

In my opinion, the book of Ecclesiastes was penned by Solomon. The descriptions the penman gives are of the very same things Solomon experienced. The word "Ecclesiastes" means preacher, or one who addresses an assembly. The penman is looking back over his life with many regrets. He believes, and expresses over and over, that all is vanity.

We will now begin with the verse by verse study in Ecclesiastes 1:1 "The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem."

This verse validates the fact that this is Solomon.

Ecclesiastes 1:2 "Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all [is] vanity."

"Vanity", in the above Scripture, means emptiness, or something transitory. In other words, it is like sighing, because there is nothing to hope for. It speaks of hopelessness. Vanity seems to be the keynote for this entire book. Solomon is looking back, and believes that his life has been in vain.

Ecclesiastes 1:3 "What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?"

This is such a strange statement for a man with all the advantages that Solomon had. Of earthly Old Testament people, Solomon was the wisest man that ever lived. God showered him with great wealth and fame, because he asked for neither. The statement he makes, here, is appropriate for mankind as a whole. It seems we work our life away and at the end of the road, when we look back over our life, many of us think; what was this all about? Many people wonder what they have accomplished toward helping society. "Under the sun" is an expression he uses often. It has to do with things of this earth.

Ecclesiastes 1:4 "[One] generation passeth away, and [another] generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever."

His observations are very true about the generations passing. It was not, however, the intention of God for man to die. Man brought death of his body, when sin entered the picture in the garden of Eden. The spirit of man can live on in the new man in heaven. On this earth, the life span of a person is just under a 100 years, and then the children take over. The earth has lasted a very long time, and would have been the permanent dwelling place of Adam and Eve had they not sinned. We know that Moses wandered with the children of Israel 40 years, until that generation, who disobeyed God, died off. The next generation went into the promised land.

Ecclesiastes 1:5 "The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose."

This just speaks of the continuation of day and night upon the earth. One day follows another, on and on, but they are each separated by a period of night. The sameness is interrupted by the opposite sameness. It seems endless to Solomon.

Ecclesiastes 1:6 "The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits."

This speaks of the movement of the wind, which seems to be in a never ending cycle. This truly speaks of our orderly God, but Solomon sees futility in even the change of the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:7 "All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea [is] not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again."

Solomon can see no results from the endless running of the rivers into the sea. The truth is, that the water is drawn by the sun, and replenishes the earth with rain. If he is speaking of the Dead Sea, which is actually the lowest point on the earth, it seems to absorb the flow off and turns into solids. I believe he really is saying, that water somehow goes back to its origination point and starts again. To Solomon, it seems like an endless cycle.

Ecclesiastes 1:8 "All things [are] full of labour; man cannot utter [it]: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing."

There is no way for man to speak every word. Even the fact of man's education to be able to speak properly, is work. The more one speaks, the more he is aware there is more to learn, to speak better. The eye never tires of looking. No one with sight, decides they would rather be blind. The same is true with hearing. No one who can hear, chooses to be deaf, because they are tired of hearing. These are continuous things in our lives, until the day we shed this body of flesh. It seems the more we see, the more we want to see.

Ecclesiastes 1:9 "The thing that hath been, it [is that] which shall be; and that which is done [is] that which shall be done: and [there is] no new [thing] under the sun."

Solomon says, it is like treading water. We are getting nowhere fast. Solomon sees life as a never ending circle of events. It seems, to me, in all of this, that Solomon would like to improve the situation around him. He finds he is not able to do that, and it leaves him with a feeling of futility. He believes that each generation faces the very same problems of life that the generation before them did. It is as if all that he does is in vain.

Ecclesiastes 1:10 "Is there [any] thing whereof it may be said, See, this [is] new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us."

This certainly did seem to be the case for thousands of years. Even in our time, some things are the same. Our people have gotten so far away from God, He is almost sorry He created them. Luke 17:26 "And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man." Our generation has seen more real change, however, than any generation in history. For thousands of years men rode horses to get to their destination. Just in the last 100 years, the automobile and airplane have become a more useful way to get from point to point. The computer age that

we are in now, is another break-through with knowledge. This is a fulfillment of that very thing. Daniel 12:4 "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, [even] to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

Ecclesiastes 1:11 "[There is] no remembrance of former [things]; neither shall there be [any] remembrance of [things] that are to come with [those] that shall come after."

