owner, resulting in his misery.

UST

¹³ I have seen another terrible thing that happens here on the earth. People save up all their money and become rich, but they are miserable because they store up their money.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 5:14**ULT**

¹⁴ When that wealth was lost in a bad business matter, though he had fathered a son, yet there is not anything in his hand.

UST

¹⁴ If something happens that causes their money to be gone, then when they die, there is no money for their children.

What happens when the rich man loses his wealth through bad luck?

When the rich man loses his wealth through bad luck, his own son, one whom he has fathered, is left with nothing in his hands.

Ecclesiastes 5:15**ULT**

¹⁵ Just as he comes forth from the womb of his mother, naked he will return by going just how he came. Also he can not take anything in spite of his toiling that may go in his hand.

UST

¹⁵ When we are born, we do not bring anything with us, and when we die, we take nothing with us from all that we have earned by working hard.

How is a man born and how will he leave this life?

A man is born naked from his mother's womb, so also he will leave this life naked.

Ecclesiastes 5:16**ULT**

¹⁶ Moreover, this also is a sickening evil, everyone corresponding to how he came, in the same manner he will go away. So what advantage is for him that he should toil for the wind?

UST

¹⁶ That also seems to make no sense. People bring nothing into the world when they are born, and when they leave this world they take nothing with them. They have worked hard, but they receive no lasting benefit.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 5:17**ULT**

¹⁷ Even all his days he eats in the darkness and he is greatly vexed with his sickness and strife.

UST

¹⁷ Furthermore, rich people are always miserable, sad, and depressed.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 5:18**ULT**

¹⁸ Look, what I myself have seen is good, what is appealing is to eat and to drink and to see good in all his toiling that he should toil under the sun the number of the days of his life that the true God has given to him, for it is his portion.

UST

¹⁸ So the best thing for people to do here on the earth during the few years that God allows them to be alive is to eat, drink, and enjoy their work, because those are the things that he allows them to do.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 5:19**ULT**

¹⁹ Indeed, the whole of mankind, because the true God has given to him wealth and treasures, and he has empowered him to eat from it, and to take up his portion and to rejoice in his toiling, this, it is a gift from God.

UST

¹⁹ If people are rich and have a lot of possessions, and are able to enjoy the things that they have and to enjoy their work, those things are also gifts from God.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 5:20**ULT**

²⁰ For he does not remember much about the days of his lifetime, because God causes a response with the pleasures of his heart.

UST

²⁰ Those people do not think much about everything that has happened during their lifetime, because God makes sure that they keep working at what they enjoy.

Why does a person not call to mind very often the days of his life?

A person does not call to mind very often the days of his life, because God makes him keep busy with the things that he enjoys doing.

Ecclesiastes 6

Ecclesiastes 6:1

ULT

¹ There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, and it is abundant on the human being.

UST

¹ I have seen something else here on this earth that troubles people.

What evil did the Teacher see? (vv1-2)

The Teacher saw that God might give riches, wealth, and honor to a man so that he lacks nothing that he desires for himself, but then God gives him no ability to enjoy it. Instead, someone else uses his things.

Ecclesiastes 6:2

ULT

² A man who the true God might give to him wealth, and treasures, and distinction so that there is not for him a lacking for his being out of all that he might crave for himself, but the true God might not enable him to eat from it. Instead, a disassociated man will eat of it. This is futility, and it is an evil agony.

UST

² God enables some people to receive a lot of money and possessions and to be honored by him. They have everything that they want. But God sometimes does not allow them to enjoy those things. Someone else gets them and enjoys them. That seems senseless and unfair.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 6:3**ULT**

³ If a man should father 100 and he should live many years, however abundant that the days of his years may be, but his being is not satisfied from the good, and also there is not a burial place for him, I say better than him is the miscarriage.

UST

³ Someone might have a hundred children and live for many years. But if he is not able to enjoy the things that he has acquired, and if he is not buried properly after he dies, I say that a child that is dead when it is born is more fortunate.

If a man's heart is not satisfied with good and he is not buried with honor, who is better off than he is?

If a man's heart is not satisfied with good and he is not buried with honor, then a baby that is born dead is better off than he is.

Ecclesiastes 6:4**ULT**

⁴ For in the futility he came and in the darkness he will go, and in the darkness his name is being concealed.

UST

⁴ This is true, even though that dead baby's birth is meaningless—even though it does not have a name, and its brief life becomes only a sad memory in the future.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 6:5**ULT**

⁵ Even sunshine he did not see, but he did not know. There is a rest for this one more than that one.

UST

⁵ That baby does not live to see the sun or know anything. But even so, it finds more rest than rich people do who are alive.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 6:6**ULT**

⁶ Even if he should live 1,000 years twice, but good he did not see, is it not to one place that everyone is going?

UST

⁶ Even if people should live for two thousand years, if they do not enjoy the things that God gives to them, it would have been better for them never to have been born. All people who live a long time certainly all go to the same place—to the grave.

Even if a man should live for two thousand years but does not learn to enjoy good things, where does he go?

Even if a man should live for two thousand years but does not learn to enjoy good things, he goes to the same place as everyone else.

Ecclesiastes 6:7**ULT**

⁷ All the toil of the man is for his mouth, even though the being is not filled.

UST

⁷ People work hard to earn enough money to buy food to eat, but often they never get enough to eat.

Though all a man's work is to fill his mouth, what happens?

Though all a man's work is to fill his mouth, yet his appetite is not filled.

