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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 "Vapor of vapors," says Qoheleth. "Vapor of vapors; everything {is} vapor.

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 {belongs} to humanity in exchange for all his toil that he will toil 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 is standing in perpetuity.

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 And the sun rises, and the sun comes, and panting to its place, it is rising 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 southward and turning northward, turning, turning, the wind is going and on its circuits the wind is returning.

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 going to the sea, but the sea—it is not full. To a place that the rivers are going, there they are going again.

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, a person is not able to speak. An eye is not satisfied of seeing, and an ear is not filled 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 was, it will be, and whatever that has been done, it will be done. And 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 a thing about which one says, "See this, it {is} new?" It already existed in ages that were 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 the former things, and also of the latter things which will be. There will not be remembrance of them with those who will be afterwards.

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, Qoheleth, I was 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 And I gave my heart to seek out and to explore with wisdom concerning everything that is done under the sun. It {is} an unpleasant business God has given to the sons of humanity 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 saw all the deeds that are done under the sun and—look—everything {is} vapor and striving {after} 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 What is bent is not able to be straightened and what is 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 spoke, I with my heart, saying, "Look at me—I have become great and I have added wisdom over all who were to my face over Jerusalem. And my heart saw 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 And I gave my heart to know wisdom and knowledge, madness and folly. I knew that this also, it {is} striving {after} 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 an abundance of wisdom {is} much vexation, and one who is adding knowledge is adding pain.

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 said, I in my heart, “Come, let me test you in joy and examine good.” But, look, it also {was} vapor.

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 To laughter, I said, “{It is} madness,” and to 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 explored in my heart {how} to drag my flesh with wine—but my heart was guiding {me} in wisdom—and {how} to grasp folly, until I could see whether this {is} good for the sons of humanity that they might do under the heavens {during} 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 enlarged my deeds. I built for myself houses. I planted for myself vineyards.

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 royal parks and I planted in them a tree of each fruit.

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 pools of waters to cause to drink from them a forest of growing 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 female servants and sons of the house belonged to me. Also much property of cattle and sheep belonged to me, more than all who were to my face 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 treasure of kings and the provinces. I appointed for myself {male} singers and female singers, and the pleasures of the sons of humanity: breast and breasts.

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 And I was great and I added more than all who were to my face in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom stood for 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 And all that my eyes asked, I did not refuse from them. I did not restrain 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 And I turned myself to all my works that my hands had done and to {the} toil that I toiled to do and, look, everything {was} vapor and striving {after} wind, and there was no profit 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 And I turned myself to see wisdom and madness and folly, because what {is} the person {to do} who will come after the king? That which {is} already, 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 And I myself saw that there is a profit for the wisdom more than the folly, as {the} profit 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 in the darkness is walking, and I know, even I, that one happening will happen to both 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 And I said, I in my heart, "As {the} happening of the fool, also {to} me, it will happen to me. And why was I myself wise back then, abundantly?" And I said in my heart that also this {is} vapor.

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 {person} with the fool in perpetuity, because already {in} the days {that} came both {are} forgotten, and how will the wise die with the fool?

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 And I hated life because of {the} misfortune around me—the work that was done under the sun—because everything {was} vapor and striving {after} 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 And I myself hated all my toil that I had toiled under the sun that I will leave it to the person who will be 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 And who knows: will he be wise or a fool? And he will have authority over all my toil that I have toiled and {for} which I have acted wisely under the sun. Also this {is} vapor.

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 And I turned myself to cause my heart to despair concerning all the toil which I 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 person whose toil {is} in wisdom and in knowledge and in skill, but to a person who has not toiled in it, he will give it {as} his portion. This also {is} vapor and a great misfortune.

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 endures for the person in exchange for all his toil and in the striving of his heart {in} which he {is} a toiler 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} pains and vexation is his business. Even in the night his heart does not rest. Also this, it {is} vapor.

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 no good for humanity {except} that they will eat and drink and cause his spirit to see good in his toil. Also this I myself saw that it {is} from the hand of the God.

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 will eat and who will enjoy apart from him?

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 Because to a person who is good to his face, he gives wisdom and knowledge and joy. But to the sinner he gives {the} business to gather and to collect to give to {the} one who is good to the face of God. This also {is} vapor and striving {after} wind.