This really is saying, that one generation seems not to learn from the mistakes of the generation before them. They come along and get involved in the very same sins their fathers did. One really good reason for this, is we do not study our Bible enough, and learn what they did wrong.

Ecclesiastes 1:12 "I the Preacher was king over Israel in Jerusalem."

This is speaking of the 40 years that Solomon reigned as king. I personally believe this is spoken toward the end of Solomon's reign. He is looking back over his reign as king, as if he failed as king.

Ecclesiastes 1:13 "And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all [things] that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith."

When God offered Solomon a gift, Solomon asked for wisdom to lead his people. God granted that wish. I Kings 3:12 "Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee." The following is one of Solomon's comments. Proverbs 2:2 "So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, [and] apply thine heart to understanding;" Solomon sought the secret of life through earthly wisdom. The secret of life is found in Jesus Christ. He is Life.

Ecclesiastes 1:14 "I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all [is] vanity and vexation of spirit."

I Kings 4:30 "And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt." I Kings 4:31 "For he was wiser than all men; than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol: and his fame was in all nations round about." I Kings 4:32 "And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five." Solomon soon forgot that he built the temple in Jerusalem. It seems, that even that had not given him fulfillment for his life. It is as if he is saying, my life of work was in vain.

Ecclesiastes 1:15 "[That which is] crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered."

This is speaking of the events in a person's life. It is as if we have no control of our destiny. This is definitely a cause for a person to seek Jesus Christ as his Saviour. It is saying, that all his efforts to save himself are in vain.

Ecclesiastes 1:16 "I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all [they] that have

been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge."

Solomon's wisdom was a gift from God. The same is true with all of us. Knowledge is accumulated learning, but wisdom is a gift from God. We see from the following Scriptures, that Solomon's wisdom and knowledge was given to him by God, and that it far excelled every other person's on the earth. I Kings 3:12 "Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee." I Kings 3:13 "And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days." He was appreciative of all of this, but still, this did not fill that need that each of us has, until we are in fellowship with Jesus.

Ecclesiastes 1:17 "And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit."

All of the wisdom in the world cannot bring peace, unless the person who has it, uses it to come to Christ as his Saviour. On his search for bringing peace to his world, Solomon married many women. This was folly. It did not bring peace. It brought false gods of these women. His quest for peace, at any cost, brought the worship of false gods into his land. All such attempts, aside from God, fail. Only Jesus {King of Peace} can bring the peace Solomon searched for.

Ecclesiastes 1:18 "For in much wisdom [is] much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow."

The more we understand about the society we live in, the more troubling it is. This is certainly the case with Solomon, as well. In that sense, the more we know, the more we grieve. I Corinthians 3:18 "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise." I Corinthians 3:19 "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness." I Corinthians 3:20 "And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain."

## Ecclesiastes 1 Questions

1. Who penned Ecclesiastes?
2. What does "Ecclesiastes" mean?
3. What does the penman express, over and over, in this book?
4. Who was the penman's father?
5. Where was he king?
6. What does verse 1 validate?
7. What does "vanity", in these Scriptures, mean?
8. What is vanity like in these Scriptures.
9. What does Solomon look back and believe about his life?
10. What were some of the advantages that Solomon had?
11. The statement Solomon makes, in verse 3, is appropriate for \_\_\_\_\_ as a whole.
12. What is an expression Solomon uses so often in this book?
13. Man brought death of his body when?
14. The life span of man on this earth is just under \_\_\_\_\_ years.
15. Why did Moses wander 40 years in the wilderness?
16. What is verse 5 saying?
17. What does the wind, in verse 6, speak of?
18. All the rivers run into the \_\_\_\_\_.
19. What is the lowest point of the earth.
20. The eye is not satisfied with \_\_\_\_\_.
21. Solomon sees life, as a never ending \_\_\_\_\_ of events.
22. Quote Luke chapter 17 verse 26.
23. Quote Daniel chapter 12 verse 4.
24. Why do we not learn from the mistakes of those other Bible characters?
25. How many years did Solomon reign?
26. When God offered Solomon a gift, what did Solomon ask for?
27. Quote Proverbs chapter 2 verse 2.
28. Whose wisdom did Solomon's wisdom excel?
29. How many proverbs did Solomon speak?
30. How many songs did he write?
31. Solomon's \_\_\_\_\_ was a gift from God?
32. What is knowledge?
33. What did God give Solomon, besides wisdom?
34. Who can bring the peace that Solomon sought for?
35. The wisdom of this world is \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

We will begin in Ecclesiastes 2:1 "I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also [is] vanity."

