

unfoldingWord® Translation Questions

v92

Ecclesiastes

unfoldingWord® Translation Questions

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unfoldingWord® Translation Questions

Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes 1

Ecclesiastes 1:1

ULT	UST
The words of Qoheleth, the son of David, king in Jerusalem,	*The following is the written lesson of Qoheleth, who was a descendant of David and who ruled as king in Jerusalem.*

Of whom was the Teacher a descendant?

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

Ecclesiastes 1:2

ULT	UST
“Vapor of vapors,” says Qoheleth. “Vapor of vapors; the whole is vapor.”	*Qoheleth said: All of human life is as temporary as the mist of my breath! Everything is emptiness!*

What does the Teacher say everything is?

The Teacher says everything is temporary, fleeting, and insubstantial; the whole of it is vapor.

Ecclesiastes 1:3

ULT	UST
What profit belongs to humanity in exchange for all his toil that he toils under the sun?	*I want to know whether the never-ending labor of being alive in this world ever produces any sense of satisfaction or joy in this life that makes the labor of life worthwhile.*

What does the Teacher ask about the benefit of people’s hard work?

He asks what profit people gain from all their hard work.

Ecclesiastes 1:4

ULT	UST
A generation is going and a generation is coming, but the earth is standing in perpetuity.	*One generation of people dies, and another generation is born. Nonetheless, nothing seems to change.*

What remains forever?

The earth remains forever.

Ecclesiastes 1:5

ULT	UST
And the sun rises and the sun sets; and to its place, panting, it is rising there.	*The sun rises every morning and sets each evening. Then, it hurries back to the eastern horizon, from which it will rise again.*

What does the sun do every day?

The sun rises and sets, and then hurries back to the place where it will rise again.

Ecclesiastes 1:6

ULT	UST
Going to the south and turning to the north, turning, turning, the wind is going; and on its courses, the wind is returning.	*The wind blows southward. Then, it changes direction and blows northward. It seems to go around and around, and yet, it always seems to go where it is supposed to go.*

What does the wind do?

The wind blows toward the south, then turns toward the north; it goes around and around and returns to where it began.

Ecclesiastes 1:7

ULT	UST
All the rivers are going to the sea, but the sea— there is no fullness of it. To a place that the rivers are going— there, they are going again.	*All rivers and streams flow into the ocean, but the ocean is never full. Instead, all that water will continue to flow wherever it has always flowed.*

Where do all the rivers go?

All the rivers go to the sea, yet the sea never becomes full, and the water keeps flowing.

Ecclesiastes 1:8

ULT	UST
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.	*These natural processes make humanity so indescribably tired. Similarly, no matter how much people have seen, they will always want to see more; no matter how much people have heard, they will always want to hear more.*

By what is the eye not satisfied?

The eye is not satisfied by what it sees or hears.

Ecclesiastes 1:9

ULT	UST
Whatever that which was, it is that which will be, and whatever that which has been done, it is that which will be done. And there is not anything new under the sun.	*Whatever happened in the past will happen again. Likewise, whatever people have done in the past, people will do it again. Nothing happens that is ever new.*

What will be done?

Whatever has been done in the past is what will be done in the future.

Ecclesiastes 1:10

ULT	UST
Is there a thing about which one says, "See this, it is new?" It already existed in ages that were from before our faces.	*Now, someone might claim to have discovered something novel. But, in reality someone discovered it a long time ago, in times long since past.*

What does the Teacher say about something that seems new?

The Teacher says that whatever seems new already existed long ago, in times before us.

Ecclesiastes 1:11

ULT	UST
There is not a memory of the former times, and also, of the latter times that will be; memory will not be of them, along with those that will be at the latter time.	*No one ever remembers the people or the events of the past. The same will be true of the people and events of the future, and even of those after that!*

What does the Teacher say about people remembering past generations?

The Teacher says no one remembers the people or events of long ago, and future generations will not be remembered by those who come after them either.

Ecclesiastes 1:12

ULT	UST
I, Qoheleth, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.	*I, Qoheleth, ruled as the king of Israel in the city of Jerusalem.*

Where was the Teacher king?

The Teacher was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

Ecclesiastes 1:13

ULT	UST
So I gave my heart to seek and to explore with wisdom concerning all that is done under the heavens. It is an unpleasant business God has given to the sons of humanity to be busy with it.	*I resolved within myself to use my intellect and my understanding of the world to study everything that people do during their lives on this earth. I discovered that God has employed every human being in the difficult job of being alive.*

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 in the world.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

ULT	UST
I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and—behold—everything is vapor and pursuit of wind.	*Yes, I observed everything that people do during their lives. Now pay attention! I saw that our lives are as temporary as the mist of my breath. Humanity's labor is often as silly as trying to catch 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 catch the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:15

ULT	UST
A bent thing—one is not able to straighten it, and lack is not able to be counted.	*It is just like people say: "No one can fix what appears broken, and no one can count what is not there."*

What does the Teacher say about things that are bent or lacking?

He says that what is bent cannot be straightened, and what is lacking cannot be counted.

Ecclesiastes 1:16

ULT	UST
I spoke, I, with my heart, saying, "I—behold—I have grown and increased wisdom over all who were before my face over Jerusalem, and my heart has seen much wisdom and knowledge."	*So, I said to myself, "Now pay attention! You know that I, Qoheleth, have become wiser than any other king who has ever reigned in Jerusalem. I have experienced first-hand what it means to be exceptionally wise and intelligent."*

What did the Teacher say about his wisdom compared to those who ruled in Jerusalem before him?

He said that he had grown and increased in wisdom more than anyone who ruled in Jerusalem before him.

Ecclesiastes 1:17

ULT	UST
So, I gave my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I know that also this—it is pursuit of wind.	*Having said this, I resolved to learn more about what it means to be wise, as well as what it means to be stupid and insane, by personal experience. I discovered that even these pursuits were as silly as trying to catch the wind.*

What did the Teacher resolve to learn about?

He resolved to learn about wisdom, and also about madness and folly.

Ecclesiastes 1:18

ULT	UST
For in much wisdom is much anger, and when one increases knowledge, he increases pain.	*It is like people also say: "The wiser one gets, the angrier and more depressed they feel; knowing more about life only makes life hurt more."*

What increases along with a person's wisdom and knowledge?

A person who has much wisdom also has much anger, and one who increases knowledge increases pain.

Ecclesiastes 2

Ecclesiastes 2:1

ULT	UST
I spoke, I with my heart, "Come, let me test you with joy and see good." But behold, it also was vapor.	*Then I said to myself, "Let me experiment. I will try to make myself as happy and satisfied as possible by doing everything that I enjoy." Now pay attention! I concluded that even the joy and satisfaction I experienced from these pleasures were as temporary as the mist of my breath.*

What did the Teacher discover about pleasure?

The Teacher discovered that pleasure was also only temporary.

Ecclesiastes 2:2

ULT	UST
To laughter I said, "Madness!" And to joy, "What is this doing?"	*So I thought deeply and concluded that giddy laughter is the behavior of crazy people. Likewise, I reasoned that merely pursuing what I enjoyed did me no good.*

What did the Teacher say about laughter?

The Teacher said that laughter was madness and that pleasure accomplished nothing good.

Ecclesiastes 2:3

ULT	UST
I explored in my heart to drag my flesh with wine (and my heart was guiding me with wisdom) and to seize folly until I could see where is the good for the sons of humanity that they might do under the heavens during the number of the days of their lives.	*So I thought deeply about the effect that indulging myself with wine or letting myself behave stupidly might have on me. All the while, I remained sober and alert. I thought about this until I could discern through my experiences the best use of people's short lives on this earth.*

What did the Teacher want to find out?

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

Ecclesiastes 2:4

ULT	UST
I enlarged my deeds. I built for myself houses. I planted for myself vineyards.	*So I did as many memorable and impressive things as I could. I ordered slaves to build palaces for my leisure and to till and plant vineyards for my pleasure.*

What did the Teacher build for himself?

The Teacher built houses and planted vineyards for himself.

Ecclesiastes 2:5

ULT	UST
I made for myself orchards and royal parks, and I planted in them a tree of each fruit.	*I commissioned royal groves of fruit trees in my honor and gardens with flowing streams. Into those groves, I ordered that slaves should plant many kinds of fruit-bearing trees.*

What did the Teacher plant in his orchards and parks?

He planted a tree of every kind of fruit in them.

Ecclesiastes 2:6

ULT	UST
I made for myself pools of waters to cause to drink from them a forest of growing trees.	*Furthermore, I ordered the construction of irrigation pools and canals that provided water for entire forests of lush growth to honor me.*

Why did the Teacher create pools of water?

The Teacher created pools of water to water a forest of growing trees.

Ecclesiastes 2:7

ULT	UST
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.	*I purchased male and female slaves, and they bore children who were also my slaves in my palace. I also owned more livestock of herd and flock animals than any other previous king in Jerusalem's history before me.*

What did the Teacher own more of than anyone else in Jerusalem?

He owned more cattle and sheep than anyone who had lived in Jerusalem before him.

Ecclesiastes 2:8

ULT	UST
I also amassed for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I appointed for myself male singers and female singers and the pleasures of the sons of humanity: breast and breasts.	*Moreover, I accumulated large amounts of silver and gold that I obtained from the tributary gifts of kings and the rulers of foreign territories. I owned slaves, both men and women, who sang for me, and I married wives and concubines, who provided me with sexual pleasure.*

How did the Teacher find personal pleasure?

The Teacher took many wives and concubines to give himself pleasure.

Ecclesiastes 2:9

ULT	UST
So I became great, and I increased more than all who were to my face in Jerusalem. Also, my wisdom stood by me.	*After all my efforts, I had attained more honor, power, and wealth than any king who had ever reigned before me in Jerusalem. Yet I continued to think soberly so that I could evaluate all of my work properly.*

What did the Teacher have more of than anyone before him in Jerusalem?

He had more wealth, power, and honor than anyone who had lived in Jerusalem before him, and his wisdom remained with him.

Ecclesiastes 2:10

ULT	UST
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.	*In all my efforts, I allowed myself to indulge in every desire that I had. Whatever I wanted, I permitted myself to enjoy it. I did this because my difficult projects made part of me happy, and that experience felt like a reward for all my hard work.*

In what did the Teacher's heart rejoice?

The Teacher's heart rejoiced in all his hard work.

