

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 06 June 2021..... Job 01-02..... Faith Tested
- 2) 13 June..... Job 03-14..... Hope Defined
- 3) 20 June..... Job 15-21..... Redemption Found
- 4) 27 June..... Job 22-28..... Wisdom Gained
- 5) 04 July..... Job 29-31..... Justice Sought
- 6) 11 July..... Job 32-37..... Power Displayed
- 7) 18 July..... Job 38-42..... Dependence Declared
- 8) 25 July..... Ecclesiastes 01-02..... What's the Use?
- 9) 01 Aug..... Ecclesiastes 03-05..... What Time Is It?
- 10) 08 Aug..... Ecclesiastes 05-06..... Why Listen?
- 11) 15 Aug..... Ecclesiastes 07-08..... Where is the Balance?
- 12) 22 Aug..... Ecclesiastes 09-10..... Facing Death?**
- 13) 29 Aug..... Ecclesiastes 11-12..... What is Life About?

**INTRODUCTION**

- Solomon hits us with more harsh realities of life: Time and chance rules; one fate (death) awaits all; one sinner can destroy much good; foolishness is weightier than wisdom; some get hurt and others can die on the job; and money is the answer to everything

Passage	Comments
Ecc 9:1-10	<p><b>Living in Spite of Death</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v1. "...no man knows whether love or hate awaits [the righteous]" (NIV). The NLT translation has an interesting perspective "...no one knows whether God will show them favor"</li> <li>• vv2-3. One fate (death) awaits everyone whether they be rich or poor, righteous or wicked – "this is an evil". - Again, from Solomon's earthly perspective where's God's justice? From a Heavenly perspective God will render justice to everyone for every deed after this life</li> <li>• v5. "...the dead know nothing..." – Jehovah Witnesses use this verse and a few others like it to justify soul sleep – but they fail to factor in the context. From Solomon's earthly perspective, the dead are non-contributors to the living. When was the last time you even thought of your great-great-grandparents?</li> <li>• v6. "Their love, hate, and zeal...have disappeared" – Solomon conveys 2 extremes in life (love &amp; hate) and the zeal that drives the living to live – but upon one's death, even those attributes mean nothing to the living</li> <li>• v7. "...drink wine with a cheerful heart" – Again, consider the context and cultural background of the passage before embracing the consumption of alcohol. Back then, common beverages included water, wine, and goats milk. Wine was a healthier substitute to dirty water, but it still carried a stigma when taken in excess</li> <li>• v8. Does this verse convey a party life? NLT says "Wear fine clothes, with a splash of cologne!" - If anyone should convey joy in all aspects of life it's Christians, BUT we need to act appropriately since we are accountable in life for every word, thought, &amp; deed</li> <li>• v9. NASB states a man's reward in life is to enjoy living with the woman he loves, but NASB doesn't state if it is with his wife or girlfriend. All other versions specify wife.</li> <li>• v10. "...there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol" – This is a GREAT passage on what Heaven will be like – For all eternity we will be involved in Activities, in Planning things, and always expanding our Knowledge. <b>There will be no boredom in Heaven</b></li> </ul>
9:11-18	<p><b>Timing and Providence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v11. Time and chance happens to all. Remember that God works in our lives in a providential way – and only He controls each roll of the dice ..... <a href="#">Proverbs 16:33</a></li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv13-17. The moral of the story of the forgotten poor wise man that saved a town from destruction is that the wise accomplish the most good in discreet quiet ways.</li> <li>• v18. "Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good." Example #1 – Wise counsel to Fight, Flight, or Surrender minimizes death. Example #2 – Gossip can ruin a reputation for years</li> </ul>
10:1-20	<p><b>Wisdom and Foolishness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v1. "Foolishness outweighs wisdom &amp; honor" – Similar to 1 bad apple ruins the whole barrel</li> <li>• v2. "The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left" – This euphemism is used in politics to convey conservatism vs. liberalism. Where does Christ sit? On the right hand of God (<a href="#">Col 3:1</a>).</li> <li>• v4. The Amplified states this "If the temper of the ruler rises up against you, do not leave your place &lt;or show a resisting spirit&gt;; for gentleness and calmness prevent or put a stop to great offenses." – Similar to "A soft answer turns away wrath" ..... <a href="#">Proverbs 15:1</a></li> <li>• vv6-9. Another evil is realized – No Good Deed Goes Unpunished (RLT – Rod's Lose Translation)</li> <li>• v10-15. More proverbial words of wisdom – Wise ones are seen as industrious and gracious speakers. Fools are seen as lazy and speaker of idle and harsh words</li> <li>• vv16-17. More Political Insight – Young leaders can be dangerous as well as greedy/gluttonous politicians who are only there to help themselves – BUT a land will prosper if the politicians are wise and noble</li> <li>• v18. Laziness is exemplified by avoiding necessary upkeep and "waiting till the roof caves in"</li> <li>• v19. "Money is the answer to everything" – How true from a worldly perspective.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ The Message Bible says "money makes the world go around". Other versions: Money is a defense (AV); protection (NASB); shelter (NIV)</li> <li>♦ Over 1000 passages in Scripture deal directly with wealth, 2nd only to Love; Jesus spoke more about money than any other subject – except Love; 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s of the Lord's parables are about Money. Money is talked about more than Heaven or Hell.</li> <li>♦ How we handle money is a strong indicator of our level of spiritual maturity - Larry Burkett</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**NEXT WEEK: Ecclesiastes 11-12.** Solomon shares with us his ultimate conclusion of his effort to find life's true meaning – simply, a life lived without God is meaningless, vanity of vanities, chasing the wind.



This new Baptist-approved app will tell us whether or not we can go in