

{21} Ecclesiastes

(19) A feast is made for laughter, and wine makes merry: but money answers all *things*.

(20) Do not curse the king, no not even in your thoughts; and do not curse the rich in your bedroom: because a bird of the air will carry the voice, and that which has wings will tell the matter.

Chapter 11

(1) Cast your bread upon the waters: because you will find it after many days.

(2) Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; because you do not know what evil will be upon the earth.

(3) If the clouds are full of rain, they empty *themselves* upon the earth: and if the tree falls towards the south, or towards the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it will remain.

(4) He who observes the wind will not sow; and he who regards the clouds will not reap.

(5) As you do not know what *is* the way of the spirit, *nor* how the bones *do grow* in the womb of her who is with child: even so you do not know the works of God Who makes all.

(6) In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening do not withhold your hand: because you do not know whether either this or that will prosper, or whether they both *will be* alike good.

(7) Truly the light *is* sweet, and a pleasant *thing it is* for the eyes to see the sun:

(8) But if a man lives many years, *and* rejoices in them all; yet let him remember the days of darkness; because they will be many. All that comes *is* vanity.

(9) Rejoice, O young man, in your youth; and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth, and walk in the ways of your heart, and in the sight of your eyes: but know, that for all these *things* God will bring you into judgment.

(10) Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, and put away evil from your flesh: because childhood and youth *are* vanity.

Chapter 12

(1) Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, while the evil days do not come, nor the years draw near, when you will say, I have no pleasure in them;

(2) While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, are not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain:

(3) In the day when the keepers of the house will tremble, and the strong men will bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look out of the windows are darkened,

(4) And the doors will be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he will rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music will be brought low;

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(5) Also *when* they will be afraid of *that which is high*, and fears *will be* in the way, and the almond tree will flourish, and the grasshopper will be a burden, and desire will fail: because man goes to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:

(6) Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

(7) Then the dust will return to the earth as it was: and the spirit will return to God Who gave it.

(8) Vanity of vanities, says the preacher; all *is* vanity.

(9) And furthermore, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he gave good heed, and sought out, *and set in order many proverbs.*

(10) The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and *that which was written was upright, even words of truth.*

(11) The words of the wise *are* as goads {pointed sticks; cattle prods}, and as nails fastened *by* the masters of assemblies, *which* are given from one shepherd.

(12) And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books *there is no end*; and much study *is a weariness of the flesh.*

(13) Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear {reverence} God, and keep His commandments: because this *is the whole duty of man.*

(14) Because God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it is good*, or whether *it is evil.*