Ecclesiastes 6:8**ULT**

⁸ Indeed, what more is for the wise one over the fool? What is for the poor one knowing to go about before the living ones?

UST

⁸ So it seems that wise people do not receive more lasting benefits than foolish people do. And it seems that poor people do not benefit from knowing how to conduct their lives.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 6:9**ULT**

⁹ Better is a view from eyes than a going away of a being, also this is futile as tending wind.

UST

⁹ It is better to enjoy the things that we already have than to constantly want more things. Continually wanting more things is senseless, like trying to control the wind.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 6:10**ULT**

¹⁰ Whatever that was, already it has been called its name, and it is known that he is a man. So he is not able to strive with who is the mightier than he.

UST

¹⁰ All the things that exist on the earth have been given names. Everyone knows what people are like, so it is useless to argue with God, who is stronger than we are.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 6:11**ULT**

¹¹ For there are many matters increasing futility, what more is for the man?

UST

¹¹ The more that we talk, the more often we say things that are senseless, so it certainly does not benefit us to talk a lot.

What happens the more words that are spoken?

The more words that are spoken, the more futility increases.

Ecclesiastes 6:12

ULT

¹² For who knows what is good for the man during the lifetime, the number of the days of his futile life, that he will experience them like a shadow? For who will explain to the man what will be after him under the sun?

UST

¹² No human being can know everything that is good for himself in this life. People live for a few seemingly meaningless days. Life passes by quickly, like a shadow, and no one knows what is coming after we die.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 7

Ecclesiastes 7:1

ULT

¹ A good name is better than fine oil, and the day of the death is better than the day of his being born.

UST

¹ It is better that other people honor us than to have fine perfume. The day that we die is better than the day that we are born.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 7:2

ULT

² It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of a drinking banquet. by the reason that it is the end of the entirety of mankind, so the living should convey to his heart.

UST

² It is better to go to a house where people are mourning about someone who has died than to go to a house where people are feasting, because everyone will die some day, and people should think about when they will die.

Why is it better to go to a house of mourning than to a house of feasting?

It is better to go to a house of mourning than to a house of feasting, for mourning comes to all people at the end of life.

Ecclesiastes 7:3

ULT

³ Grief is better than laughter, for by sadness of faces a heart becomes better.

UST

³ It is better to be sad than to be always laughing, because when we are sad, we can think better about the things that will make us wise and happy.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 7:4**ULT**

⁴ A heart of wise ones is in a house of mourning, but a heart of fools is in house of revelry.

UST

⁴ Wise people who go to where others are mourning think about the fact that some day they also will die, but foolish people do not think about that; they are always laughing.

Where is the heart of the wise?

The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning.

Ecclesiastes 7:5**ULT**

⁵ Better to heed a rebuke of a wise one than a man listening to a song of fools.

UST

⁵ It is better to pay attention to someone who is rebuking you than to listen to the songs of a foolish person.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 7:6**ULT**

⁶ For like the sound of the thorns under the pot, so is the laughter of the fool. Indeed, even this is futility.

UST

⁶ By listening to foolish people laughing we will not learn anymore than by listening to the crackling of thorns being burned under a pot. Listening to fools is senseless.

What is the laughter of fools like?

Like the crackling of thorns burning under a pot, so also is the laughter of fools.

Ecclesiastes 7:7**ULT**

⁷ For the extortion makes a wise one foolish, and a gift destroys a heart.

UST

⁷ When wise people say to others, "You must pay me a lot of money for me to protect you," that causes those wise people to become foolish. Those who accept bribes become unable to do what is right.

What makes a wise man foolish?

Extortion makes a wise man foolish.

Ecclesiastes 7:8**ULT**

⁸ Better is an end of a matter than its beginning. Better is patient in spirit than proud in spirit.

UST

⁸ Finishing something is better than starting something, and being patient is better than being proud.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 7:9**ULT**

⁹ Do not hasten to anger in your spirit, for anger rests in a bosom of fools.

UST

⁹ Do not quickly lose your temper, because it is foolish people who become very angry.

Why should people not be quick to anger in their spirit?

People should not be quick to anger in their spirit, for anger resides in the hearts of fools.

Ecclesiastes 7:10**ULT**

¹⁰ Do not say, "What has happened that the former days were better than these?" For you did not ask about this out of wisdom.

UST

¹⁰ Do not say, "Things were a lot better previously," because it is only foolish people who say that.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 7:11**ULT**

¹¹ Wisdom is good with an inheritance, and an advantage to seers of the sun.

UST

¹¹ Being wise is like inheriting valuable things. There are lasting benefits for anyone on earth who is wise.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 7:12**ULT**

¹² For the wisdom is as a defense as the defense of the silver, and an advantage of knowledge is the wisdom preserves her owners.

UST

¹² We are sometimes protected by being wise, as we are sometimes protected by having a lot of money. However, being wise is better than having a lot of money, because being wise prevents us from doing foolish things that would cause us to die.

How is wisdom better than money?

Wisdom provides protection as money can provide protection, but the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom gives life to whoever has it.

Ecclesiastes 7:13**ULT**

¹³ See the handiwork of the true God! For who is able to straighten when he has made it crooked?

UST

¹³ Think carefully about what God has done. Certainly no one can cause to become straight the things that God has caused to be crooked.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 7:14**ULT**

¹⁴ When a day is good, live in goodness, but when a day is bad, see the true God has done even this along with that, by reason of because the man will not discover anything after it.