Ecclesiastes 2:11

ULT	UST
And I turned, I, to all my works that my hands had done and to the toil that I toiled to do and behold, everything was vapor and pursuit of wind, and there was no profit under the sun.	*Then I stopped to think about everything I had accomplished, and all the difficult work that I had done to accomplish it. Pay attention! I concluded that both my effort and everything I achieved were as fleeting and insubstantial as the mist of my breath. My labors had been as silly as trying to catch the wind. Nothing I did provided me with any joy that made life worthwhile.*

Where was there no profit?

There was no profit in any of his labors on the earth.

Ecclesiastes 2:12

ULT	UST
So I turned, I, to see wisdom and madness and folly, because what can the person do who will come after the king than that which he has already done?	*This led me to start thinking about the potential benefits of being wise alongside those of being crazy or stupid. I did this because, being king, I had more opportunity to investigate these issues than any other human being.*

What did the Teacher turn to consider?

The Teacher turned to consider wisdom, madness, and folly.

Ecclesiastes 2:13

ULT	UST
And I saw, I, that there is a profit for wisdom more than folly, as there is a profit of the light more than the darkness.	*And then I recognized that being wise is far more helpful in life than being stupid, just like it is easier to live well when one has a source of light by which to see than when there is only darkness.*

What did the Teacher say is more profitable than folly?

The Teacher said that wisdom is more profitable than folly, just as light is better than darkness.

Ecclesiastes 2:15

ULT	UST
And I spoke, I, with my heart, "As the happening of the fool, even to me—it will happen to me! And why was I, I, wise then, abundantly?" And I said to my heart that also this is vapor.	*This made me say to myself, "I am going to die just as inevitably as stupid people! In this way, all my hard work to become a wise person appears to have made no difference! What was the point?" I reminded myself that even my attempts to become wise and live a fulfilled life were as fleeting as the mist of my breath.*

What did the Teacher realize would happen to him just as it happens to the fool?

The Teacher realized that the same fate, death, would happen to him just as it happens to the fool.

Ecclesiastes 2:16

ULT	UST
For there is no memory of the wise person with the fool in perpetuity, because already, in the coming days, both will be forgotten. Alas! The wise die with the fool!	*After all, no one remembers anyone who dies, whether they lived wisely or stupidly, for very long. After a while, people will forget about both of them. How sad! No matter whether we live wisely or act like an idiot, everyone will eventually forget about us!*

Who is not remembered for very long?

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

Ecclesiastes 2:17

ULT	UST
And I hated life, because bad to me was the work that was done under the sun, because everything was vapor and pursuit of wind.	*Because the job of being a human in this life includes enduring these realities that are burdensome, I began to despise being alive. Everything seemed to be as insubstantial as the mist of my breath and as silly as trying to catch the wind.*

What did the Teacher say he hated?

The Teacher said he hated life because the work done under the sun seemed temporary and insubstantial to him.

Ecclesiastes 2:18

ULT	UST
And I hated, I, all my toil that I had toiled under the sun, that I will leave it to the person who will be after me.	*Then I began to despise all the difficult work that I had labored to do during my life, especially because after I die, someone else will inherit everything that I have acquired in my life.*

Why did the Teacher hate all his accomplishments?

The Teacher hated all his accomplishments because he would have to leave them to the person who came after him.

Ecclesiastes 2:19

ULT	UST
And who knows: Will he be wise or a fool? And he will have authority over all my toil that I toiled and for which I was wise under the sun. Also, this is vapor.	*And no one can predict whether my successor will be a wise or a stupid person. Either way, he will have the ability to enjoy all the things that I labored so hard and so wisely for in my life. Regardless, even his enjoyment of the results of my hard work will be as fleeting as the mist of my breath.*

What did the Teacher say no one knows about the person who will come after him?

The Teacher said no one knows whether that person will be wise or foolish.

Ecclesiastes 2:20

ULT	UST
Then I turned, I, to cause my heart to despair concerning all the toil which I toiled under the sun.	*As I thought further about all my life's work, I began to feel hopeless and 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	UST
For there is a person whose toil is with wisdom and with knowledge and with skill, but to a person who has not toiled for it, he will give it as his portion. This also is vapor and a great misfortune.	*Partly I felt this way because it is possible that someone might labor at his work wisely and expertly, even skillfully. But when he dies, his successor will inherit everything, even though he did not do any of the hard work that produced his inheritance! Yet even these painful realities are as fleeting as the mist of my breath.*

What happens to what a wise, skillful person has worked for?

He must leave it to someone who did not work for it.

Ecclesiastes 2:22

ULT	UST
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?	*After all, the emotionally and physically difficult labor that people do throughout their lives does not seem to produce anything that is both good and enduring for them.*

What does the Teacher ask about all of a person's hard work?

He asks what lasting benefit a person gets from all his hard work.

Ecclesiastes 2:23

ULT	UST
For all his days are pains, and anger is his business; even in the night, his heart does not rest. Also this—it is vapor.	*This is because every day only seems to cause one pain. Furthermore, the work people do only produces grief. It is so grievous that, when they ought to be asleep, people's minds are so anxious that they cannot rest. Yet even so, all of this is as insubstantial as the mist.*

Why does the hard worker's heart not find rest at night?

Every day his work causes him pain and stress, so at night his heart does not rest.

Ecclesiastes 2:24

ULT	UST
There is nothing better for humanity than that he should eat and drink and cause his spirit to see good in his toil. Also, this I saw, I, that it is from the hand of the God,	*So, the best way that people can live is to enjoy whatever they have to eat and drink and to allow themselves to find something enjoyable about their work. I have personally experienced that this joy only comes when God gives it to someone.*

What does the Teacher conclude is the best that people can do?

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	UST
for who will eat and who will enjoy apart from him?	*After all, there is not a single human being who can enjoy the things he has if God does not first give those things to him.*

According to the Teacher, who can eat and enjoy life apart from God?

No one can eat and enjoy life apart from God.

Ecclesiastes 2:26

ULT	UST
For to a person who is good to his face, he gives wisdom and knowledge and joy. But to the sinner, he gives the business of gathering and of collecting to give to the one who is good to the face of the God. Even this is vapor and pursuit of wind.	*God does this by making the people of whom he approves wise, intelligent, and happy. Yet God has decided that whoever disobeys him will work hard only so that they gain wealth that God will give to those of whom he approves. Even their wealth and hard work are as fleeting as the mist of my breath, and as silly as trying to catch the wind.*

What does God give to the sinner?

To the sinner, God gives the work of gathering and collecting wealth, which God then gives to someone who pleases him.

Ecclesiastes 3

Ecclesiastes 3:1

ULT	UST
For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under the heavens:	*There is a fixed moment at which everything in this life happens, and a determined period for every kind of event that happens during a person's life:*

For what things is there a season?

There is a season for every matter under the heavens.

Ecclesiastes 3:2

ULT	UST
a time to give birth and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to tear out what was planted,	*People will give birth, and people will die, people will plant their crops, and people will reap and harvest those crops.*

What does the Teacher say there is a time for in a person's life?

There is a time to give birth and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to pull up what was planted.

Ecclesiastes 3:3

ULT	UST
a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to break down and a time to build,	*People will kill people and people will heal people, people will tear structures down, and people will build structures.*

What other times does the Teacher mention for people's actions?

There is a time to kill and a time to heal, and a time to tear down and a time to build.

Ecclesiastes 3:4

ULT	UST
a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,	*People will cry and people will laugh, people will grieve and people will celebrate.*

What does the Teacher say there is a time for regarding people's emotions?

There is a time to weep and a time to laugh, and a time to mourn and a time to dance.

Ecclesiastes 3:5

ULT	UST
a time to throw stones and a time to gather stones, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,	*People will throw rocks, and people will gather rocks; people will hug, and people will refuse to hug.*

What else does the Teacher say there is a time for?

There is a time to throw stones and a time to gather stones, and a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing.

Ecclesiastes 3:6

ULT	UST
a time to seek and a time to lose, a time to keep and a time to throw away,	*People will look for lost things, and people will lose found things; people will store things, and people will throw things away.*

What does the Teacher say there is a time for regarding seeking and keeping?

There is a time to seek and a time to lose, and a time to keep and a time to throw away.

Ecclesiastes 3:7

ULT	UST
a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,	*People will rip their clothing in grief, and people will sew clothing back together; people will stay quiet, and people will talk.*

What does the Teacher say there is a time for regarding speaking?

There is a time to be silent and a time to speak.

Ecclesiastes 3:8

ULT	UST
a time to love and a time to hate, a time of war and a time of peace.	*People will love one another, and people will hate one another; people will go to war, and people will mediate peace.*

What does the Teacher say regarding love and war?

There is a time to love and a time to hate, and a time for war and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:9

ULT	UST
What is the profit of the one who does in exchange for that which he is toiling?	*Again, I want to know whether the difficult labor of human life ever produces any satisfaction or joy for hard-working people.*

What question does the Teacher ask about a worker's hard work?

He asks what profit a worker gains from his labor.

Ecclesiastes 3:10

ULT	UST
I saw the business that God gives to the sons of humanity to be busy with it.	*I have observed the job of living in which God has employed every human being to bustle about doing.*

What did the Teacher see?

The Teacher saw the work that God gives to human beings to keep busy with.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

ULT	UST
He makes everything beautiful in its time. Also, he gives perpetuity in their heart, yet so that humanity cannot find the work that the God does from beginning to end.	*God makes everything that happens beautifully fitted for the moment that God has determined. And at the same time, God enables humanity to perceive that he is at work in their lives. Even so, God does not allow humanity to understand everything that God does—from the time that he created this world to the point at which he brings all things to an end.*

What did God place in people's hearts?

God placed eternity in their hearts.

Ecclesiastes 3:12

ULT	UST
I know that there is no good for them except to rejoice and to do good during his life,	*In light of this, I confess that the best way for humanity to live is to gratefully celebrate life and to live ethically while one is alive.*

What does the Teacher say is the only good thing for people to do in life?

The Teacher says the only good thing is to rejoice and to do good while they are alive.

Ecclesiastes 3:13

ULT	UST
and every person who eats and drinks and sees good in all of his toil—it is a gift of God.	*And, furthermore, whenever a person is able to enjoy what they have to eat and drink, and to find something gratifying in the work that they do, this is a priceless thing that God has enabled.*

What is a gift from God?

The ability to eat and drink and the good that comes from one's work is a gift from God.