We see that Solomon was so dissatisfied with life the way he had experienced it, that he decides to try pleasure of the flesh. He is like so many who look for peace in all the wrong places. He has plenty of money and fame, but that does not satisfy the hungry soul. I have heard so many people say, they thought great riches would make them happy. When they acquired the great riches, they were still unhappy. Some of them searched for fame, thinking that would satisfy them. True satisfaction comes from a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Nothing else in life can fill that void. In verse one above, he finds that fleshly happiness does not bring satisfaction either.

Ecclesiastes 2:2 "I said of laughter, [It is] mad: and of mirth, What doeth it?"

This speaks of laughing on the surface, but your heart is crying. Laughter is but for a moment. Proverbs 14:13 "Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth [is] heaviness."

Ecclesiastes 2:3 "I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what [was] that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life."

Many people, in our society today, drink alcohol and take drugs to hide from the realities of life. They feel, that for a moment, the deadening will help them to forget their sorrows. It really does not work. When the effects are gone, they are even more depressed than when they began. This is what Solomon discovered, here, as well.

Ecclesiastes 2:4 "I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards:"

The accumulations of fine houses and vineyards will not help. Things do not bring that peace, Solomon is looking for. Peace and satisfaction is not brought by outward influences. This comes from the heart of man.

Ecclesiastes 2:5 "I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all [kind of] fruits:"

Solomon loved beautiful gardens. The garden he had on the outskirts of Jerusalem was well known. Even the beautiful gardens he loved, did not bring the satisfaction he was looking for.

Ecclesiastes 2:6 "I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees:"

Many people find it very soothing to live on the banks of a lake. This was the thoughts of Solomon, as well. Again, this does not cause him to be satisfied.

Ecclesiastes 2:7 "I got [me] servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me:"

We know that even the queen of Sheba was impressed by the finery of the king's court. She had many servants herself, but nothing to compare with Solomon's. I Kings 9:20 "[And] all the people [that were] left of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, which [were] not of the children of Israel," I Kings 9:21 "Their children that were left after them in the land, whom the children of Israel also were not able utterly to destroy, upon those did Solomon levy a tribute of bondservice unto this day." We can see from the following Scripture, an example of the number of animals he had. II Kings 3:4 "And Mesha king of Moab was a sheepmaster, and rendered unto the king of Israel an hundred thousand lambs, and an hundred thousand rams, with the wool."

Ecclesiastes 2:8 "I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, [as] musical instruments, and that of all sorts."

Solomon, besides being the wisest man, was also the richest man. The following Scripture is an example of the wealth he acquired in one year. I Kings 10:14 "Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold," We see in the following Scripture, that Solomon had whatever he wanted. He had many singers and those who played instruments. I Chronicles 25:6 "All these [were] under the hands of their father for song [in] the house of the LORD, with cymbals, psalteries, and harps, for the service of the house of God, according to the king's order to Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman."

Ecclesiastes 2:9 "So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me."

Solomon's wealth, fame, and wisdom were known throughout the lands around them. I Kings 10:23 "So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom."

Ecclesiastes 2:10 "And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour."

We see, in this, a fulfillment of every earthly desire that any person could imagine was Solomon's. Everything Solomon put his hand to prospered. Attaining worldly fame and fortune cannot bring true happiness. The search for fulfillment in life, always ends with searching for the Lord and everlasting life. All the other things do not satisfy.

Ecclesiastes 2:11 "Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all [was] vanity and vexation of spirit, and [there was] no profit under the sun."

All of this is nothing. It does not satisfy the soul. All the things, mentioned in this chapter, are no comparison at all, to the satisfaction knowing Jesus brings. Proverbs 15:16 "Better [is] little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith." I John 2:16 "For all

that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." I John 2:17 "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

Ecclesiastes 2:12 "And I turned myself to behold wisdom, and madness, and folly: for what [can] the man [do] that cometh after the king? [even] that which hath been already done."