UST

¹⁴ When things are going well for you, be happy, and when things are not going well for you, remember that God is the one who causes good things to happen and who also causes disasters. Yet God does not reveal to anyone exactly what his future holds.

When times are good, how should people live?

When times are good, people should live happily in that good.

Ecclesiastes 7:15**ULT**

¹⁵ I have seen the whole in the days of my futility. There is a righteous one perishing in his righteousness, and there is a wicked one living long in his evil.

UST

¹⁵ During all the time that I have been alive I have seen many things that seem senseless. I have seen righteous people die while they were still young, and I have seen wicked people remain alive for a very long time in spite of their continuing to be wicked.

What happened to wicked people whom the Teacher saw?

The Teacher saw wicked people who live a long life in spite of their evil.

Ecclesiastes 7:16**ULT**

¹⁶ Do not be overly righteous, and do not show yourself as wise to excess. Why should you put yourself to shame?

UST

¹⁶ So do not think that you are very righteous, and do not think that you are very wise, because if you think those things, you will destroy yourself.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 7:17**ULT**

¹⁷ Do not be increasingly wicked and do not be a fool. Why should you die when it is not your proper time?

UST

¹⁷ If you do what is evil or do what is foolish, you might die while you are still young.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 7:18**ULT**

¹⁸ It is good that you should take hold of this, and also of that you should not let your hand go. For the fearer of God will go forth with all of them. ^[1]

UST

¹⁸ Continue to try to become wise and do what is right. The person who always respects God will show this by his behavior.

What will happen for the person who fears God?

The person who fears God will meet all his obligations.

Ecclesiastes 7:19**ULT**

¹⁹ The wisdom is strong for the wise, more than ten rulers who are in the city.

UST

¹⁹ If you are wise, you will be more powerful than the ten most powerful men in your city.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 7:20**ULT**

²⁰ For mankind, there is not a righteous one on the earth who does good and does not sin.

UST

²⁰ There is no one in this world who always does what is right, who never sins.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 7:21**ULT**

²¹ Also, to all of the words that they might speak, do not convey to your heart, that you will not hear your servant belittling you.

UST

²¹ Do not pay attention to everything that people say, because if you do that, you might hear your servant curse you.

Why should people not listen to every word that is spoken?

People should not listen to every word that is spoken because they might hear their servant curse them.

Ecclesiastes 7:22**ULT**

²² For likewise, many times your heart knows that even you yourself have belittled others.

UST

²² After all, you yourself know very well that you have also cursed other people.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 7:23**ULT**

²³ All of this I have tested with wisdom. I said, "Let me be wise," but it was far from me.

UST

²³ I said to myself that I would use my wisdom to study all the things that I have written about, but I was not able to do it.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 7:24**ULT**

²⁴ Far away is what that has been, and deep, unfathomable. Who can discover it?

UST

²⁴ Wisdom seems to be far from me. There is no one who can truly understand everything.

Where is wisdom?

Wisdom is far off.

Ecclesiastes 7:25**ULT**

²⁵ I myself turned even my heart to know and to seek out and searching for wisdom and reason, and to know wickedness is foolish and folly is madness.

UST

²⁵ But I decided to investigate things and by my wisdom try to understand the reason for everything. I also wanted to understand why people act wickedly and why they act very foolishly.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 7:26**ULT**

²⁶ However, I myself found more bitter than death is the woman when her heart, it is as snares and nets, her hands are chains. A good person before the faces of the true God will be rescued from her, but a sinner will be captured by her.

UST

²⁶ One thing I learned was that allowing a woman to seduce you is worse than dying. A woman who tries to seduce men is as dangerous as a trap. If you allow her to put her arms around you, it will be as though she is fastening you with chains. Women like that will capture sinful men, but men who please God will escape from such women.

By whom will the sinner be taken?

The sinner will be taken by a woman whose heart is full of snares and nets, and whose hands are chains.

Ecclesiastes 7:27**ULT**

²⁷ "See, this I have found out," says Qohelet. "One by one in order to find reason.

UST

²⁷ This is what I have learned. I tried to learn more and more about things to try to find out the reason for everything,

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 7:28**ULT**

²⁸ What still my being has sought, but I have not found: one man among a thousand I found. However a woman among all of those I did not find.

UST

²⁸ and I continued to try to learn more, but I could not find all that I was searching for. But one thing that I found out was that among one thousand people I found one righteous man, but I did not find even one righteous woman.

Although the Teacher found one righteous man among a thousand, what did he not find?

Although the Teacher found one righteous man among a thousand, a woman among all those he did not find.

Ecclesiastes 7:29

ULT

²⁹ Only see this I have found: that the true God made the man upright, but they themselves have sought out many inventions.”

7:18 ^[1], some modern versions have different interpretations of this difficult passage.

UST

²⁹ I have learned only this: That when God created people, they were righteous, but they have found many ways to complicate their own lives.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 8

Ecclesiastes 8:1

ULT

¹ Who is like a wise one, and who knows an interpretation of a matter? Wisdom in a man enlightens his faces, and the strength of his faces is altered.

UST

¹ I will tell you about those who are truly wise, with the result that they can explain why everything happens. Being wise enables people to be happy and enables them to smile.

What is a wise man?

A wise man is someone who knows what the events in life mean.

Ecclesiastes 8:2

ULT

² Myself, observe the mouth of a king, even for the sake of the oath to God.

UST

² You solemnly promised God that you would obey what the king commands, so do that.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 8:3

ULT

³ Do not be disturbed, away from his faces you may go. Do not stand on the side of an evil matter, for all that he delights, he will do.