Ecclesiastes 3:14

ULT	UST
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 remove. And God acts so that they fear from before his face.	*I also confess that all of God's decisions are unchanging. It is like people say: No one can improve what God does, either by addition or subtraction. God does this so that they submit to God in trusting faith.*

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 everything God does is unchanging and will last forever.

Ecclesiastes 3:15

ULT	UST
Whatever that is, already it was, and that which is to be, already it is. And the God seeks that which is pursued.	*Current events are not new. Things like them have already happened. Likewise, future events will not be new. Things like them are already happening now. God is the one who understands what every person is trying to understand.*

What does the Teacher say about what happens now and what will happen in the future?

The Teacher says that what happens now has already happened before, and what will happen has already happened too.

Ecclesiastes 3:16

ULT	UST
But again, I saw under the sun: The place of justice—there was wickedness, and the place of equity—there was wickedness!	*However, here is something else that I observed: The places in society from which people expect rulers to make just and fair decisions are frequently places in which rulers make unjust and oppressive decisions!*

What did the Teacher see in place of justice and equity?

The Teacher saw wickedness in the place of justice and in the place of equity.

Ecclesiastes 3:17

ULT	UST
I spoke, I with my heart: "The equitable and the wicked the God will judge, because a time exists for every matter and on account of every deed there."	*I confessed to myself, "God will hold accountable people who make just decisions and those who make unjust decisions. He will do this because there is a moment for everything that happens, including God's judgment of rulers in those places."*

According to the Teacher, whom will God judge?

The Teacher said God will judge both the equitable and the wicked, because there is a time for every matter and every deed.

Ecclesiastes 3:18

ULT	UST
I spoke, I, with my heart, "For the sake of the sons of humanity, the God is to test them to see that they are animals, they themselves."	*This led me to confess further to myself: "God is governing the world this way because he wants people to clearly understand that they are really no different than animals."*

What does the Teacher say God wants to show people about themselves?

The Teacher says God wants to show people that they are like animals.

Ecclesiastes 3:19-20

How are people like animals?

People and animals' lives end in the same way—with death.

Ecclesiastes 3:21

ULT	UST
Who knows? 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.	*This causes me to wonder whether people are correct about what happens to people when they die. Perhaps humans ascend to the place in which God lives, and animals descend into the ground.*

What does the Teacher wonder about the spirits of people and animals?

The Teacher wonders whether the spirit of a person goes upward and the spirit of an animal goes downward to the earth.

Ecclesiastes 3:22

ULT	UST
So, I saw that there is nothing better than that humanity should rejoice in his works, for it is his portion. For who will bring him to look at what that will be after him?	*So, I confess once again that the best way for people to live is to allow themselves to enjoy what their work produces—even the hard work itself. This is because God has given each person their work. It is their daily allotment. After all, nobody can know what will happen tomorrow.*

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	UST
And I turned, I, and I saw all the oppressions that were being done under the sun. And behold, 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.	*Next, as I continued to contemplate, I observed all the ways in which people suffer from oppression during their lives. Now pay attention! As I watched those people cry, I realized that no one was there to reassure them in their grief. Furthermore, those who oppressed them appeared to possess power such that no one was able to reassure them in their grief.*

For whom is there no comforter?

There is no comforter for the people who are oppressed.

Ecclesiastes 4:2

ULT	UST
So I praised, I, the dead people who have already died more than the living, who, they are still alive.	*This sad reality made me feel like those people who have already died are much more fortunate than the people who remain alive.*

Who did the Teacher praise more than the living?

The Teacher praised the dead who had already died, more than the living who were still alive.

Ecclesiastes 4:3

ULT	UST
But better than the two of them is the one who has not yet lived, who has not seen the evil deed that is being done under the sun.	*Yet the people whose mothers have not yet given birth to them are even more fortunate than both people currently alive and those people who have already died. Indeed, the unborn have not yet had to experience or witness any of the evil actions that humans do during their lives.*

Who does the writer say 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	UST
And I saw, I, every toil and every success of the deed—that it is the envy of a person from his friend. This also is vapor and pursuit of wind.	*Then I observed that people work as hard as they do and strive to be successful only because they are jealous of their friends' possessions. Yet even their ill-motivated labor is as insubstantial as the mist of my breath and as futile as trying to catch the wind.*

Why did the Teacher say people work hard and try to succeed?

He said people work hard and try to succeed because they envy their friends.

Ecclesiastes 4:5

ULT	UST
The fool is folding his hands and is eating his flesh.	*It is just like people say: Rather than work hard, foolish people merely relax with their unproductive hands folded on their laps, ready to eat their meal. Yet as they do so, they unwittingly ruin themselves, as if they were feasting on their own bodies!*

What does the fool do instead of working?

The fool folds his hands and does nothing, and in this way he ruins himself.

Ecclesiastes 4:6

ULT	UST
Better is a fullness of a palm with quiet than a fullness of two handfuls with toil and pursuit of wind.	*People also say this: "Despite appearances, being contented with a simple, peaceful lifestyle is twice as good as being rich but living a life of stressful labor—as frustrating as trying to catch the wind."*

What is better than being rich with toil and stress-filled labor?

Being contented with little and having peace and quiet is better than having a lot with toil and pursuit of wind.

Ecclesiastes 4:7

ULT	UST
And I turned, I, and I saw a vapor under the sun:	*I proceeded to contemplate another facet of people's lives—one that also seemed as insubstantial as the mist.*

What did the Teacher see again under the sun?

He saw another example of something temporary and meaningless on the earth.

Ecclesiastes 4:8

ULT	UST
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. So why am I toiling and causing my soul to lack from good things? Even this is vapor, and it is an unpleasant business.	*I saw someone who lived alone. He appeared to have no children nor any brothers or sisters living with him. And every day, the person labored without stopping. Even though he was wealthy, he never felt satisfied with his life and possessions. Then he asked himself, "Why am I allowing my hard work to deprive me of things that I enjoy?" His attempts to satisfy himself with a lavish lifestyle were as insubstantial as the mist. His joyless labor was really the most lamentable part of the difficult job of being alive in which God has employed humanity.*

Who did the Teacher see living alone with no family?

He saw a person who lived alone, had no son or brother, worked endlessly, and was never satisfied with his wealth.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Why are two people better than one in the case that one falls?

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

Ecclesiastes 4:11

ULT	UST
Also, if two people lie down, then there is warmth for them. But for the one person—how will there be warmth?	*Second, if you and a friend were to lie down to sleep in the cold, you could help one another stay warm, but if you try to sleep in the cold alone, of course you will be cold!*

How do two people benefit by lying down together?

When two people lie down together, they can keep each other warm.

Ecclesiastes 4:12

ULT	UST
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.	*Third, if someone stronger than you were to attack you, he might beat you up by yourself. However you and your friend would be able to ward off your attacker together! Three people could defend themselves even more easily, just as a rope that someone made from three strands is harder to rip in half than a rope with one or two strands.*

What is not quickly broken?

A three-strand rope is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 4:13

ULT	UST
Better is a child, poor but wise, than a king, old but foolish, who does not know how to be warned any longer.	*It is preferable to be a poor young man who nonetheless acts wisely than to be a king who, despite his age, acts like a fool and refuses to pay attention to good advice, as he did when he was younger.*

What is better than being 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	UST
For from the house of those who are bound, he came forth to become king, yet even in his kingdom he was born poor.	*I imagine that it is possible for a young man like that to live so successfully that he becomes king—even ruling over the land in which his mother gave birth to him in poverty, so severe that it was like someone tying her up with ropes.*

What did the Teacher imagine about the poor young man?

He imagined that the young man could become king, even though he was born poor.

Ecclesiastes 4:15

ULT	UST
I saw all the living, the ones walking around under the sun, with the second child who will stand under him.	*But then I imagine all of the people in this young man's kingdom who merely go about their lives. The person who will be the successor to the young king is among them.*

Who did the Teacher see walking around under the sun?

He saw all the living people, along with the one who would succeed the young king.

Ecclesiastes 4:16

ULT	UST
There was no end to all the people, to all who were to their faces. Even the latter people will not rejoice in him, because even this is vapor and pursuit of wind.	*Despite his current popularity with the endless crowds of his subjects, after a few years future generations will be tired of him. So even the wise way he lived that led to his success is as fleeting as the mist of my breath and as frustrating as trying to catch the wind.*

How will the people who live after this king feel about him?

The people who live after him will not rejoice in him.

Ecclesiastes 5

Ecclesiastes 5:1

ULT	UST
Keep your feet when you go to the house of God. And drawing near to listen is better than fools giving a sacrifice, for they are not knowing that they do evil.	*Be mindful of how you behave when you go to worship God at his house. Draw near to him by listening expectantly. That is far better than offering sacrifices to God in the ways that foolish people do. They are ignorant that they are behaving inappropriately in God's presence!*

What should people do when they go to the house of God?

They should be careful with their conduct and draw near to listen, for that is better than when fools offer a sacrifice.

Ecclesiastes 5:2

ULT	UST
Do not be hurried concerning your mouth, and do not let your heart hurry to bring forth a word to the face of God. For the God is in heaven, but you are on the earth; therefore, let your words be few.	*Do not be so quick to say something that you speak rashly. Neither should you allow yourself to raise an issue hastily in God's presence. You ought to remember that this God is the God who rules from heaven and that you live here on the dust of the earth. For this reason, you ought to think before you say anything in God's presence.*

Why should people let their words be few?

Because God is the eternal God in heaven and people are created by God, so they should think very carefully and not speak rashly or hastily before God.

Ecclesiastes 5:3

ULT	UST
For the dream comes with much business, and the voice of a fool with many words.	*After all, it is like people say: "When someone claims to receive secret messages from the gods, he tends to rush busily about his life. And whenever foolish people talk, they tend to speak in as many words as possible."*

What does a fool do when he talks?

A fool talks with many words.

Ecclesiastes 5:4

ULT	UST
When you vow a vow to God, do not delay fulfilling it, for there is no delight in the fools. That which you vow, fulfill.	*If you solemnly promise God that you will offer a sacrifice to him, you ought to do what you promised quickly. Neither God nor his people tolerate foolish people. You should be careful to do whatever you promise.*

What should a person do after he vows a vow to God?

He should fulfill it without delay.

