

LIFE UNDER THE SUN



STUDIES IN ECCLESIASTES

14 October 2018

הַבַּיִת

“First you have to give up. First you have to know, not fear, KNOW, that someday you’re gonna die...It’s only after we’ve lost everything that we’re free to do anything.”

— Tyler Durden, *Fight Club* (Film)

Ecclesiastes Part 10 - “*Living a Life of Wisdom*”

Introduction: What’s in a name?

Questions: 1. _____? →

2. _____? →

The Structure of Ecclesiastes 7:1-14

Two Key Verses: Eccl. 7:1—A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth.

Eccl. 7:14—In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.

- The repetitive use of the Hebrew word *yomim*, which is translated ‘day,’ shows us that overall theme of these verses is related to the passing of the days of our lives and how it is that we will live during that time.

Our days can be measured on a _____ (7:1):

Our days can be measured on a _____ (7:14):

Key Point: We are to live _____ rather than _____ during the days of our lives.

Proverbs that Convey the Mindset of Wisdom—Ecclesiastes 7:2-6

1. To be wise is to regularly face the reality of your impending death.

Eccl. 7:2—It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart.

⇒ To be at peace with our own _____ is a key component of living wisely.

Eccl. 7:3-4³ Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness of face the heart is made glad. ⁴The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

⇒ Those acquainted with sorrow and grief have a greater _____ for times of joy and celebration.

2. To be foolish is to live a life of escapism, seeking to avoid the reality of death.

Eccl. 7:5-6⁵ It is better for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise than to hear the song of fools. ⁶ For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fools; this also is vanity.

Consider the terms Qohelet associates with fools:

“songs” →

“laughter” →

Observation: The life of the wise person should be characterized by both _____ & _____.

Proverbs that Convey the Benefits of Wisdom—Ecclesiastes 7:7-12

Ecc. 7:7—Surely oppression drives the wise into madness, and a bribe corrupts the heart.

⇒ Wisdom leads a person to be infuriated by _____ in the world.

Ecc. 7:8—Better is the end of a thing than its beginning, and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

⇒ Wisdom helps a person to put things in _____ and keeps them _____.

Ecc. 7:9—Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the heart of fools.

⇒ Wisdom leads a person to be _____.

Ecc. 7:10—Say not, “Why were the former days better than these?” For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.

⇒ Wisdom leads a person appreciate the _____ of time.

Ecc. 7:11-12—¹¹ Wisdom is good with an inheritance, an advantage to those who see the sun. ¹² For the protection of wisdom is like the protection of money, and the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the life of him who has it.

⇒ Wisdom produces _____ in the life of the person who lives according to it.

Observation: There is much to be _____ in leading a life of wisdom.

The Difficult Realities of Life—Ecclesiastes 7:13-14

Ecc. 7:13-14—¹³ Consider the work of God: who can make straight what he has made crooked? ¹⁴ In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.

1. Living a life of wisdom often proves to be _____! (_____)
2. Living a life of wisdom does not _____ that things will always go well! (_____)

Observation: To live wisely in the midst of these realities is to _____ on the works of God and to continue to _____ Him throughout the days of our lives.

Jesus & the Life of Wisdom

1. The OT associates the wisdom of God with the _____ of the Messiah (Isa. 11:1-3a), anticipating His faithfulness, but also the fact that He would be familiar with sorrow and grief (Isa. 53:3).
2. Jesus lived His life with a clear understanding of His own impending death.

Mark 8:31-32a—³¹ And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² And he said this plainly.

3. Jesus understood the realities of death and came ultimately to _____ it.

- * The death of His earthly father, Joseph, is implied in the Gospels.
- * The widow's son (Luke 7:11-17), Jairus' daughter (Mark 5:21-43)
- * The raising of Lazarus is perhaps the greatest example of Jesus dealing with the realities of death (John 11:1-44).

John 11:23-27—²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

4. For the believer, to trust in Jesus and to walk with Him by _____ is the foundation of a life of wisdom.

1 Cor. 1:30-31—³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”