UST

³ Do not do anything rashly when it concerns the king. And do not join with those who want to rebel against him, because the king will do what he wants to do.

Why should people not hurry out of the king's presence, and should not stand in support of something wrong?

People should not hurry out of the king's presence, and should not stand in support of something wrong, for the king does whatever he desires.

Ecclesiastes 8:4**ULT**

⁴ In that a word of a king is authoritative, so who may say to him, "What are you doing?"

UST

⁴ We need to obey what the king says more than we need to obey what anyone else says, for no one can say to the king, "Why are you doing that?"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 8:5**ULT**

⁵ A keeper of a command will not know anything evil, and a wise heart will know a proper time and judgment.

UST

⁵ If you obey what the king commands, he will not harm you. So be wise, and know the correct time to do things and the right way to do them.

Who avoids harm?

Whoever keeps the king's commands avoids harm.

Ecclesiastes 8:6**ULT**

⁶ Because for every delight there is a proper time and a judgment, therefore the distress of the man is abundant upon him.

UST

⁶ Although people experience many troubles, there is a right way to do them and a right time to do them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 8:7**ULT**

⁷ For there is no one who knows what that will be, for just as it will be, who will explain to him?

UST

⁷ No one knows what will happen in the future, so there is no one who can tell him what is going to happen.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 8:8**ULT**

⁸ There is not a man having power over his breath to hold back the breath, ^[1] and there is not a ruler over the day of the death. Also there is no discharge during the battle, and wickedness will not deliver its owners.

UST

⁸ We cannot control our breathing, and we cannot control when we will stop breathing and die. Soldiers are not permitted to go home during a battle, and evil people will not be saved by doing what is evil.

Over what does no one have power?

No one has power over the breath of life to stop breathing, and no one has power over the day of his death.

Ecclesiastes 8:9**ULT**

⁹ All this I have seen, and given my heart to every kind of action that has been done under the sun, a proper time when the man has dominion over a man for distress to him. ^[2]

UST

⁹ I thought about all those things, and I thought about all the other things that happen on this earth. I saw that sometimes people are able to do severe harm to others.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 8:10**ULT**

¹⁰ Indeed, when thus I have seen wicked ones buried, even they used to go in and out from a holy place. They would go about but they are forgotten in the city where thus they had done. This also is futile. ^[3]

UST

¹⁰ I also saw that sometimes after evil people die, they are highly honored at their funerals by the people in the cities where they had done evil deeds. It was difficult to understand why that happens.

By whom were the wicked praised?

The wicked were praised by people in the city where they had done their wicked deeds.

Ecclesiastes 8:11**ULT**

¹¹ When nothing is done about the sentence regarding the evil action quickly, on account of this the heart of the sons of the man is filled within them to do evil.

UST

¹¹ If evil people are not immediately punished, it causes other people to also want to do evil things.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 8:12**ULT**

¹² Seeing that a sinner is doing evil a hundredfold yet living long in spite of it, truly also I know that it will be better for the fearers of the true God, who do fear from the standpoint of before his faces.

UST

¹² But even if sinful people commit a hundred crimes, and even if they live for a long time, I know that things will go better for those who honor and revere God.

Even if a sinner does evil a hundred times and still lives for a long time, what will happen to those who respect God?

Even if a sinner does evil a hundred times and still lives for a long time, it will be well with those who respect God, who honor his presence with them.

Ecclesiastes 8:13**ULT**

¹³ But it will not be well for a wicked one, and he will not lengthen days like the shadow, because he has no fearing at the standpoint of before the faces of God.

UST

¹³ I also know that things will not go well for those who are evil, because they do not honor God. Shadows do not last a long time. Similarly, evil people will not live a long time.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 8:14**ULT**

¹⁴ There is futility that has been done on the earth, that there are righteous ones who have happen to them as the experience of the wicked ones, and there are wicked ones who have happen to them as the experience of the righteous ones. I say that this too is futile.

UST

¹⁴ Another thing that sometimes happens on this earth is that bad things happen to righteous people, and good things happen to evil people. It is difficult to understand why that happens.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 8:15**ULT**

¹⁵ So I myself recommend the pleasure, for there is nothing better for the man under the sun except for to eat and to drink and to rejoice, and it will remain with him in his toiling the days of his life that God has given to him under the sun.

UST

¹⁵ So I decided that I would recommend that people be happy while they are alive, because the best thing that people can do here on this earth is to eat and drink and be happy. Enjoying those things will help people while they do their work, all the days that God has given to them to remain alive here on the earth.

Why does the Teacher recommend happiness?

The Teacher recommends happiness, because a man has no better thing under the sun than to eat and drink and to be happy.

Ecclesiastes 8:16**ULT**

¹⁶ Just as I gave my heart to know wisdom and to see the travail that has been done on the earth, for even in the day or in the night there was not sleep for him in his eyes seeing,

UST

¹⁶ I thought about being wise and about people who work very hard on this earth, working day and night and not taking time to sleep.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 8:17**ULT**

17 however I saw every work of the true God, that the man is not able to discover the work that has been done under the sun, in that whatsoever the man would toil to seek, yet he would not find. Also, even if the wise one would claim to know, he is not able to find out.

8:8 ^[1] .

8:9 ^[2] . The Hebrew passage can be interpreted either way.

8:10 ^[3] . Other versions have .