Ecclesiastes 5:5

ULT	UST
It is better that you do not vow than that you vow but do not fulfill.	*It is better to not promise anything to God than to promise to do something and then fail to 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	UST
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?	*You should never talk in such a way that you begin to sin. It would be shameful if you promised God that you would offer him a sacrifice only to lie and claim that you made a mistake when God's priest arrived to collect the sacrificial animal. If you were to do that, God would be so frustrated with your so-called promises that he would destroy everything you have worked to accomplish!*

What might God do if a person's words cause him to sin?

God might become angry and destroy the work of that person's hands.

Ecclesiastes 5:7

ULT	UST
For in many dreams and vaporous things and many words— just fear God.	*This is the point: While everyone else is chasing messages from the gods, offering the prolific prayers of foolish people, or doing whatever vain things people do in God's presence, you ought to live your life fearfully remembering that God is God!*

What should a person do instead of chasing many words and empty things?

He should fear God.

Ecclesiastes 5:8

ULT	UST
If the extortion of the poor and the robbery of justice and equity 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 over them.	*You may witness powerful people where you live extorting money from impoverished people or corrupting legal systems to their own benefit. You should not be surprised about this. Lamentably, this is the way things are. The people who can hold these powerful people accountable watch and do nothing. And even these more powerful people are under the authority of someone even higher who likewise does nothing.*

Why should someone not be astonished when he sees the poor being oppressed and robbed of just and fair treatment?

He should not be astonished because the people who could hold the powerful to account see the injustice and do nothing about it.

Ecclesiastes 5:9

ULT	UST
And a profit of a land—it is taken by all. But a king is served by a field.	*Also, all of these corrupt officials seize the harvests of our fields—even the king enjoys the food that his subjects collect from our farms.*

Who eats from what the fields produce?

Important people and even the king eat from what the fields produce.

Ecclesiastes 5:10

ULT	UST
A lover of silver will not be satisfied with silver, and whoever loves increase, not income. Also this is vapor.	*Some people believe that only wealth can provide them with the kind of happy life that they desire. These people will never think that they have enough money, nor will any number of possessions make them happy. In reality, money is also as insubstantial as the mist of my breath.*

What happens to a person who loves silver?

A person who loves silver will never be satisfied no matter how much they have.

Ecclesiastes 5:11

ULT	UST
When the good thing increases, the ones eating it increase. And what advantage belongs to its master except the sight of his eyes?	*The more wealth that an individual has, the more people seek to benefit from that individual's wealth. So rich people do not really benefit from their wealth. It only seems to others that their wealth helps them.*

What happens as prosperity increases?

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

Ecclesiastes 5:12

ULT	UST
Sweet is the sleep of the worker, however little or however much he eats, but the satisfaction of a rich person— it is not allowing him to sleep.	*Poor hardworking people sleep soundly at night no matter whether they have a lot of food or only a little to eat. Like a person who sleeps poorly because he has eaten too much, the wealth that rich people believe provides them with a satisfying life actually makes them so anxious that they are unable to fall asleep.*

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	UST
There is a sickening misfortune I have seen under the sun: Wealth kept by its master to his harm.	*I have observed that money is the cause of another lamentable, gut-wrenching situation that can happen to people during their lives. I have watched someone save all of his substantial income. But his wealth ultimately caused him pain.*

What misfortune did Qoheleth see concerning wealth?

He saw wealth kept by its owner that ended up harming him.

Ecclesiastes 5:14

ULT	UST
And that wealth perished in an unfortunate business. And he had fathered a son, but there was not in his hand anything.	*When his investments unexpectedly failed, he lost his entire savings. He had planned to give this wealth to his son as an inheritance. Yet now he had nothing left to pass on.*

What happens when the rich man loses his wealth through misfortune?

When the rich man loses his wealth through misfortune, he has nothing left to give to the son he fathered.

Ecclesiastes 5:15

ULT	UST
As he went out from the womb of his mother, naked he will go again, just as he came. And he will not take anything in exchange for his toil that he will take in his hand.	*And so that man died in the same condition as when his mother gave birth to him: He began his life naked, possessing no wealth, and so he died in the same way. When he died, that man's labor had never produced for him any meaningful sense of satisfaction.*

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

A man is born naked from his mother's womb and possessing nothing, so also, he will leave this life without taking anything he possesses.

Ecclesiastes 5:16

ULT	UST
And also this is a sickening misfortune: Just as he came, thus he will go. And what profit belongs to him who toils for the wind?	*Yes, this was the lamentable, gut-wrenching situation that I witnessed: This man brought nothing into the world when his life began, and when he died, he took nothing with him. And so, it seems that his hard work never enabled him to feel satisfied. His work was like a frustrated attempt to grab a handful of the wind.*

What profit does a person gain from laboring as if for the wind?

He gains no profit; it is a sickening misfortune.

Ecclesiastes 5:17

ULT	UST
Also, all his days in darkness he eats, and in great vexation and his sickness and anger.	*Moreover, every day of his life he sat in the dark when he ate his meals—deeply depressed, fatigued from illness, and fuming.*

According to the Teacher, how does the man who lost his wealth spend all his days?

He spends all his days in darkness, greatly troubled, sick, and angry.

Ecclesiastes 5:18

ULT	UST
Behold what I, I, have seen is good: That it is beautiful 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 the God has given to him, for it is his portion.	*Now pay attention! I have observed how beautiful life can be when people merely enjoy the food and drink that they have and allow themselves to feel some satisfying happiness in their hard work. People can do this only while they are alive during the brief span of life that God has allotted to them as his gift—no more and no less.*

What did Qoheleth say is good for a person to do?

He said it is good to eat, drink, and find satisfaction in one's hard work during the life that God has given him.

Ecclesiastes 5:19

ULT	UST
Also, each person who the God gives 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.	*God sometimes gives people money and possessions. But only sometimes does he also give them the ability to enjoy what they have. When God does, people accept what God has given them—no more and no less—and are able to enjoy their otherwise difficult and stressful work. This joyful acceptance is something priceless, like a gift from God.*

What does Qoheleth call the ability to enjoy the wealth God gives?

He calls it a gift of God.

Ecclesiastes 5:20

ULT	UST
For not much does he remember the days of his life, because the God occupies him with the joys of his heart.	*By enabling us to accept the good things in our lives joyfully, God focuses our attention on what we enjoy about our lives. This allows us to forget, momentarily, the reality that one day we will inevitably die.*

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 6:1-2

What misfortune did Qoheleth see?

Qoheleth saw that God might give a person wealth and honor 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 6:3

ULT	UST
If a man should father a hundred children, and many years should he live—and many that the days of his years may be—but if his soul is not satisfied from the good thing (and also a burial place is not for him), I say, "Better than him is the stillborn child."	*Someone could perhaps father very many children and live a very long life. No matter how long his life might be—even if he were to go on living forever—if he never allows himself to enjoy the wonderful parts of his life, I will consider the life of a baby who dies when it is still in its mother's womb to be more desirable than this man's miserable life.*

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	UST
For in vapor, it came, and in the darkness, it will go, and in the darkness its name will be covered.	*True, this baby's life was as brief as the mist, and it died in its mother's womb, never having seen the light. The baby's parents were never able to name their child, so that the child's life will be only a sad memory.*

What does Qoheleth say happens to the stillborn child?

Qoheleth says its life is like a mist that fades away, it goes into darkness, and it never receives a name.

Ecclesiastes 6:5

ULT	UST
Even the sun it did not see, nor did it know. More rest belongs to this one than this one.	*The stillborn baby did not even live to experience life under the light of the sun. Yet neither did it have to feel the burden of a difficult life. So, despite its brief life, the stillborn baby found more peace than that miserable man.*

What does Qoheleth say is true about the stillborn child compared to the unhappy rich man?

Qoheleth says the stillborn child never saw the sun or knew anything, but it has more peace than the unhappy rich man.

Ecclesiastes 6:6

ULT	UST
And if he lived a thousand years twice, but a good thing he did not see—are not both going to one place?	*His life would not improve even if that man were to go on living for two thousand years. He, like every human being, only ever endured the painful parts of life, but he never enjoyed the good parts of his life. Truthfully, the man's life will come to an end just as the stillborn baby's will, and both of them experience death —just like every human being.*

Even if a man should live for two thousand years but does not learn to enjoy good things, what happens to him?

Even if a man should live for two thousand years but does not learn to enjoy good things, he ends up dying just like everyone else.

Ecclesiastes 6:7

ULT	UST
All the toil of humanity is for his mouth, and yet the soul is not filled.	*It is like people say: "Everyone works hard to satiate their appetites, but no one ever satisfies their deepest cravings."*

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 satisfied.

Ecclesiastes 6:8

ULT	UST
For what advantage belongs to the wise more than the fool? What advantage belongs to the poor person who knows how to walk before the living?	*Consider this: Living wisely does not seem any more able than living foolishly to keep a person from suffering and dying. In the same way, knowing how to conduct oneself wisely does not seem to lengthen or improve the life of someone who is poor.*

According to Qoheleth, what advantage does a wise person have over a fool?

Qoheleth says a wise person has no more advantage than a fool, and a poor person who knows how to live well has no great advantage either.

Ecclesiastes 6:9

ULT	UST
Better is a sight of the eyes than the walking of the soul. Also this is vapor and pursuit of wind.	*It is like people also say: "It is better to enjoy the things that one already has than to allow one's impulsive desire to inform one's decisions." These realities are as insubstantial as the mist, and as futile as trying to catch the wind.*

What does Qoheleth say is better than always wanting more?

Qoheleth says it is better to enjoy what a person already has than to always want more, though even this is temporary and insubstantial.

Ecclesiastes 6:10

ULT	UST
Whatever that is, already its name has been called, and it is known what a person is—and he is not able to contend with he who is more powerful than him.	*Before anything happens, God has already declared what it should be. It is evident to everyone that human beings are merely mortal. So, it is pointless to complain to God about the parts of life that we dislike. Humans are not all-powerful or all-knowing like God is!*

What does Qoheleth say about arguing with someone more powerful?

Qoheleth says no one can argue with God, who is more powerful than any person.

Ecclesiastes 6:11

ULT	UST
When there are many words that are increasingly vaporous, what advantage belongs to humanity?	*It sometimes seems as if our complaints about life only produce more words that are as insubstantial as the mist. This does not appear to benefit anyone.*

What happens when many words are spoken?

When many words are spoken, they become more meaningless and do not benefit anyone.