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 everything {there is} a season and a time for every matter 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 time to give birth and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to tear out 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 time to kill and a time to heal, a time to break down and a time to build,

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 time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,

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 time to throw stones and a time to gather stones, a time to embrace and a time to refrain 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 time to seek and a time to lose, a time to keep and a time to throw 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 time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,

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 time to love and a time to hate, a time of war and a 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 {is the} profit of the one who does in exchange for that which he toils?

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 saw the business that God gives to the sons of humanity to be busied 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 He makes everything fitting in his time. Also, he gives the sense of duration in their heart, yet humanity can not find the work that God has done from beginning 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 for them except 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 every person who will eat and drink and see 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 God does, it will be enduring. To it there is nothing to add and from it there is nothing to take and God has acted so that they might fear from before his face.

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, already it {was} and that which is to be, already it is. And God will seek what is pursued.

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 And again I saw under the sun {at} the place of judgment, there {was} wickedness and {at} the place of righteousness, there {was} wickedness.

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 said, I in my heart, "The righteous and the wicked God will judge, because a time {exists} for every matter and on account of every deed 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 said, I in my heart, "Concerning the sons of humanity, God {is} to test them that {they} might see that {they are} animal{s}, they 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 the happening of the sons of humanity and the happening of the animal—{there is} one happening for them. As the death of this one, so the death of this one. And {there is} one spirit for them both, but an advantage of humanity over the animal, there is none, for everything {is} vapor.

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 Both are going to one place. Both are from the dust and both return 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 {that} the spirit of the sons of humanity, it {is} the one going up, upwards, and the spirit of the animal, it {is} the one going down, downwards to the earth?

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 And I saw that there is nothing better than that humanity will rejoice in his works, for it is his portion. For who will bring him to look at what that will be after him?

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 And I turned myself and I saw all the oppressions that were being done under the sun. And—look—the tears of the oppressed and there was no comforter for them. And from the hand of the ones oppressing them {was} strength and there was no 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 praised those who were dead who have already died more than the living 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 But better than {the} two of them {is} the one who has not yet lived, who has not seen the evil-doing 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 And I myself saw every toil and every success of the deed, that it {was} the envy of a person from his friend. This also {is} vapor and striving {after} 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 folding his hands and is eating 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 full palm of quiet than the full hollow of both hands with toil and striving {after} 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 And I turned myself and I saw a vaporous thing 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 {person} and there is not a second {person}—even a son or brother there is not for him—and there is no end to all his toil. Also his eye is not satisfied {with} wealth. And why {am} I a toiler and causing my soul to lack from good things? Also this {is} vapor and it {is} an unpleasant business.

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 {people} than the one {person}, that there is for them a good wage 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 they fall, the one {person} will lift up his companion. But woe to him, the one {person} that will fall but there is no second {person} 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 {people} lie down, then there is warmth for them, but for {the} one {person}, how will there be warmth?

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 And if he will overpower him, the one {person}, the two {people} will stand against him, and the three-fold rope will not be torn in two quickly.

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 but foolish king who does not yet know {how} to be warned.

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, yet even in his kingdom he was born poor.

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, with {that} second child who will stand under him.

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 {was} no end to all the people, to all who were to their faces. Even the ones {who will be} afterward will not rejoice in him, because even this {is} vapor and striving {after} 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 Keep your feet when you go to the house of God. And to draw near to listen {is better} than fools giving a sacrifice, for they are not knowing {that they} do 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 in haste concerning your mouth and do not let your heart hurry to bring forth a word to the face of God. For God {is} in heaven, but you {are} on the earth, therefore 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 business, and the voice of a fool {comes} 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 When you vow a vow to God, do not delay to fulfill it, for there is no delight in the fools. What you vow, fulfill.

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 not vow than that you vow but do not fulfill.

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 to cause your flesh to sin and do not say to the face of the messenger that it {was} an unintentional sin. Why should God be angry concerning your voice and destroy the deed 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 in many dreams and vaporous things and many words—just 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 {the} extortion of {the} poor and {the} robbery of justice and righteousness you see in the province, do not be amazed concerning the matter, for a high one over a high one is watching, and high ones {are watching} 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 And a profit of a land in everything, it {is} a king for a worked field.