UST

17 Then I thought about everything that God has done, and I realized that no one can understand everything that happens here on this earth. Truly, people are not able to fully understand everything that God does, even if they try hard to do that. Even if wise people claim that they understand it all, they cannot.

What can man not understand?

Man cannot understand the work that is done under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 9

Ecclesiastes 9:1

ULT

¹ For all of this I have given to my heart, and to examine all of this, because the righteous ones and the wise ones and their deeds are in the hand of the true God. Even love, even hate, the man has no knowing the whole coming to their faces.

UST

¹ I thought about all those things, and I decided that God controls what happens to everyone, even those who are wise and those who are righteous. No one knows whether others will love them or whether they will hate them.

Who is in God's hands?

The righteous and wise people are all in God's hands.

Ecclesiastes 9:2

ULT

² The entirety is the same as what is for everyone, one fate is for the righteous one and for the wicked one, for the good one, ^[1] and for the pure one, and for the unclean one, and for the one who is sacrificing and for one when he is not sacrificing. As a good one, just as the sinner, the one who puts himself under an oath, just as one fearing an oath.

UST

² But we know that some time in the future we will all die. It does not matter whether we act righteously or wickedly, whether we are good or whether we are bad, whether we are acceptable for worshiping God or whether we have done things to cause us to be unacceptable. It does not matter if we offer sacrifices to God or if we do not. It does not matter if we do what we have promised God that we will do or if we do not. We all die. The same thing will happen to good people and to sinful people, to those who solemnly promise to do things for God and to those who are afraid to make such promises.

What is the same for everyone?

Everyone has the same fate.

Ecclesiastes 9:3**ULT**

³ This is an evil among everything that has been done under the sun, that one fate is for everyone. Indeed, also the heart of the sons of the man is full of evil, and foolishness is in their heart during their lives, then after it to the dead ones.

UST

³ It seems wrong that the same thing happens to everyone on this earth. Everyone dies. Furthermore, people's inner beings are full of evil. People do foolish things while they are alive, and then they join those who are dead.

Of what are the hearts of human beings full?

The hearts of human beings are full of evil.

Ecclesiastes 9:4**ULT**

⁴ For whoever that has become joined to all the living ones, there is hope, for a living dog, it is better than the dead lion. ^[2]

UST

⁴ While we are alive, we can expect that good things will happen to us. We despise dogs, but it is better to be a dog that is alive than to be a majestic lion that is dead.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 9:5**ULT**

⁵ For the living ones know that they will die, but the dead ones, there is not their knowing anything. Truly there is no longer for them a reward because their memory is forgotten.

UST

⁵ We who are alive know that some day we will die, but dead people do not know anything. Dead people do not receive any more rewards, and people soon forget them.

Why do the dead no longer have any reward?

They no longer have any reward because their memory is forgotten.

Ecclesiastes 9:6**ULT**

⁶ Even their love, even their hate, even their jealousy has perished long ago. Thus there is not for them a portion any longer for forever in everything that has been done under the sun.

UST

⁶ While they were alive, they loved people, they hated people, they envied people, but they stop doing any of that when they die. They will never again be a part of anything that happens here on the earth.

What vanished long ago?

The dead people's love, hatred, and envy vanished long ago.

Ecclesiastes 9:7**ULT**

⁷ Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a happy heart, for the true God is already pleased with your actions.

UST

⁷ So I say, be joyful while you eat your food and drink your wine, because that is what God wants you to do.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 9:8**ULT**

⁸ At every time let your garments be white and may oil on your head not be lacking.

UST

⁸ Wear nice clothes and cause your face to have a good appearance.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 9:9**ULT**

⁹ See life with a wife whom you love all the days of your life of futility, that he has given to you under the sun, all your days of futility, because it is your portion among the living and during your toil that you toil under the sun.

UST

⁹ Enjoy living with your wife whom you love, all during the time that God has given to you to be alive here on this earth. Even though it is difficult to understand why many things happen, this life with your wife is your reward for doing the work that you do here on this earth.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 9:10**ULT**

¹⁰ All that your hand should find to do, do in your strength, because there is no deed or invention or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, where you are going to there.

UST

¹⁰ Whatever you are able to do, do it with all your energy, because at some point you will die, and in the place of the dead where you are going, no one works or plans to do anything or knows anything or has any wisdom.

What should people do with whatever their hand finds to do?

Whatever their hand finds to do, they should work at it with their strength.

Ecclesiastes 9:11**ULT**

¹¹ I have turned and certainly seen under the sun, that the race is not for the swift ones, and the battle is not for the strong ones, and even bread is not for the wise ones, and even wealth is not for the ones who are intelligent, and even favor is not for the ones having understanding. Instead, time and chance will happen to all of them.

UST

¹¹ I have seen something else here on the earth: The person who runs fastest does not always win the race, the strongest soldiers do not always win the battle, the wisest people do not always have food, the smartest people do not always become rich, and the people who have studied a lot are not always honored by others. We cannot always control what things will happen to us and where they will happen.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 9:12**ULT**

¹² Surely, also the man does not know his time. As the fish that are caught in a evil net, or as the birds that are caught in the snare, like them, the sons of the man are ensnared by an evil time as when it falls upon them suddenly.

UST

¹² No one knows when he will die. Fish are cruelly caught in a net, and birds are caught in snares. Similarly, people experience disasters at times when they do not expect them to happen.

In what are human beings imprisoned?

Human beings are imprisoned in evil times that suddenly fall on them.

Ecclesiastes 9:13**ULT**

¹³ Also, this I have seen: wisdom under the sun, and great it is to me.