Ecclesiastes 6:12

ULT	UST
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?	*Certainly, I wonder whether anyone can know what he ought to do during his limited lifetime. People live for a short time, and their lives seem as fleeting as the mist. Indeed, God has designed human life so that it lasts briefly, just like a passing shadow. Moreover, God seems to want human beings to be ignorant about what might happen to them tomorrow.*

Who knows what is good for a person during their short life, according to Qoheleth?

No one knows what is good for a person during their brief life, or what will happen after them.

Ecclesiastes 7

Ecclesiastes 7:1

ULT	UST
Better is a good name than good oil, and the day of death than the day of his being born.	*An honorable reputation is more advantageous than expensive perfume. Similarly, a person's death is a more advantageous moment than the moment when that person's mother gave birth to him.*

According to Qoheleth, what is better than good oil?

A good name is better than good oil.

Ecclesiastes 7:2

ULT	UST
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.	*Attending a funeral is more useful than attending a celebratory feast. This is true because everyone will die. People should take time to ponder this reality while they are alive.*

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, because everyone dies in the end, and the living should think carefully about this.

Ecclesiastes 7:3

ULT	UST
Better grief than laughter, for with a bad face a heart may be well.	*Feeling grief and mourning is more advantageous than laughing. This is true because grieving painful experiences may help one better understand what life is like and accept it.*

What does Qoheleth say is better than laughter?

Qoheleth says that grief is better than laughter.

Ecclesiastes 7:4

ULT	UST
The heart of wise people is in a house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in a house of joy.	*Wise people participate in public ceremonies of mourning so that they may ponder the fact that they also will die. Conversely, foolish people ignore this reality by only attending celebrations and festive parties.*

Where is the heart of the wise?

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

Ecclesiastes 7:5

ULT	UST
Better to listen to a rebuke of a wise person than a person listening to a song of fools,	*Listening to the criticism of someone who lives wisely is more advantageous than listening to the song of foolish people.*

What does Qoheleth say is better than listening to the song of fools?

Listening to the rebuke of a wise person is better than listening to the song of fools.

Ecclesiastes 7:6

ULT	UST
for like the sound of the thorns under the cooking pot, so is the laughter of the fool. And this also is vapor.	*This is true because the laughter of foolish people is as useless as trying to heat food over a fire that someone fuels with thorns. Although the thorns may loudly pop, they will only produce a little heat. In the same way, the loud noise of foolish people is as insubstantial as the mist.*

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	UST
Surely oppression crazes a wise person, and a bribe destroys a heart.	*Now, the power to abuse someone less powerful can turn even wise people into foolish people. In the same way, officials who accept dishonest payment become unable to do what is right.*

What makes a wise person foolish?

Oppression makes a wise person foolish, and a bribe corrupts a person's heart.

Ecclesiastes 7:8

ULT	UST
Better is the end of a thing than its beginning. Better is length of spirit than height of spirit.	*It is better for people for something to conclude than for it merely to begin. Similarly, being patient is more advantageous than being proud.*

What does Qoheleth say is better than the beginning of a thing?

Qoheleth says that the end of a thing is better than its beginning.

Ecclesiastes 7:9

ULT	UST
Do not hasten in your spirit to become angry, for anger rests in the lap of fools.	*You should not allow yourself to lose your temper quickly, because being irritable is characteristic of foolish people.*

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

People should not be quick to anger in their spirit, for anger is a characteristic of fools.

Ecclesiastes 7:10

ULT	UST
Do not say, "What was, that the former days were better than these?" For you do not ask about this out of wisdom.	*Neither should you complain and wonder why it seems that life in the past was preferable to the present. Surely only foolish nostalgia, not wise reflection, causes this kind of comment.*

What question does Qoheleth say people should not ask?

Qoheleth says people should not ask why the former days were better than the present days.

Ecclesiastes 7:11

ULT	UST
Wisdom is good with an inheritance and an advantage to those who see the sun.	*Thinking and living wisely is both valuable and useful, just like receiving an endowment of property or money from a relative who has died. As such, being wise can provide anyone alive with significant benefits.*

How does Qoheleth describe wisdom in relation to an inheritance?

Qoheleth says wisdom is good, like an inheritance, and gives an advantage to those who are alive.

Ecclesiastes 7:12

ULT	UST
For as in the shadow of wisdom, so in the shadow of silver. And this is an advantage of knowledge: Wisdom preserves her owners.	*Their ability to think and act wisely can provide protection for people, just like money can sometimes provide protection for wealthy people. Nonetheless, knowing how to think and live well has one more benefit than being wealthy: This kind of wise thinking often prevents people from doing foolish things that would cause undesirable outcomes.*

How is wisdom better than money?

Both wisdom and money can provide protection, but the advantage of wisdom is that it prevents foolish actions.

Ecclesiastes 7:13

ULT	UST
See the work of the God: For who is able to straighten that which he has bent?	*Think carefully about what God has done. Certainly, no human being can change those aspects of their lives that they dislike, since God has determined that their lives should be that way.*

Who is able to straighten what God has bent?

No one is able to change what God has done.

Ecclesiastes 7:14

ULT	UST
In a day of good, be in good, but in a day of misfortune, see— indeed, the God has done this as well as this, so that humanity cannot find anything after him.	*When your life is going well for you, enjoy it! But when your life is not going the way that you would prefer, stop to consider this: God is the one who created life and causes both good things and less desirable things to happen. God does this so that we do not start thinking that we can control what happens to us.*

When times are good, how should people live?

When times are good, people should enjoy them.

Ecclesiastes 7:15

ULT	UST
I have seen both in the days of my vapor: There is a righteous person perishing in his righteousness, and there is a wicked person lengthening in his evil.	*In my lifetime, as fleeting as the fading mist of my breath, I have witnessed two opposite scenarios. On the one hand, many good people die young, even though they live justly. On the other hand, many bad people live long and prosperous lives, even though they live unjustly.*

What happened to some wicked people whom Qoheleth saw?

Some wicked people lived a long time despite their evil.

Ecclesiastes 7:16

ULT	UST
Do not be overly righteous, and do not be exceedingly wise— why should you be shocked?	*So, you should not think that you can be so virtuous that your virtue obligates God to give you a long and prosperous life. Neither should you think that you can become so wise that you can avoid anything painful in life. If you were to think this way, you would only be astonished when undesirable things happen.*

Why does Qoheleth warn people not to be overly righteous or wise?

Qoheleth warns people not to be overly righteous or overly wise so that they won't be tempted to think that they can avoid all the painful realities of life through their careful behavior.

Ecclesiastes 7:17

ULT	UST
Do not be very wicked, and do not be a fool—why should you die when it is not your time?	*You should not live so sinfully that God becomes angry at you, and neither should you allow yourself to live foolishly. If you were to live this way, your foolishness could cause you to die young.*

What does Qoheleth warn could happen to a person who is very wicked or foolish?

Qoheleth warns that a very wicked or foolish person might die before their time.

Ecclesiastes 7:18

ULT	UST
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.	*Your life will go best if you are diligent in remembering to live according to both parts of my advice to you. The kind of individual who recognizes that God is governing this world and submits to him will demonstrate this by living as both parts of my advice have instructed him.*

What will a person who fears God do?

A person who fears God will follow both pieces of this advice—to avoid both wickedness and overly scrupulous righteousness.

Ecclesiastes 7:19

ULT	UST
Wisdom is strong for the wise, more than ten rulers who are in the city.	*The ability to think and live wisely can guide an individual safely through his life. It can do this more effectively than even the ten most powerful officials who govern a city!*

According to Qoheleth, what makes a wise person stronger than ten rulers in a city?

Wisdom makes a wise person stronger than ten rulers in a city.

Ecclesiastes 7:20

ULT	UST
For a person—there is not a righteous person on the earth who does good and does not sin.	*Humanity needs the protection that comes from thinking and living wisely, because no one who has ever lived has been entirely righteous. No human being has ever done only what is good and right without ever doing anything wrong.*

What does Qoheleth say about whether any person on earth is completely righteous?

Qoheleth says there is no person on earth who does only good and never sins.

Ecclesiastes 7:21

ULT	UST
Also, to all of the words that they say, do not give your heart, so that you will not hear your servant belittling you.	*Relatedly, you should not pay attention to everything that people say. If you were to do that, you might inadvertently hear people whom you trust publicly demean 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 insulting them.

Ecclesiastes 7:22

ULT	UST
For even many times—your heart knows that even you have belittled others.	*After all, you yourself know very well that you have also publicly demeaned people who trusted you.*

What does a person's own heart know about how they have treated others?

A person's own heart knows that they themselves have belittled others many times.

Ecclesiastes 7:23

ULT	UST
All of this I tested with wisdom. I said, "Let me be wise," but it was far from me.	*I used my ability to think and live wisely to analyze all of these realities of life. I resolved that I would become wise enough to understand all the realities that I have witnessed in my life. Frustratingly, I could not do it.*

What did Qoheleth say when he tried to become wise?

Qoheleth said he wanted to be wise, but wisdom was far from him.

Ecclesiastes 7:24

ULT	UST
Far away is that which was. And deep, deep—who can find it?	*All the present realities that I observed were beyond my comprehension, as if they were too far away for me to see clearly. They were also difficult for me to understand, as if they were too deep for me to get to the bottom of them. I do not believe that any human being can understand all of this.*

Where is wisdom?

Wisdom is far away and difficult to find.

Ecclesiastes 7:25

ULT	UST
I turned, I, and my heart, to know and to explore and to seek wisdom and the scheme of things, and to know the wickedness that is folly and the foolishness that is madness.	*Nevertheless, I shifted my attention to a larger task. I wanted to study humanity's ability to think and live wisely so that I could comprehend the way that God governs everything and the reason that he governs the way he does. I also wanted to study humanity's tendency to live so foolishly that they openly disobey God and to live so irrationally that they become fools.*

What did Qoheleth turn his heart to seek?

Qoheleth turned his heart to know and explore wisdom, and to understand wickedness and foolishness.

Ecclesiastes 7:26

ULT	UST
And I am finding more bitter than death: the woman who, she is snares— and nets, her heart; chains, her hands. One who is good to the face of the God will flee from her, but a sinner will be captured by her.	*This is what I learned: Foolish thinking is as painful as one's death. It is like a seductive woman who attempts to ensnare young men. Her desire is to trap and deceive people, as if her very heart were a cage, and her very hands were iron chains. Foolish thinking is like such a woman. Although foolish thinking like that will capture sinful people, those who live well in God's presence will be able to avoid foolish living.*

By whom will the sinner be taken?