About the highest honor a man can attain on this earth is to be king. Wisdom, in a sense, is no better than folly or madness, if it is worldly wisdom. None of them satisfy his soul. This, to me, is saying Solomon does not want to start all over as king. He has done what he could, and going over it again would not help.

Ecclesiastes 2:13 "Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness."

Proverbs 4:18 "But the path of the just [is] as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Proverbs 4:19 "The way of the wicked [is] as darkness: they know not at what they stumble." Ephesians 5:8 "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now [are ye] light in the Lord: walk as children of light:"

Ecclesiastes 2:14 "The wise man's eyes [are] in his head; but the fool walketh in darkness: and I myself perceived also that one event happeneth to them all."

"Eyes" speak of intelligence. The one event that "happeneth to them all" is death. John 11:10 "But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him." I John 2:11 "But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes."

Ecclesiastes 2:15 "Then said I in my heart, As it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth even to me; and why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart, that this also [is] vanity."

Solomon knows that just being filled with wisdom will not extend his life. His speculation, here, is if this is so, what advantage is it to be wise?

Ecclesiastes 2:16 "For [there is] no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now [is] in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise [man]? as the fool."

Solomon is a little negative in this statement. This is not exactly true. Solomon was remembered above his fellows for the wisdom he conveyed to all of us, when he penned some of the wisdom he had into a book. Surely the wise and the foolish do die, when their time God has allotted them to die comes. They have no control over death. God is the Controller. Hebrews 9:27 "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"

Ecclesiastes 2:17 "Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun [is] grievous unto me: for all [is] vanity and vexation of spirit."



This is a climax of the other statements he has made. The word "therefore" connects the previous verses. Because death comes to all, I hate life, is what he is saying. He feels no accomplishment, in spite of the fact he has accomplished so much. He feels as if he has failed God.

Ecclesiastes 2:18 "Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me."

After reigning 40 years, Solomon will die, and someone else will take his place. I Kings 11:11 "Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant."

Ecclesiastes 2:19 "And who knoweth whether he shall be a wise [man] or a fool? yet shall he have rule over all my labour wherein I have laboured, and wherein I have shewed myself wise under the sun. This [is] also vanity."

When a man dies, the work he has wrought with his hands is another's. It is not very pleasant for him to realize that the works of his hands might pass to someone undeserving. Since he does not know who God will choose to rule after him, he also does not know whether he will be wise, or a fool. All of his wisdom is gone, when he dies. He cannot pass his wisdom on to another. Wisdom is a gift from God.

Ecclesiastes 2:20 "Therefore I went about to cause my heart to despair of all the labour which I took under the sun."

We can see that Solomon was greatly troubled, about what would happen to the things he had built by the wisdom God had given him. He is looking back and wondering what earthly good was all of it.

Ecclesiastes 2:21 "For there is a man whose labour [is] in wisdom, and in knowledge, and in equity; yet to a man that hath not laboured therein shall he leave it [for] his portion. This also [is] vanity and a great evil."

This is Solomon speaking of himself. The person who takes Solomon's place has not worked to build all of this. He receives this, because God is taking it from Solomon. Psalms 49:10 "For he seeth [that] wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others."

Ecclesiastes 2:22 "For what hath man of all his labour, and of the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath laboured under the sun?"

There is a certain amount of pride, that goes along with the finishing of some important project here on the earth. It is a known fact, that none of that follows us after our death. The only treasures we carry with us, are those we have stored in heaven before our death. Things we do for ourselves, or for earthly fame, will be of no assistance in heaven. Solomon had great wealth and fame on the earth. All of that is left behind. Matthew 16:26 "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Ecclesiastes 2:23 "For all his days [are] sorrows, and his travail grief; yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night. This is also vanity."

Solomon has difficulty sleeping, because of his thoughts about the inevitable end that comes to all. Job 14:1 "Man [that is] born of a woman [is] of few days, and full of trouble." Jesus explains that this world is full of trouble. Our hope is in Him. John 16:33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

Ecclesiastes 2:24 "[There is] nothing better for a man, [than] that he should eat and drink, and [that] he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it [was] from the hand of God."

We find that even the everyday functions of eating and drinking can only take place at the will of God. The prayer that Jesus taught the apostles says, "Give us this day our daily bread". It is by the grace of God, that we have bread to eat. We should be thankful for whatever God has provided us with. We should be like Paul and be satisfied with what God has given us. I Timothy 6:8 "And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."