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 One who loves silver will not be satisfied {with} silver and who loves increase {will} not {be satisfied with} income. Also this {is} vapor.

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 the good {thing} increases, the ones eating it increase. And what advantage {belongs} to its master except the sight of his eyes?

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 worker, whether a little or whether much he will eat, but the satisfaction of a rich person—it is not permitting 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 misfortune I have seen under the sun: wealth kept by its master to his harm.

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 And that wealth perished in an unfortunate business and he had fathered a son, but there was 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 As he went out from the womb of his mother, naked he will go again, as he came. And he will not take anything in exchange for his toil that he will bring 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 And also this is a sickening misfortune: like to the nearness that he came, thus he will go and what profit {belongs} to him who will 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 Also, all his days in darkness he will eat and {in} great vexation and his sickness and anger.

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: that {it is} fitting to eat and to drink and to see good in all his toil that he will toil under the sun {during} the number of the days of his life that 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 Also, each person who God has given to him wealth and possessions and has empowered him to eat from it and to accept his portion and to rejoice in his toiling—this, it {is} a gift of 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 not much does he remember the days of his life, because God occupies {him} with the joys 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 a misfortune that I have seen under the sun and it {is} great on humanity.

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 person who God gives to him wealth and possessions and honor and he has no lack for his soul from all that he desires, but God does not enable him to eat from it; instead, a foreign person will eat it—this {is} vapor and it {is} a sickening misfortune.

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 person should father a hundred {children} and he should live many years and {however} many that the days of his years may be, but his soul is not satisfied from the good {thing} (and also a burial place is not for him), I said, "Better than him {is} the stillborn child."

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 vapor it came and in the darkness it will go and in the darkness its name will be covered.

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 {the} sun it did not see nor did it know. {More} rest {belongs} to this one than this 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 And if he lived a thousand years twice over, but a good {thing} he did not see—are not both going to one place?

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 humanity {is} for his mouth, and yet the soul 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 For what advantage {exists} for the wise over the fool? What {advantage} {exists} for the poor person that knows {how} to walk before the living?

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 sight of {the} eyes than the walking of {the} soul. Also this {is} vapor and striving {after} 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 its name has been called and it is known that he {is} a human being. But he is not able to strive with who is more powerful 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 words {that} are increasingly vapor—what {is the} advantage for humanity?

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 is knowing what {is} good for humanity in life {during} the number of the days of his vaporous life? And he makes them like the shadow. For who will declare to humanity 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 Better is a {good} name than fine oil, and the day of death {is better} than the day of his birth.

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 Better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of a banquet, because it {is} the end of all humanity and the living will give {it} 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 Better grief than laughter, for with a bad face a heart is made good.

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 {The} heart of wise people {is} in a house of mourning, but {the} heart of fools {is} in house of joy.

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 listen to a rebuke of a wise person than {to be} a person 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 cooking-pot, so {is} the laughter of the fool. And this also {is} vapor.

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 oppression drives a wise person insane and a bribe 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 thing than its beginning. Better is a long spirit than a high 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 in your spirit to become angry, for anger rests in {the} lap 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 was {it} 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 those who see 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 in the shadow of wisdom, in the shadow of silver, and an advantage of knowledge: 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 work of God. For who is able to straighten that which 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 In the good day, be in good, but in a day of misfortune, see— indeed, God has done this as well as this, so that humanity cannot find anything after him.

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 everything in the days of my vapor: There is a righteous person perishing in his righteousness and there is a wicked person lengthening {his days} 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 very righteous, and do not be exceedingly wise—why should you be shocked?

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 very wicked and do not be a fool—why should you die when {it is} not your 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 from this do not let your hand rest, for the one who fears God will go forth with both of them.

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 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 a person—there is not a righteous {person} 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 say, do not give your heart, so 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 also many times your heart knows that even you 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 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 that which was, and very deep. Who will find 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 turned, I and my heart, to know and to explore, {to} seek wisdom and the scheme of things, and to know {the} wickedness {that is} folly and the foolishness {that 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 And I found more bitter than death {is} the woman who, she {is} snares and nets {is} her heart. Her hands {are} chains. The one who is good to the face of God will flee 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," says Qoheleth, "one to one to find the scheme of things.