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

Ecclesiastes 7:27

ULT	UST
"See, this I have found," says Qoheleth: One to one to find the scheme of things,	*So, understand—this is what I, Qoheleth, have learned from my investigations: I carefully considered one thing after another until I could comprehend the way that God governs everything and the reason that he governs the way he does.*

What did Qoheleth say he searched for by considering things one by one?

Qoheleth said he carefully sought to understand the scheme of things, how life works, by considering things one by one.

Ecclesiastes 7:28

ULT	UST
while still my soul sought, but I have not found: One man from a thousand men I found, but a woman among all of these people, I did not find.	*Despite all my failures, I continued searching, but I could not find what I was desperate to discover. I was looking to become wise, as if the ability to think and live wisely was an elusive woman living among a thousand men. I found all the men, but I never found that woman.*

Although Qoheleth continued to search, what did he not find?

Although Qoheleth searched continually for wisdom, he never found it.

Ecclesiastes 7:29

ULT	UST
Only see this I have found: That the God made humanity upright, but they, they have sought out many schemes.	*So, consider this: After everything, I have learned only that when God created humanity, God made them to live justly and equitably. Despite this, humans have tried to discover innumerable ways to understand life and attempt to control what happens to them.*

How did God make humanity, according to what Qoheleth found?

God made humanity upright, but people have sought out many schemes.

Ecclesiastes 8

Ecclesiastes 8:1

ULT	UST
Who is like the wise person, and who knows the interpretation of a matter? The wisdom of a person enlightens his face, and the strength of his face is changed.	*Wise people are truly unparalleled! They have the ability to solve difficult problems. Being wise can make people visibly happy and transform the grim look of their faces.*

What is a wise person?

A wise person is someone who is able to understand difficult matters.

Ecclesiastes 8:2

ULT	UST
As for me—listen to the mouth of a king, that is, on account of the oath of God.	*Now, here is my counsel: God supports the king who represents God and rules with his authority. Because of this divine support, you should pay attention to and comply with the king's directives.*

What does Qoheleth advise about the king?

Qoheleth advises people to obey the king, because of the oath they swore before God.

Ecclesiastes 8:3

ULT	UST
Do not be terrified from his face. Go! Do not stand in a bad matter, for everything that he pleases, he will do,	*Do not let this king intimidate you. If the king should ever order you to do something immoral or unjust, you should not comply. Leave immediately! After all, the king has the power to do whatever he wants—including commanding someone to kill you!*

How should people whom the king has ordered to do something wrong respond?

People should not be afraid and should not stand in support of something wrong but should leave the king's presence immediately in order to protect themselves.

Ecclesiastes 8:4

ULT	UST
for the word of a king is authoritative. And who will say to him, "What are you doing?"	*This is because the king possesses absolute authority, such that none of his subjects could disobey him without risking harm to himself. No one would ever dare to question the king's actions or demand an explanation for what he commands.*

Who can question what the king does?

No one can question what the king does, because his word is authoritative.

Ecclesiastes 8:5

ULT	UST
One who listens to a command will not know a bad matter, and the heart of a wise person will know the time and procedure,	*The king will not harm anyone who pays attention to what the king commands and complies with his directives. In light of this, someone who is wise will need to discern how to respond to the king's authority with careful timing and appropriate behavior.*

Who avoids harm?

Whoever keeps the king's commands avoids harm.

Ecclesiastes 8:6

ULT	UST
because for every matter there is a time and procedure, because the misfortune of humanity is severe upon him,	*They will need to know this because, although human beings endure all sorts of lamentable realities in life, in every situation in which people find themselves, there is always a proper way to do something and an appropriate moment at which to do it.*

What exists for every matter?

For every matter there is a proper time and way to do it.

Ecclesiastes 8:7

ULT	UST
for he is not knowing whatever that will be, for when it will be— who will declare it to him?	*One of the most lamentable of these realities is that the events of the future are hidden to human beings. After all, no human can foresee the future well enough to tell others about it.*

What can no one tell a person?

No one can tell a person what will happen in the future.

Ecclesiastes 8:8

ULT	UST
There is no person authorized over the wind to restrain the wind, and there is no authority over the day of death, and there is no discharge in the war, and wickedness will not deliver its masters.	*God has not enabled anyone to control the wind; in a similar way, no one can control when they will die, just like soldiers cannot decide to go home while they are fighting a battle. This is true even for those people who disobey God. Their attempts to control their own lives apart from God cannot give them mastery over what is uncontrollable.*

Over what does no one have power?

No one has power over the wind, and no one has power over the day of his death.

Ecclesiastes 8:9

ULT	UST
All this I saw while giving my heart to every deed that was done under the sun: A time that the person has authority over another person to his harm.	*As I considered the kinds of things that happen to people during their lives, I witnessed all these lamentable realities happening. I saw that sometimes people like the king possess such power over other human beings that they dominate and harm them.*

What did Qoheleth see about people's authority over others?

Qoheleth saw that sometimes a person has authority over another and uses it to harm them.

Ecclesiastes 8:10

ULT	UST
And then I saw wicked people buried, and they entered, and from a place of holiness they went. And they were praised in the city where thus they had done. This also is vapor:	*Moreover, I observed the honor that people gave to wicked people at their funerals. I had daily witnessed these wicked people going in and out of the sacred places where people worship God, and people in the city praised them for their behavior! Yet even this is only temporary, as fleeting as a mist.*

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	UST
that a decree against the evil deed is not made quickly— therefore, the heart of the sons of humanity fills in them to do evil;	*First, people in power sometimes administer justice against evil actions too slowly. For this reason, many people feel encouraged to plan and commit evil actions without fear of negative consequences.*

What happens when punishment for evil deeds is not given quickly?

When punishment for evil deeds is not given quickly, many people feel tempted to commit evil deeds without fear of consequences

Ecclesiastes 8:12

ULT	UST
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.	*Second, sometimes sinful people commit a hundred crimes, and yet they live a long life. Despite this, I am confident that the lives of people who understand that God is powerful and just and good—those who fearfully submit themselves to God—will turn out well in the end.*

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

Even if a sinner does evil a hundred times and still lives for a long time, it will be good for those who fear God and honor him.

Ecclesiastes 8:13

ULT	UST
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.	*I am also confident of the opposite: The lives of people who disobey God will not go well. Just like shadows in the setting sun appear to stretch on forever—in the same way, the current prosperity of evil people is an illusion. After all, they feel no fear when they think of God's power and justice!*

What will happen to the wicked person who does not fear God?

It will not go well for the wicked person, and he will not lengthen his days, because he does not fear God.

Ecclesiastes 8:14

ULT	UST
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.	*It is only a temporary reality of this life that the undesirable things that bad people deserve sometimes happen to good people, and the kind of lives that good people deserve seem to happen to bad people. I confess that, despite current appearances, these realities are also as temporary as a mist.*

What sometimes happens to righteous people on earth?

Sometimes righteous people seem to experience the bad things that the wicked people deserve.

Ecclesiastes 8:15

ULT	UST
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 the God has given to him under the sun.	*Living life joyfully is worth celebrating! The best that anyone can do during one's life is simply to eat and drink and be happy. For as long as this God graciously decides a person should live, this kind of simple joy will remain with him like a faithful companion, no matter what difficult labor he must do.*

Why does Qoheleth recommend happiness?

Qoheleth recommends happiness because humanity has no better thing to do than to celebrate life and be happy.

Ecclesiastes 8:16

ULT	UST
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—	*I then resolved within myself to become as wise as I could. I wanted to observe the difficult parts of people's lives so that I could understand them, even though they can make people so anxious that they cannot sleep at night or during the day.*

What did Qoheleth give his heart to know?

Qoheleth gave his heart to know wisdom and to see the business that is done on the earth.

Ecclesiastes 8:17

ULT	UST
then I saw every deed of the God: that humanity is not able to find the deed that is done under the sun, on account of which humanity toils to seek, yet he will not find, and even if the wise one says to know, he is not able to find.	*When I did this, I thought about everything that God has done. Then I realized that he has made humanity so that they can never fully comprehend everything that God does in their lives. Although people will never stop trying to understand, they will never succeed. Even if wise people claim that they understand it all, they really cannot.*

What can humanity not understand?

Humanity cannot understand everything that God does on the earth.

Ecclesiastes 9

Ecclesiastes 9:1

ULT	UST
Indeed, all of this I gave to my heart 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.	*Truly, I thought deeply about all these realities so that I could study them, including this one: It is God who controls what happens to everyone and what the labor that they do produces. This is true for wise people and those who live justly. However, people never know what will happen to them in the future. Even for righteous people, both undesirable and enjoyable things may happen to them.*

Who is in God's hands?

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

Ecclesiastes 9:2

ULT	UST
Everything is as 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 as the person who fears an oath.	*Everyone dies eventually, no matter who they are— whether they lived righteously or wickedly, whether they lived well and were ceremonially clean and able to worship God, or they were ceremonially unclean and unable to worship God, whether they offered sacrifices to God or refrained from offering sacrifices. Good people and sinful people will both die, whether they did what they promised God that they would do, or they were afraid to make such promises.*

What is the same for everyone?

Everyone dies eventually no matter how they live.

Ecclesiastes 9:3

ULT	UST
This is a misfortune about everything that is done under the sun: That one happening belongs to 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 to the dead!	*Yes, this is a lamentable part of being alive on this earth. Eventually everyone dies. But even more so, during the time that they are alive, it seems that everyone is fully intent on living like evil people. They also live like crazy people! And then after that, they die just like everyone else!*

Of what are the hearts of human beings full?

The hearts of human beings are full of evil.

Ecclesiastes 9:4

ULT	UST
For whoever that is joined to all the living, there is hope; for a living dog— it is better than the dead lion,	*Yet as long as someone is alive, one will have the opportunity to enjoy good things. Because of this, it is better to be alive than to be dead. Even though people think little of dogs in comparison to lions, the dog that is alive is better off than the lion that is dead.*

Why is it better to be alive than to be dead?

It is better to be alive because, as long as someone is alive, one has hope and the opportunity to enjoy good things.

Ecclesiastes 9:5

ULT	UST
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— even their memory is forgotten!	*This is because people who are still alive are aware that they will die someday, but dead people know nothing! Also, dead people have lost their opportunity to enjoy the good things that people can experience during their lives. Furthermore, people will forget about them!*

Why do the dead no longer have any reward?