Ecclesiastes 2:25 "For who can eat, or who else can hasten [hereunto], more than I?"

Possibly, Solomon had the most to be thankful for.

Ecclesiastes 2:26 "For [God] giveth to a man that [is] good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to [him that is] good before God. This also [is] vanity and vexation of spirit."

God had thought very highly of Solomon. He had loved him so much, that He gave him wisdom above all his fellowmen. He gave him great wealth and tremendous fame. Solomon did not stay faithful to God. The temptations of life were more than he could handle, and he sinned. God will abundantly bless those who are in the will of God. The wealth of the sinner is laid up for the righteous. God does not overlook the slightest thing you do to please Him. God is the Rewarder of those who follow Him.

## Ecclesiastes 2 Questions

1. What caused Solomon to try pleasure for satisfaction?
2. Where else had Solomon looked for satisfaction?
3. Where does true satisfaction come from?
4. What is verse 2 speaking of?
5. Quote Proverbs chapter 14 verse 13.
6. What does the author believe the problem is in our society today with drugs and alcohol?
7. Solomon built what, that did not satisfy him.
8. Where is true peace from?
9. Where did Solomon get this huge number of servants.
10. What queen was overwhelmed by Solomon's finery?
11. He had \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ singers.
12. What were some of the musical instruments Solomon had?
13. Quote 1 Kings chapter 10 verse 23.
14. Attaining worldly fame and wealth cannot bring \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Quote Proverbs chapter 15 verse 16.
16. Quote 1 John chapter 2 verse 16.
17. What do wisdom, folly, and madness have in common?
18. How much does wisdom excel folly?
19. Quote Ephesians chapter 5 verse 8.
20. The wise man's eyes are in his \_\_\_\_\_.
21. Quote John chapter 11 verse 10.
22. He that hateth his brother is in \_\_\_\_\_.
23. What does Solomon say, in verse 16, that is not absolutely the way it is?
24. Quote Hebrews chapter 9 verse 27.
25. Why did he hate life?
26. Why did he hate his work?
27. How many years did Solomon reign?
28. Why will God rend the kingdom away from Solomon?
29. Who is verse 21 speaking of?
30. Quote Psalms chapter 49 verse 10.
31. What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own \_\_\_\_\_?
32. Quote Job chapter 14 verse 1.
33. Give us this day our \_\_\_\_\_.
34. Quote 1 Timothy chapter 6 verse 8.
35. God is a \_\_\_\_\_ of those who follow Him.

We will begin this lesson in Ecclesiastes 3:1 "To every [thing there is] a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:"

This is saying, that God arranges even the smallest details of our surroundings. Verse 1 is speaking of all the things collectively, that he will detail in the next few verses. God's timetable for this earth is perfect. Certain events are ordained from the foundation of the earth. A very good example of this very thing, is the fact that Abraham {the father of the faithful} was born 1948 years after Adam. Then Israel became a nation in 1948 our time. Another time I believe to be very significant, is the approximate 6000 years of work for the people of the earth, then God will set up a thousand year day of sabbath of rest. We are nearing the end of the 6-1000 year days of work. Jesus will come back to the earth as King and reign in perfect peace for 1-1000 year day of rest. Things, like when we are born and when we die, are foreordained of God. The thing that is not already destined to be, is what we do with Jesus. We, of our own free will, accept Him, or reject Him.

Ecclesiastes 3:2 "A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up [that which is] planted;"

We see that we have no control of the day we are born. We have no control of who we are born to. We have no control over our gender. We have no control over the way we look, when we are born. All of these things are destined of God. I could go on and on. We have no control over whether we are born into a wealthy family, or a poverty stricken family. All of these things are determined of God. We do not have control of the time of our death either. Job 7:1 "[Is there] not an appointed time to man upon earth? [are not] his days also like the days of an hireling?" Isaac is a very good example of God having a precise time for us to be born. Genesis 21:2 "For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him." Death is the same. God has set a time for each person's death. Hebrews 9:27 "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:" The following Scripture tells us the very best, what our life is. James 4:14 "Whereas ye know not what [shall be] on the morrow. For what [is] your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

After a hard winter, and spring just appears, we all get the urge to make ready the field, and plant something. We watch it grow, till it matures, and then, it is time to pluck it up. Jesus spoke of planting and harvesting. As long as the earth exists, there will be a time of planting, and a time of harvest. In the spiritual sense, the time of the end is time of harvest.