UST

¹³ Once I saw here on this earth something that a wise man did that impressed me.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 9:14**ULT**

¹⁴ A small city with a few men in it, and a great king came against it and he surrounded it and he built mighty siege ramps against it.

UST

¹⁴ There was a small town, where only a few people lived. The army of a great king came to that town and surrounded it. They built dirt ramps up against the walls in order to climb up and attack the town.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 9:15**ULT**

¹⁵ Now he found in it a poor, wise man, and he delivered the city by his wisdom. Yet a man did not remember that poor man.

UST

¹⁵ In that town there was someone who was poor but very wise. Because of what that person suggested, the town was saved, but people soon forgot about him.

What happened to the poor, wise man, who by his wisdom saved the city?

No one remembered the poor, wise man, who by his wisdom saved the city.

Ecclesiastes 9:16**ULT**

¹⁶ So I myself said, "Better is wisdom than strength, but the wisdom of the poor one is despised, and his words, they are not heeded."

UST

¹⁶ So I realized that although being wise is better than being strong, if you are poor, no one will appreciate what you do, and people will soon forget what you said.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 9:17**ULT**

¹⁷ Words of wise ones in quietness are heeded more than an outcry of a ruler among the fools.

UST

¹⁷ A wise man who speaks quietly—people hear him better than they hear a king who is shouting to a foolish crowd.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 9:18

ULT

¹⁸ Better is wisdom than weapons of war, but one sinner can destroy much good.

9:2 ^[1] . In this way, they make the phrase complete. Translators may decide to imitate them.

9:4 ^[2] .

UST

¹⁸ Being wise is more useful than having a lot of weapons; however, if a person does just one foolish thing, he might ruin many good things that others have done.

What is better than weapons of war?

Wisdom is better than weapons of war.

Ecclesiastes 10

Ecclesiastes 10:1

ULT

¹ Dead flies make precious oil of a perfumer give forth a stench, a little foolishness is more weightier than wisdom.

UST

¹ A few dead flies in a bottle of perfume cause all the perfume to stink. Similarly, a small amount of acting foolishly can have a greater effect than acting wisely.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 10:2

ULT

² A heart of a wise one is at his right hand, but a heart of a fool is at his left.

UST

² If people think sensibly, it will lead them to do what is right; if they think foolishly, it causes them to do what is wrong.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 10:3

ULT

³ Now even as soon as when the fool is going along a road, his heart is deficient, and he will say to everyone a fool he is.

UST

³ Even while foolish people walk along the road, they show that they do not have good sense. They show everyone that they are not wise.

What proves to everyone that a man is a fool?

When a man's thinking is deficient, this proves to everyone that he is a fool.

Ecclesiastes 10:4**ULT**

⁴ If the spirit of the ruler should rise up against you, do not leave your place, because restoration will settle down great offenses.

UST

⁴ Do not quit your job when a ruler is angry with you. If you remain calm, he will probably stop being angry.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 10:5**ULT**

⁵ There is an evil I have seen under the sun, like an error that comes forth from before the faces of the ruler.

UST

⁵ There is something else that I have seen here on this earth, something that rulers sometimes do that is wrong:

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 10:6**ULT**

⁶ The fool is given into the many dignified positions, while rich ones are sitting in the humble rank.

UST

⁶ they appoint foolish people to have important positions, while they appoint rich people to have unimportant positions.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 10:7**ULT**

⁷ I have seen slaves on horses, and princes walking like slaves on the ground.

UST

⁷ They allow slaves to ride on horses like rich people usually do, but they force officials to walk like slaves usually do.

What did the Teacher see slaves doing?

The Teacher saw slaves riding horses.

Ecclesiastes 10:8**ULT**

⁸ Anyone digging a pit may fall into it, and anyone breaking down a hedge, a snake may strike him.

UST

⁸ It is possible that those who dig pits will fall into one of those pits. It is possible that someone who tears down a wall will be bitten by a snake that is in that wall.

What can happen whenever someone breaks down a wall?

Whenever someone breaks down a wall, a snake can bite him.

Ecclesiastes 10:9**ULT**

⁹ Anyone pulling out stones may be hurt by them, anyone splitting timbers may be endangered by them.

UST

⁹ If you work in a quarry, it is possible that a stone will fall on you and injure you. It is possible that men who split logs will be injured by one of those logs.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 10:10**ULT**

¹⁰ If the iron blade is dull, and he does not whet surfaces, then he must use greater strength, but an advantage is wisdom gives success.

UST

¹⁰ If your axe is not sharp, you will need to work harder to cut down a tree, but by using wisdom, you will succeed.

What happens if a man does not sharpen a dull iron blade?

If a man does not sharpen a dull iron blade, then he must use more strength.

Ecclesiastes 10:11**ULT**

¹¹ If the snake should strike because there was no charming, then there is no advantage for the master of the tongue.

UST

¹¹ If a snake bites a man before he charms it, his ability to charm snakes will not benefit him.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 10:12**ULT**

¹² Words of a mouth of a wise one are gracious, but lips of a fool will swallow him.

UST

¹² Wise people say what is sensible, and because of that, people honor them, but foolish people are destroyed by what they themselves say.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 10:13**ULT**

¹³ The beginning of the words of his mouth are foolishness, and at the end his mouth is wicked folly.

UST

¹³ When foolish people start to talk, they say foolish things, and they end by saying things that are both wicked and foolish.

At the end, with what does a fool's mouth flow?