They no longer have any reward because they no longer have anything to gain from what they have done.

Ecclesiastes 9:6

ULT	UST
Even their love, even their hate, even their jealousy—already it has perished. And there is not for them a portion any longer in perpetuity among all that is done under the sun.	*While they are alive, people love other people. They hate people, and they envy people. However, the things that these people felt died long ago. Those who have died will never again have the chance to enjoy anything good that happens during people's lives.*

What died long ago?

The love, hate, and jealousy of the dead perished long ago.

Ecclesiastes 9:7

ULT	UST
Go! Eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a good heart, because the God has already accepted your deeds.	*So, go and live your life! Allow yourself to be happy when you eat your food and to enjoy the experience of drinking wine. Remember: God wants you to do this!*

Why should a person eat and drink with joy?

A person should eat bread and drink wine with joy because God wants them to do this.

Ecclesiastes 9:8

ULT	UST
At every time let your clothes be white, and do not let oil be lacking on your head.	*Wear your best clothing all the time, and keep yourself groomed as if you were going to a party!*

What should people always wear?

They should always wear white clothes and have oil on their head.

Ecclesiastes 9:9

ULT	UST
See life with the wife whom you love all the days of your vaporous life which 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 a toiler under the sun.	*Enjoy the experience of living your fleeting life with your beloved wife. God has given you whatever time you continue to breathe, though it is as brief as the mist of my breath. God has apportioned this time for you to enjoy with your wife, even while you labor at your work.*

Who should a person enjoy life with?

A person should enjoy life with the wife he loves.

Ecclesiastes 9:10

ULT	UST
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.	*Whatever you can do, do it with all your energy. You should do this because you will die eventually. When you die and your family buries you in the ground, you will no longer be able to accomplish anything or understand why life happens the way it does—or know or understand anything!*

Why should people do whatever their hand finds to do?

People should do whatever their hand finds to do, because when they die, they will no longer be able to do anything.

Ecclesiastes 9:11

ULT	UST
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 wise people is bread, and even not to discerning people is wealth, and even not to understanding people is favor, for a time and the occurrence will happen to all of them.	*Once again, I witnessed this reality about life: The person who runs fastest does not always win the race, nor do the strongest soldiers always win the battle, nor do the wisest people always have enough food to eat, nor do the most insightful people always become financially prosperous, nor are the people who know the most always the most successful. No human being can control or predict what will happen to them.*

What happens to fast, strong, and wise people alike?

Time and unexpected events happen to all of them alike, no matter how fast, strong, or wise they are.

Ecclesiastes 9:12

ULT	UST
For humanity does not even 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.	*Even more so, no one can predict when he will die. People catch fish in deadly nets, and people catch birds in traps. Similarly, every human being will experience their inevitable death just like those fish and birds, like a deadly trap that seizes them unexpectedly.*

In what are human beings snared?

Human beings are snared at a time of misfortune that seizes them unexpectedly.

Ecclesiastes 9:13

ULT	UST
Also, this I saw: Wisdom under the sun and great it was to me.	*I also observed this truth about wisdom in this life, and it made a lasting impact on me:*

What did Qoheleth see that seemed great to him?

He saw an example of wisdom that greatly impressed him.

Ecclesiastes 9:14

ULT	UST
There was a small city, and a few men were in it. And against it came a great king, and he surrounded it, and he built against it great siegeworks.	*There was once a small town, and only a few people lived there. Then a powerful king and his army attacked that town and besieged it on all sides. The army built massive ramps against the walls so that they could climb up and conquer the town.*

What did a great king do to a small city?

He surrounded it and built great siegeworks against it.

Ecclesiastes 9:15

ULT	UST
And he found in it a poor wise man, and he himself delivered the city with his wisdom. But a person did not remember that poor man.	*Now in that town, there was a man who was poor but wise nonetheless. Remarkably, the man thought wisely and counseled actions that rescued the town from the attack. However, in a little while nobody remembered the poor man who rescued them.*

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

In a little while, no one remembered the poor wise man, who by his wisdom saved the city.

Ecclesiastes 9:16

ULT	UST
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."	*So I concluded that it is more beneficial for people to be wise than to be strong. Nonetheless, it is also true that no one values the wise thinking of poor people, nor will they listen to what they say.*

What do people do with the wisdom of a poor person?

No one values the wisdom of a poor person. They despise it and do not listen to his words.

Ecclesiastes 9:17

ULT	UST
The words of wise people in quietness are heeded more than the cry of a ruler among the fools.	*People will listen to a wise person who speaks softly more attentively than they will to a king who shouts at a crowd of foolish people.*

Whose words are heeded more than the shouting of a ruler among fools?

The quiet words of wise people are heeded more than the shouting of a ruler among fools.

Ecclesiastes 9:18

ULT	UST
Better is wisdom than weapons of battle, but one sinner will destroy much good.	*Being wise is actually a more effective instrument than the weapons that soldiers use to fight wars. Even so, the actions of a single sinful person have the potential to ruin the good things that many other people have accomplished.*

What is better than weapons of battle?

Wisdom is better than weapons of battle.

Ecclesiastes 10

Ecclesiastes 10:1

ULT	UST
Flies of death cause a perfumer's oil to putrefy and bubble; weightier than wisdom or honor is a little foolishness.	*If only a few flies die in a vat of perfume, the entire batch can become rancid and stinking. Similarly, one foolish decision can have a disastrous effect on a lifetime of wise and honorable decisions.*

To what does Qoheleth compare the consequences of a little foolishness?

Qoheleth compares the consequences of a little foolishness to a few flies in perfumer's oil that cause it to stink.

Ecclesiastes 10:2

ULT	UST
The heart of a wise person, to his right, but a heart of a fool, to his left.	*A person's wise thinking can protect them, like the right hand of a warrior that grips his sword. Yet people who think foolishly are vulnerable to the outcomes of their own poor decision-making.*

What does the heart of a wise person do compared to the heart of a fool?

The heart of a wise person goes toward the good, but the heart of a fool goes toward evil.

Ecclesiastes 10:3

ULT	UST
And even whenever the fool is walking on the road, his heart is lacking, and it says to everyone that he is a fool.	*Whenever foolish people travel on roads, they lack any common sense. They themselves make their stupidity obvious to everyone who sees them.*

What proves to everyone that a man is a fool?

When a man's behavior lacks good sense, this proves to everyone that he is a fool.

Ecclesiastes 10:4

ULT	UST
If the spirit of the ruler rises against you, do not leave your place, for calmness will cause great sins to leave.	*Should someone powerful become enraged with you, do not abandon your responsibilities with him. Remember! Calm and composed responses can lessen another's fury at serious offenses.*

What does Qoheleth say a person should do if the ruler becomes angry with him?

He should not leave his responsibilities, because remaining calm will lessen the ruler's anger and cause great sins to leave.

Ecclesiastes 10:5

ULT	UST
There is a misfortune I saw under the sun, like an unintentional sin that goes out from before the face of the authority.	*I have observed another lamentable situation in my life: Sometimes people in authority unintentionally make public mistakes.*

What misfortune does Qoheleth say he saw under the sun?

He saw a misfortune that is like an unintentional sin that comes from the authority.

Ecclesiastes 10:6

ULT	UST
Folly is placed into many high places, and rich people sit in the lowly place.	*They promote many foolish people to positions of authority, while they assign wealthy people to unimportant positions.*

Who is placed in many high places, and who sits in the lowly place?

Folly is placed in many high places, and rich people sit in the lowly place.

Ecclesiastes 10:7

ULT	UST
Indeed, I saw slaves on horses and princes walking like slaves on the ground.	*I have witnessed people promote slaves so that they ride on horses like rich people usually do. And yet, they force important officials to walk in the dirt like slaves usually do.*

What did Qoheleth see slaves doing?

Qoheleth saw slaves riding on horses like princes and saw princes walking like slaves do.

Ecclesiastes 10:8

ULT	UST
One who digs a pit will fall into it, and one who breaks through a wall—a snake will bite him.	*If someone digs a hole in the ground, he might fall into it. If someone tears down a wall, a snake living inside the wall might bite him.*

What can happen to someone who digs a pit?

If someone digs a pit, he might fall into the it.

Ecclesiastes 10:9

ULT	UST
Indeed, one who pulls up stones will be hurt by them; one who splits wood will be endangered by them.	*If someone quarries rocks, the loosened rocks might fall and injure him. If someone chops wood, the split logs might wound him.*

What can happen to someone who pulls up stones or splits wood?

Someone who pulls up stones or who splits wood can become injured.

Ecclesiastes 10:10

ULT	UST
If the iron is dull, but he himself does not lighten the faces, he must exert strength. But a profit to succeeding is wisdom.	*If a person's axe head is dull, and he has not sharpened its edges, then in order to chop something, he will have to exert more force. This all shows that being wise is the secret to success in using one's tools.*

What must a man do if he does not sharpen a dull iron blade?

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

Ecclesiastes 10:11

ULT	UST
If the snake bites without a charm, then there is no profit for the master of the tongue.	*If a snake bites someone before he can calm it, then an ability to calm snakes is of no use to him.*

What is of no benefit to the snake charmer?

If a snake bites before it is charmed, the snake charmer gets no benefit.

Ecclesiastes 10:12

ULT	UST
The words of the mouth of a wise person are favor, but the lips of a fool will swallow him.	*People will honor wise people because of the way in which they speak. However, the things that foolish people say will inevitably harm them, as if their own lips were to swallow them.*

What is a difference between the words of a wise person and the words of a foolish person?

The words of a wise person bring honor to him, but the words of a foolish person will bring harm to him.

Ecclesiastes 10:13

ULT	UST
The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness, and the end of his mouth is evil insanity,	*When foolish people begin to talk, they say stupid things, but by the time they are finished, they have said things that are madness and exceedingly harmful.*

What are the beginning and the end of a fool's words?

The beginning of a fool's words is foolishness, and the end is evil insanity.

Ecclesiastes 10:14

ULT	UST
but the fool multiplies words. Humanity does not know what will be, and that which will be after him—who will declare it to him?	*Yet the foolish person will continue talking. Nobody knows what might happen in the future. After all, there is no human being who can tell someone about what will happen to them tomorrow!*

What does Qoheleth say a person does not know?

A person does not know what might happen either tomorrow or in the future.