Ecclesiastes 3:3 "A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;"

The 6th commandment says, "Thou shalt not kill". Then how, can this Scripture say a time to kill? Thou shalt not kill, means thou shalt not commit premeditated murder. It does not mean that you are not to go to war to protect your family, or your country. A very good example of a time to kill is shown by God killing the firstborn in Egypt. Exodus 12:12 "For I

will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I [am] the LORD." Another instance when it was a time to kill, is when David killed Goliath. You see, there is a time to kill, but it must be a time that God has chosen for us to kill, not a time when we kill for selfish reasons. It is nearly always the time to heal. Most of Jesus' ministry here on the earth involved healing. Everyone who had faith enough to receive his healing was healed by Him. I Peter 2:24 "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." Our healing is spoken of as if it is already done in this Scripture. For us to be healed, we must apply this promise to our problem and believe. We must act upon the promise that Jesus has willed us. John 14:12 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater [works] than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." John 14:13 "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." John 14:14 "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do [it]."

Why did God not allow David to build His temple? We read in I Kings 5:3 "Thou knowest how that David my father could not build an house unto the name of the LORD his God for the wars which were about him on every side, until the LORD put them under the soles of his feet." The very next verse tells when it was the right time for Solomon to build it. I Kings 5:4 "But now the LORD my God hath given me rest on every side, [so that there is] neither adversary nor evil occurrent." I Kings 5:5 "And, behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spake unto David my father, saying, Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy room, he shall build an house unto my name." Sometimes things have to be torn down to the foundation, before they can build on the spot.

Ecclesiastes 3:4 "A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;"

The shortest sentence in the Bible is in John 11:35 "Jesus wept." Jesus is our example in everything, so we know there are times for us to weep. When we lose a loved one, it is a natural thing to weep. You have heard the expression {laugh and the world laughs with you, cry and you cry alone}. This is very true. Psalms 126:2 "Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them."

A story of contrast of mourning and a time to dance quickly reminds us of David, when he danced before the Ark of the covenant. I Samuel 6:14 "And David danced before the LORD with all [his] might; and David [was] girded with a linen ephod." II Samuel 6:15 "So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet." David's mourning came at the loss of his firstborn child. David committed adultery with Bathsheba, then he had her husband killed in battle, so he might marry her. In punishment, God took their first child. II Samuel 12:14 "Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also [that is] born unto thee shall surely die."

Ecclesiastes 3:5 "A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;"

A very good example of a time to cast away stones, is when you are clearing a field for cultivation. The time to gather stones, is when you are building a stone house. Embracing is a way of showing passion, or affection. When two friends meet, it is alright to embrace in greeting. The negative side of this would be under the classification of passion. It is not, however, a very nice thing for a man and a woman to passionately embrace in public.

Ecclesiastes 3:6 "A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;"

Material things have been put on the earth for the use of mankind. One of the most vivid Scriptures about getting and losing is in Mark 10:29 "And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's," Mark 10:30 "But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life." We see from this, if we give up our family to work for God, we will get blessings abundant in this life, and will inherit eternal life. The story of Job tells of a man who had received great wealth and blessings from God. Satan caused Job to lose them. God gave twice as many blessings back to Job, when he proved faithful.

There are a number of things we are admonished to keep. The most important of all, is keep the faith. We should cast our cares upon Jesus. We must cast off our sins and idols of this world.

Ecclesiastes 3:7 "A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;"

Rending of clothing is a sign of great mourning. The rending of the veil from the top to the bottom at the crucifixion of Jesus opened the way to the Father for all believers. Matthew 27:51 "And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;" The sewing of this very curtain had been ordained of God. This curtain was sown with thread of beaten gold. No man could have rent it. It had to be Almighty God.

The following Scriptures tell of times to be silent. Habakkuk 2:20 "But the LORD [is] in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him." We see in the following Scriptures, that there is a time to speak, also. Luke 19:40 "And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out." Luke 19:37 "And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;" The most important time of all to speak, is in the following Scriptures. Romans 10:9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Romans 10:10 "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Ecclesiastes 3:8 "A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace."