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 That which continually my soul sought, but I have not found: one man from a thousand {men} I found. But a woman from all of these {people}, 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 God made humanity upright, but they, they have sought out many schemes."

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 the wise person, and who knows {the} interpretation of a matter? {The} wisdom of a person gives light {to} his face and the strength of his face is changed.

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 {As for} me—listen {to} the mouth of a king, that is, on account of the oath of 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 horrified from his face—go! Do not stand in an evil matter, for everything that he pleases, 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 Because {the} word of a king {is} authoritative and who will 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 One who listens to a command will not know an evil matter and a wise heart will know a 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 matter, there is a time and judgment {and} because the misfortune of humanity is severe 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 {and} because he is not knowing whatever that will be, for when it will be, who will declare {it} 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 no person {is} a ruler over the spirit to restrain the spirit, nor is there authority over the day of death, nor is there discharge in war, nor will wickedness deliver its masters.

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 saw, giving my heart to every deed that was done under the sun: A time that the person has dominion over {another} person to his harm.

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 And then, I saw wicked people buried and they went out and from a holy place they walked. And they will be forgotten in the city where thus they had done. This also {is} vapor:

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 that a decree concerning the evil deed is not made quickly, therefore the heart of the sons of humanity is full in 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 that a sinner is doing evil a hundred times and lengthening {days} for himself—yet also I know that it will be good for those who fear God, who fear from before his face.

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 good for the wicked nor will he lengthen {his} days like the shadow, because he is not fearing before the face 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 vapor that is done on the earth: that there are righteous people who {it} befalls to them like the deeds of the wicked people, and there are wicked people who {it} befalls to them like the deeds of the righteous people. I say that also this {is} vapor.

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 And I praised, I, joy, that there is nothing good for humanity under the sun except to eat and to drink and to rejoice, and it will accompany him in his toil {during} 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 When I gave my heart to know wisdom and to see the business that is done on the earth—for even in the day and in the night sleep in his eyes he is not 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 and I saw every deed of God, that humanity is not able to find the deed that is done under the sun, in that to which humanity will toil to seek, yet he will not find {it}. Also, even if the wise person says to know, he is not able to find {it}.

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 gave to my heart {in order} to examine all of this: that the righteous and the wise and their work {are} in the hand of God. Either love or hate, humanity is not knowing. Both {are} 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 Everything {is} just as that which {is} for everyone: one happening for the righteous person and for the wicked person, for the good person, and for the pure person and for the unclean person, and for the person who sacrifices and for the person who does not sacrifice. As the good person, so the sinner; the person who swears {an oath is} just as the person who fears 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} a misfortune in everything that is done under the sun: that one happening {is} for everyone. And also, the heart of the sons of humanity {is} full of evil and madness {is} in their heart during their lives and after him {they go} to the dead.

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 is joined to all the living, there is confidence {for him}—because for a living dog, it {is} better than the dead lion.

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 know that they will die, but the dead, they are not knowing anything. And 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 Their love and their hate and their jealousy have already perished. And there is not for them a portion any longer in perpetuity in all that is 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 good heart, because God has already accepted your deeds.

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 clothes be white and do not let oil be lacking on your head.

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 vaporous life, whom he has given to you under the sun, all the days of your vapor, for it {is} your portion in life and in your toil that you {are} toiling 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 Everything that your hand finds to do, do {it} with your strength, because there is no deed or scheme of things 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 again saw under the sun, that not to the swift {is} the race and not to the mighty {is} the war and even not to the wise {is} bread and even not to discerning people {is} wealth and even not to understanding people {is} favor, for time and occurrence 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 For even humanity does not know his time. Like the fish that are caught in a troublesome net, and like the birds that are caught in the snare— like them, the sons of humanity are snared at a time of misfortune 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 saw: wisdom under the sun and great it {was} 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 and a few men in it and a great king came against it and he besieged it and he built great siegeworks 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 And he found in it a poor, wise man and he delivered the city with his wisdom. And a person 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 And I said, I, "Better {is} wisdom than might, but the wisdom of the poor person {is} despised, and his words—they are not heard."

