

1. Solomon's Advice for the _____ and _____ (11:7-12:8)

1.1. _____ in Good from God (11:7-10)

NET: Qoheleth is simply saying that the experience of a life is a pleasant thing that should be savored.

1.2. _____ Your Creator in Life (12:1-8)

2. Solomon's _____ Conclusion (12:9-14)

2.1. The Preacher's _____: Proverbs of Truth (12:9-12)

2.2. The Preacher's Final _____: Fear God, Keep His Commandments (12:13-14)

If we honor and tremble at the reality of God, it will outshine lesser fears:

1. Ecclesiastes 1:4-10 — God has created everything we see and we have essentially done nothing to alter the course of nature even after billions of people and thousands of years. Man is forgotten.

2. Ecclesiastes 2:15-16; 3:19-21; 6:6; 9:12 — God has determined the date of our death. We cannot do something as small as know when we are going to die on this planet.
3. Ecclesiastes 2:25-26 — The very substance of physical things like drinking comes from God's hand and yet the enjoyment for those things comes from God's hand as well.
4. Ecclesiastes 3:1-9 — God has set a time for everything under the sun. The spectrum of life is in His hand.
5. Ecclesiastes 3:11-15 — God has put the yearning for purpose in our hearts. And yet we cannot discover the work of God and how we fit in. Everything God does will remain forever, there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing to take from it.
6. Ecclesiastes 5:1-2 — God is to be respected when we approach His house. Go to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools. God is in heaven and you are on earth, therefore let your words be few.
7. Ecclesiastes 6:12 — God knows what is good for a man during his lifetime. Our life is like a shadow that can count because God can tell us what comes after us under the sun.
8. Ecclesiastes 7:13-14 — Consider the work of God, for who is able to straighten what He has bent? Nobody. God has made prosperity and adversity so that man will not discover anything that will be after him.
9. Ecclesiastes 8:15 — God Himself has given man his days under the sun.
10. Ecclesiastes 8:17 — The work of God cannot be discovered by man under the sun.
11. Ecclesiastes 9:1 — The righteous man and his deeds are in the hand of God. Man doesn't know the future but he abides in God's hand.
12. Ecclesiastes 11:5 — You don't know the path of the wind or how bones are formed in the pregnant woman, so you do not know the activity of God who makes all things.
13. Ecclesiastes 11:9; 12:7; 12:14 — God will assess every deed and motive when the spirit returns to God.
14. Ecclesiastes 12:13 — Fear God. Keep His commandments.

Kaiser (187-188): No formula of legalism is this "keeping of his commandments." Neither is it a method of earning favor to be used when facing God. It is a summary of the beginning, middle, and end of life as we know it on this earth: coming to know and trust the living God; receiving the gifts of life's goods; learning how to enjoy those mundane gifts; understanding the major part of the plan of God; and being guided into joyous and strenuous activity in the art of living even while portions of life remain enigmatic. What a book! What a good God! What a life! And what a plan!