At the end, a fool's mouth flows with wicked madness.

Ecclesiastes 10:14**ULT**

¹⁴ Moreover, the fool multiplies words, the man does not know what that will happen, or what will be beyond after him. Who can explain to him?

UST

¹⁴ They talk too much. None of us knows what will happen in the future, or what will happen after we die.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 10:15**ULT**

¹⁵ The toil of the foolish ones makes him weary, so that he does not know to go to a city.

UST

¹⁵ Foolish people become very exhausted by the work that they do, with the result that they are even unable to find the road to their town.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 10:16**ULT**

¹⁶ Woe to you, O land, when your king is a lad, and your princes are feasting in the morning!

UST

¹⁶ Terrible things will happen to the people of a nation whose ruler is a foolish young person, whose leaders continually eat, all during the day, every day.

When is there trouble in the land?

There is trouble in the land if the king is young, and the leaders begin feasting in the morning!

Ecclesiastes 10:17**ULT**

¹⁷ Blessed are you, O land, when your king is a son of noble ones, and your princes are eating at the proper time, for strength, and not for the drinking!

UST

¹⁷ But how fortunate is a nation if its ruler comes from a noble family, if its leaders feast only at the proper times, and if they eat and drink only to be strong, not to become drunk.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 10:18**ULT**

¹⁸ Because of laziness the rafter will sag, and because of idleness of hands the house will drip.

UST

¹⁸ Some men are very lazy and do not repair the beams of their roof, with the result that the roof sags and collapses. If they do not repair the roof, water will leak into the house when it rains.

Why does the house leak?

Because of idle hands the house leaks.

Ecclesiastes 10:19**ULT**

¹⁹ For laughter they prepare bread, and wine gladdens life, but the silver will answer the whole thing.

UST

¹⁹ Eating food and drinking wine makes us laugh and be happy. If you have enough money, you can buy everything you need.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 10:20**ULT**

²⁰ Even in your thinking, do not curse a king, and in the chambers of your bed, do not curse a rich one. For a bird of the heavens will carry the voice, and an owner of wings will expose a matter.

UST

²⁰ Do not even think about cursing the king, or about cursing rich people, even when you are alone in your bedroom. It is always possible that a little bird will hear what you are saying and tell those people what you said about them.

Why should people not curse the king?

People should not curse the king, for a bird of the sky might carry their words.

Ecclesiastes 11

Ecclesiastes 11:1

ULT

¹ Let your bread go out over the surfaces of the waters, for in the multitude of the days you will find it.

UST

¹ Give generously to others some of the money that you have; if you do that, later you will get back an equal amount.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 11:2

ULT

² Give a portion to seven, or even to eight, for you do not know what evil will happen upon the earth.

UST

² Share some of what you have with seven or eight others, because you do not know when you will experience a disaster and will need their help.

Why should people share bread with seven, even eight people?

People should share it with seven, even eight people, for they do not know what disasters are coming on the earth.

Ecclesiastes 11:3

ULT

³ If the dark clouds are filled with rain, they will empty out upon the earth, but if a tree should fall toward the south or even toward the north, any place where the tree should fall, there it will remain.

UST

³ It is true that when clouds are full of water, they pour rain on the earth. Similarly, wherever a tree falls on the ground, that is where it will remain.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 11:4**ULT**

⁴ A watcher of wind might not sow, and one who stares at the dark clouds might not harvest.

UST

⁴ If farmers see in what direction the wind is blowing, they will know whether it is wise at that time to plant things or not. It is also true that if farmers look at the clouds and see that they are blowing from the west and will bring rain, they will not try to harvest their crops on that day.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 11:5**ULT**

⁵ Just as it is not for you knowing what is the path of the wind, so the bones being in the womb of the full one, ^[1] so likewise you do not know the work of the true God, who is doing everything.

UST

⁵ We do not know where the wind comes from or where it goes, and we do not know how bodies are formed in a woman's womb. Similarly, God is the one who makes everything, and we cannot fully understand what he does.

What can people not comprehend?

People cannot comprehend the work of God.

Ecclesiastes 11:6**ULT**

⁶ In the morning sow your seed, and until the evening, do not let your hand rest, for it is not for you knowing whether this will prosper. Will it be this or that, or whether the two of them as one would be better?

UST

⁶ Start planting your seeds in the morning, and do not stop planting them until the evening, because you do not know which ones will grow better, the ones you plant in the morning or the ones you plant later in the day, or whether both will grow well.

For how long should people plant seed?

People should plant seed in the morning until the evening.

Ecclesiastes 11:7**ULT**

⁷ Truly the light is sweet, and it is a good thing for the eyes to see the sun.

UST

⁷ It is very delightful to be alive and see the sun rise every morning.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 11:8**ULT**

⁸ Even if the man should live many years, in all of them let him rejoice. But let him remember the days of darkness, for they will be many. Everything that comes will be futility.

UST

⁸ Even if people live for many years, they should enjoy all of them. But they should not forget that some day they will die and then they will never be able to see any light again, and they do not know what will happen to them after they die.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 11:9**ULT**

⁹ Rejoice, young man, in your childhood times, and let your heart gladden you in the days of your youthful times. So, go out in the ways of your heart, and with the the sights of your eyes. But, know that on account of all these things, the true God will bring you into the judgment.

UST

⁹ You young people, be happy while you are still young. Enjoy doing the things that you want to do. But do not forget that God will judge you one day concerning all the things that you do.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 11:10

ULT

¹⁰ So remove anger from your heart, and keep away sorrow from your flesh, because the childhood and the youth is futility.