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 {The} words of wise people in quietness are heeded more than the cry 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 battle, but one sinner will destroy much good.

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 a perfumer's oil stink; heavier than wisdom or honor {is} a little foolishness.

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 person {is} to his right, and a heart of a fool {is} to 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 And even when the fool is going on the road, his heart {is} lacking, and he says to everyone {that} he {is} a fool.

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 rises against you, do not leave your place, for calmness will lay great sins to rest.

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 a misfortune I saw under the sun, like an unintentional sin that goes out from before the face of the authority.

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 Folly is given into many high places and rich people sit in the lowly place.

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 saw 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 A person who digs a pit will fall into it and a person who breaks through a wall, a snake will bite 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 A person who pulls up stones will be hurt by them; a person who splits wood will 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 {a person} has blunted the iron and he does not make the faces light, he must exert strength, but a profit to being successful {is} wisdom.

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 bites without a charm, there is no profit 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 {The} words of {the} mouth of a wise person {are} favor, but {the} 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 {is} foolishness and {the} end of his mouth {is} evil insanity.

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 But the fool will multiply words. Humanity does not know what that will happen or what will be after him. Who will declare {it} 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 foolish people will weary him so that he does not know {how} 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, land, that your king {is} a youth and your princes will eat 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, land, that your king {is} a son of nobles and {that} your princes will eat at the time with might and not with drunkenness.

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 With laziness, the beams of the roof sink and in idleness of hands, the house will leak.

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 {They} are making bread for laughter and wine gladdens life, but silver will answer everything.

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 thought, do not belittle a king and in the room of your bed, do not belittle a rich person. For a bird of the heavens will carry the voice and a master of wings will declare {the} word.

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 Send out your bread on the face of the waters, for in many 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 and even to eight, for you do not know what will be a misfortune on 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 clouds are filled with rain, they will pour out on the earth. And whether a tree will fall in the south or in the north, {the} place where the tree will fall, there it will be.

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 person who listens to {the} wind will not sow and a person who sees {the} clouds will 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 you are not knowing what {is} the way of the wind, as the bones {come} into the womb of the full woman, so thus you do not know the work of God who works 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 in the evening, do not let your hand rest, for you are not knowing whether this one will prosper—this one or this one?—or whether the two of them as one {will be} good.

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 And light {is} sweet and {it is} good 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 For if humanity will live many years, in all of them let him rejoice. But let him remember the days of darkness, that they will be many. Everything that is coming {is} vapor.

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 early manhood and let your heart make you glad in the days of your youth. And walk in the ways of your heart and in the sight of your eyes. But, know that on account of all these things, God will bring you into 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 And remove anger from your heart and take misfortune away from your flesh, for youth and dark hair {are} vapor.

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 And remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of misfortune have come and the years arrive of which you will say, "There is not for me pleasure 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 before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are dark and the 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 when the guards of the house will tremble and the men of valor will be bent over and the women grinders cease because they are few and those who look at the window will grow dark,

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 and {the} doors will be shut in the street— when the sound of the grinding {is} low and when a person rises at the sound of the bird and all the daughters of the song are humbled—

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 (also they are afraid of the high place and terrors {are} in the way and the almond tree blossoms and the locusts moves along and the caper-fruit fails, for humanity is going to his eternal home and the mourners surround 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 before the cord of silver is removed and the bowl of gold is broken and the pitcher is shattered at the fountain and the wheel is crushed at the cistern

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 and the dust returns to the earth as that it was and the spirit returns to 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 "Vapor of vapors," says the Qoheleth. "Everything {is} vapor."

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 Besides {the fact} that Qoheleth was wise, he still taught the people knowledge and he weighed and he searched. He ordered 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 Qoheleth sought to discover words of pleasure and words of truth were written rightly.

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 {The} words of wise people are like goads and like nails implanted are masters of collections. They are 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 Beyond them, my son, be warned: to the making of many scrolls, there is no end and much study {is} weariness {to the} 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, everything has been heard: fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole of humanity.

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 For every deed, God will bring into judgment, concerning everything 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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