Ecclesiastes 10:15

ULT	UST
The toil of foolish people wearies him, so that he does not know how to go to a city.	*Foolish people become very tired by the work that they do, with the result that they are even unable to find the road to their town.*

What happens to foolish people because of their toil?

Their toil wearies them, so that they do not know how to find their way into their own city.

Ecclesiastes 10:16

ULT	UST
Woe to you, land, that your king is a youth and your princes eat in the morning.	*It is terrible for the people of a nation when their ruler acts like a boy, and when their leaders use their power to consume large meals at inappropriate times.*

When is there trouble for the land?

There is trouble for the land if its king is a youth and its princes indulge themselves instead of attending to their responsibilities.

Ecclesiastes 10:17

ULT	UST
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.	*But it is wonderful for a nation when its ruler comes from a worthy family, and when its leaders host large dinners only at the appropriate moments— eating and drinking in a dignified manner and not in drunken revelry.*

When is the land blessed?

The land is blessed when its king is a son of nobles and its princes eat at the proper time, with strength and not with drunkenness.

Ecclesiastes 10:18

ULT	UST
With laziness, the beams of the roof sink, and in idleness of hands, the house will leak.	*It is like people say: "Lazy homeowners will neglect their roofs to the point that they sag and collapse; the idle lifestyle of house owners will cause rainwater to leak into the house."*

What happens to the house because of laziness and idle hands?

Because of laziness the beams of the roof sink, and because of idle hands the house leaks.

Ecclesiastes 10:19

ULT	UST
For laughter, people are making bread, and wine gladdens life, but silver answers everything.	*Eating food can make people so happy that they laugh, and drinking wine can make one's life joyful. However, people who have wealth can respond to all of their problems.*

What does silver do, according to Qoheleth?

Silver is useful for responding to life's problems.

Ecclesiastes 10:20

ULT	UST
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.	*So, you should never dishonor the king. Do not even think about it! Neither should you speak ill of wealthy people, even when you are alone in your bedroom. After all it is possible that a little winged bird will overhear what you are saying and tell everyone what you said.*

Why should people not belittle a king or a rich person, even in private?

What you say might be repeated in public as if it was carried by a bird.

Ecclesiastes 11

Ecclesiastes 11:1

ULT	UST
Throw your bread on the face of the waters, for in many days you will find it.	*Be generous with what you have, because eventually others will also be generous to you.*

Why should people be generous with what they have?

People should be generous with what they have because others will also be generous to them in return.

Ecclesiastes 11:2

ULT	UST
Give a portion to seven and even to eight, for you do not know what will be a misfortune on the earth.	*Give a share of your goods to seven or eight people, because in this world you never know what bad things might happen to you.*

Why should people give a portion to seven, even eight people?

People should give a portion to seven, even eight people, because they do not know what misfortune will happen on the earth.

Ecclesiastes 11:3

ULT	UST
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.	*It will rain only when the clouds are ready to do so. Similarly, a fallen tree will remain in the place where it happened to topple over—wherever that might be.*

What happens when the clouds are full of rain?

When the clouds are full of rain, they pour it out on the earth.

Ecclesiastes 11:4

ULT	UST
One who attends to the wind will not sow, and one who watches the clouds will not harvest.	*If someone watches for changes in the wind, waiting for the perfect moment to plant, they will never plant their crops. Likewise, if someone watches the clouds, waiting for the perfect moment to harvest, they will never harvest their crops.*

What will the person who keeps waiting for perfect conditions do?

The person who keeps waiting for perfect conditions will delay in fulfilling their responsibilities.

Ecclesiastes 11:5

ULT	UST
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 the God who does everything.	*Now no one understands where the wind comes from or where it goes, nor does anyone understand how a life forms in a woman's womb. In this way, human beings cannot fully understand what God is doing in our lives. After all, God is in charge of everything that happens.*

What can people not know?

People cannot know the work of God, who does everything.

Ecclesiastes 11:6

ULT	UST
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 two of them as one will be good.	*Plant your crops while it is still morning, and do not stop planting until you are done— even through the evening, because you do not know which crops will grow better. One batch of crops might grow better than the other, or perhaps all of your crops will grow well.*

For how long should people plant seed?

People should plant seed in the morning and keep working until the evening.

Ecclesiastes 11:7

ULT	UST
And light is sweet, and it is good for the eyes to see the sun.	*It is a wonderful thing to be alive, just like the warm light of the sun is good for people.*

What is good for the eyes to see?

It is good for the eyes to see the sun, because it is good to be alive.

Ecclesiastes 11:8

ULT	UST
For if the man 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.	*So should anyone live for many years, that person should enjoy each one of them. However he should not allow himself to forget either the difficult moments in the past or that he will grow old and die. He will surely have many moments as difficult as the dark of night. However they will be as temporary as the mist.*

What should a man do in all the years that he lives?

He should rejoice in all of them, but he should remember that the difficult days will be many.

Ecclesiastes 11:9

ULT	UST
Rejoice young man in your youth and let your heart make you glad in the days of your young adulthood. And walk in the ways of your heart and in the sight of your eyes, but know that, on account of all these things, the God will bring you into judgment.	*So, you, young man—let yourself be happy while you are young. Allow yourself to enjoy being alive before you grow old. Pursue the things that you love to do but never forget that our God will judge you one day. He will discern whether you have enjoyed well your time or squandered it.*

What should the young man know as he rejoices in his youth?

He should know that God will bring him into judgment for all these things that he does.

Ecclesiastes 11:10

ULT	UST
And remove anger from your heart and take misfortune away from your flesh, for youth and dark hair are vapor.	*Moreover, do not allow yourself to feel angry about life, and do not pay attention to the pains in your body. Remember: Being a young man who lacks gray hair is as fleeting as the mist!*

What should people remove from their heart?

People should remove anger from their heart.

Ecclesiastes 12

Ecclesiastes 12:1

ULT	UST
So, remember your Creator in the days of your young adulthood, when the days of misfortune have not come and the years arrive of which you will say, "There is not for me pleasure in them,"	*Therefore, while you are young, live without forgetting God who gave you your life. Do this before old age makes life difficult and painful. At that time, you might say, "I no longer enjoy being alive."*

When should people honor and keep in mind their Creator?

People should honor and keep in mind their Creator in the days of their young adulthood.

Ecclesiastes 12:3

ULT	UST
in 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	*At that time, your arms that stand guard at your house will shake. The men who had strength will weaken. The grinders who mill grain will cease their task because too few of them remain. People looking out from their windows will see darkness.*

Why will women who grind cease?

The women who grind will cease because they are few.

Ecclesiastes 12:4

ULT	UST
and the doors will be shut in the street, when the sound of the grinding is low and a person rises at the sound of the bird and all the daughters of song are stooped;	*Everybody will close the doors of their houses. The sound of people grinding grain will be too faint to hear. People will awaken to the crowing of birds. People will bow down as they sing mournful songs.*

At what sound will a person rise?

A person will rise at the sound of the bird.

Ecclesiastes 12:5

ULT	UST
also, they are afraid of a high thing and terrors are in the way and the almond tree blossoms and the locust moves along and the caper-fruit fails— for humanity is going to his eternal home and the mourners go around in the street —	*People will even fear high places. It will be dangerous to walk the roads. The flowers of almond trees will become white as they ripen. Grasshoppers will drag themselves on the ground. The caperberry will fail to heal. This is because people are dying. Their relatives bury their bodies, and people circle the streets as they grieve.*

Where is humanity going?

Humanity is going to their eternal home.

Ecclesiastes 12:6

ULT	UST
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	*Remember God before your life ends— like a silver chain that snaps or a golden bowl that falls and breaks; like a jug that shatters against a well, or the wheel of a reservoir that cracks.*

What will happen to our lives?

Our lives will end like a silver chain that snaps and like a golden bowl that is broken.

Ecclesiastes 12:7

ULT	UST
and the dust returns to the earth as that it was and the spirit returns to God who gave it.	*At that time, our bodies will decay and become dirt again, and our spirits will return to God who gave them.*

What will happen to our bodies after we die?

Our bodies will decay and return to the earth from where it came.

Ecclesiastes 12:8

ULT	UST
“Vapor of vapors!” says the Qoheleth. “Everything is vapor!”	*So, Qoheleth said: “All of life is as temporary and insubstantial as the mist of my breath! Everything is emptiness!”*

What does Qoheleth say about all of life?

Qoheleth says everything is vapor—temporary and insubstantial.

Ecclesiastes 12:9

ULT	UST
More than that Qoheleth was wise, again he taught the people knowledge, and he weighed and he searched. He ordered many proverbs.	*So, not only did people recognize that Qoheleth was a wise man, but he also taught his fellow Israelites many truths. He studied and considered many things during his life and wrote down many of the proverbs that he had collected.*

What did Qoheleth teach the people?

Qoheleth taught the people knowledge.

Ecclesiastes 12:10

ULT	UST
Qoheleth sought to find words of pleasure, and words of truth were written rightly.	*Qoheleth labored so that he would only use suitable words which were also pleasant. The words that he wrote are reliable and true.*

What did Qoheleth seek to find?

Qoheleth sought to find words of pleasure and truth.

Ecclesiastes 12:11

ULT	UST
The words of wise people are like goads, and like nails implanted are masters of collections. They are given by one Shepherd.	*Wise people teach us in a way that provokes a change in one's behavior, just like the sharp tools that people use to spur large animals to move. The written collections of the things that wise people have taught are as enduring as nails that someone drives into wood. God is the one who gives these wise insights.*

Like what are the words of the wise?

The words of the wise are like goads, which are sharp tools people use to make animals move.

Ecclesiastes 12:12

ULT	UST
But more than them my son, be warned—of the making of many scrolls there is no end, and much study is weariness of flesh.	*However, my child, understand that you will discover nothing profitable by listening to the teachings of so-called wise people. People will never stop writing books, and attempting to study them all will exhaust you.*

What does much study bring?

Much study brings weariness to the body.

Ecclesiastes 12:13

ULT	UST
The end of the matter, everything has been heard: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole of humanity.	*This is the last of Qoheleth's lectures, now that you've heard everything: Fearfully submit yourself to God, so that you live your life the way he asks. Do this because this is the duty of every human!*

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	UST
For every deed the God will bring into judgment concerning everything hidden, whether good or whether evil.	*This is because God will judge everything that humans have done, even things that people have done secretly— good decisions and evil decisions alike.*

What will God bring into judgment?

God will bring every deed into judgment, including everything hidden, whether good or evil.