11:5 ^[1].

UST

¹⁰ So when you are young, do not worry about anything, and do not pay attention to the pains that you have in your body, because we will not remain young and strong forever.

What should people drive away from their heart?

People should drive anger away from their heart.

Ecclesiastes 12

Ecclesiastes 12:1

ULT

¹ Now remember your Creator in the days of your youthful times, even when the days of the evil have not come, but years will arrive when you will say, "There is not delight for me in them,"

UST

¹ While you are still young, keep thinking about God, who created you. Do that before you are old and you experience many troubles, during the years when you say, "I no longer enjoy being alive."

When should people call to mind their Creator?

People should call to mind their Creator in the days of their youth.

Ecclesiastes 12:2

ULT

² as long as that the sun is not dark, nor the light of the moon, or the stars, and the dark clouds return after the rain.

UST

² When you become old, the light from the sun and moon and stars will seem dim to you, and it will seem that the rain clouds always return quickly after it rains.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 12:3

ULT

³ On the day it will happen that the guards of the house will tremble, and the men of strength will be stooped over, and the women grain millers will cease from labor because they are few, and the seeing through the latticework will grow dim.

UST

³ Then your arms that you use to protect yourself, and your legs that support your body will become weak. Many of the teeth that you use to grind your food will fall out, and your eyes that you use to look out of windows will not see clearly.

Why will women who grind cease?

The women who grind will cease because they are few.

Ecclesiastes 12:4**ULT**

⁴ Then doors will be shut along the street, when the sound of the handmill becomes quiet, when they rise up at the sound of the bird, and all the daughters of the song are weakened.

UST

⁴ Your ears will no longer hear the noise in the streets, and you will no longer be able to hear clearly the sound of people grinding grain with millstones. You will be awakened in the morning by hearing the birds singing, but you will not be able to hear well the songs that the birds sing.

At what will men be startled?

Men will be startled at the voice of a bird.

Ecclesiastes 12:5**ULT**

⁵ They will even be afraid of height and terrors along the road. Although the almond tree might blossom, yet the locusts fatten themselves and the caperberry frustrates. For the man is going to his eternal home and the mourners will surround in the street.

UST

⁵ You will be afraid to be in high places and afraid of dangers on the roads that you walk on. Your hair will become white like the flowers of almond trees. When you try to walk, you will drag yourself along like grasshoppers, and you will no longer desire a woman at all. Then you will die and go to your eternal home, and the people who will mourn for you will be in the streets.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 12:6**ULT**

⁶ Until that the cord of silver has not been fastened, or the bowl of gold gets crushed, then a jar is shattered at the fountain, and the wheel crushes at the well,

UST

⁶ Think much about God now, because soon our lives will end, like silver chains or golden bowls that break easily, or like pitchers that are broken at the water fountain, or like broken pulleys at a well.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 12:7**ULT**

⁷ Likewise the dust will return to the earth as what it was, and the spirit will return to the true God who gave it.

UST

⁷ Then our corpses will decay and become dirt again, and our spirits will return to God, the one who gave us our spirits.

Where will the dust return?

The dust will return to the earth from where it came.

Ecclesiastes 12:8**ULT**

⁸ "Most futile of futile things," says the Qohelet, "the entirety is futile."

UST

⁸ So I, the Teacher, say again that everything is temporary and useless.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 12:9**ULT**

⁹ Moreover also because Qohelet was wise continually he taught the people knowledge. Also he pondered and he examined. He composed many proverbs.

UST

⁹ I, the Teacher, was considered to be a very wise man, and I taught the people many things. I assembled and wrote down many proverbs, and I carefully thought about them and put them in order.

What did the Teacher teach people?

The Teacher taught the people knowledge.

Ecclesiastes 12:10**ULT**

¹⁰ Qohelet sought to discover words of delight, and upright words of truth were written.

UST

¹⁰ I searched for words that would be pleasing to hear, and what I have written is reliable and true.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Ecclesiastes 12:11**ULT**

¹¹ Words of wise ones are like goads, and like pegs implanted are masters of collections given by one shepherd.

UST

¹¹ The things that I and other wise people say give directions, and they are like nails that fix things together and last a long time. When people follow clear and understandable directions, they know what is right, and, so then they can do it. The sayings of the wise are like our shepherd who guides us where we need to go.

Like what are the words of the wise?

The words of the wise are like goads.

Ecclesiastes 12:12**ULT**

¹² Furthermore also, from them, my son, be enlightened: making many scrolls, there is no end and much study is wearying to flesh.

UST

¹² So, my son, pay careful attention to what I have written, and choose carefully what you read that others have written. This work of writing many books is endless. Trying to study them all will be an endless task.

What does much study bring?

Much study brings weariness to the body.

Ecclesiastes 12:13**ULT**

¹³ The end of the matter is the whole has been heard: fear the true God and keep his commandments, for this is the entirety of the man.

UST

¹³ Now you have heard all that I have told you, and here is the conclusion: Revere God, and obey his commandments, because those commandments summarize everything that people should do.

What is the end of the matter?

The end of the matter is that people must fear God and keep his commandments.

Ecclesiastes 12:14**ULT**

¹⁴ On account of every deed, the true God will bring into judgment, along with anything having been hidden, whether good or whether evil.

UST

¹⁴ And do not forget that God will judge everything that we do, good things and bad things, even things that we do secretly.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

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