Hate is a word I do not like, but God says there is a time to hate. Look, with me, at the following Scripture. Revelation 2:6 "But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate." Notice, He did not hate the Nicolaitans, He hated their deeds. We are to hate the sin, and love the sinner. God wants us to love everyone, even our enemies, as we read in the next verses. Matthew 5:43 "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy." Matthew 5:44 "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;" Jesus gave us two commandments that cover all. They both have to do with love. Matthew 22:37 "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Matthew 22:38 "This is the first and great commandment." Matthew 22:39 "And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Love is the greatest positive emotion we can have. God is Love. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

The condition of the world is, and has been, the fact of wars and rumors of wars. This will not change, until Jesus {the King of Peace} comes and sets up His thousand year reign of peace upon the earth. God is not against war, when it is preserving the right. One of the most interesting examples of God blessing in war is found in chapter 17 of Exodus. Joshua fought while Moses lifted his arms in praise to God. Aaron and Hur held up the arms of Moses, until the battle was over and Joshua defeated Amalek. Exodus 17:12 "But Moses' hands [were] heavy; and they took a stone, and put [it] under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun." Exodus 17:13 "And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword."

There is a day of peace coming when Jesus reigns. We read in Micah 4:3 "And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

### Ecclesiastes 3 Questions

1. To everything there is a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What is a very good example of something in time, that God ordained?
3. When will Jesus come back and set up His 1000 year day reign?
4. What is not already decided for us?
5. What are some things we have no control over pertaining to our birth?
6. Quote Job chapter 7 verse 1.
7. Who is a good example of someone being born at a precise time?
8. Quote Hebrews chapter 9 verse 27.
9. What is our life?
10. As long as the earth exists, there will be a time of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
11. When is the time of harvesting, in the spiritual sense?
12. What is the 6th commandment?
13. What does that really mean?
14. What is a good example, in the Bible, of a time to kill?
15. When is it time to heal?
16. Quote 1 Peter chapter 2 verse 24.
17. Who can heal?
18. How can you do it?
19. What is the shortest verse in the Bible?
20. When is a good time to laugh?
21. Quote 2 Samuel chapter 6 verses 14 and 15.
22. Why did David's firstborn son with Bathsheba die?
23. When do you cast away stones?
24. When do you gather stones?
25. When is it alright to embrace?
26. When would it be wrong to embrace?
27. Quote Mark chapter 10 verses 29 and 30.
28. What was rending of clothing a sign of?
29. Quote Matthew chapter 27 verse 51.
30. What was the curtain in the temple sewn with?
31. The LORD is in His holy temple: let all the earth keep \_\_\_\_\_ before Him.
32. Quote Luke chapter 19 verse 40.
33. What Scripture describes the most important time to speak?
34. Love the sinner, and hate the \_\_\_\_\_.
35. Who are all Christians to love?
36. Quote John chapter 3 verse 16.
37. When is God not against war?
38. What is a good example of God blessing in war?
39. They shall beat their swords into \_\_\_\_\_.
40. Neither shall they learn \_\_\_\_\_ anymore.



We will begin this lesson in Ecclesiastes 3:9 "What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?"

In the last lesson, we were discussing the fact that there is a time for everything. It is as if Solomon feels that man has no control over his own destiny. Man must take opportunity, as God provides it.

Ecclesiastes 3:10 "I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it."

Solomon is wise, because God has given him the gift of wisdom. He does not, however, have enough wisdom to determine everything about God. "Travail", in this particular instance, is speaking of the work that man must do under the circumstances God has planned. Man does not control the circumstances. He does, however, control his own attitude toward those circumstances. Many times, success or failure is because of the attitude, not the circumstances.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 "He hath made every [thing] beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end."

Genesis 1:31 "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, [it was] very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day." God made everything good and beautiful. It was man's sin that caused it to become ugly and bad. Mankind is so attached to the world that he lives on, that it is in fact, in his heart. We are mortal, and cannot understand the entire plan of God. Since our lives on this earth are, so temporary, it is even difficult for us to understand eternity. God is the author and the finisher. He is the Beginning and the End.

Ecclesiastes 3:12 "I know that [there is] no good in them, but for [a man] to rejoice, and to do good in his life."

It appears, Solomon has determined that there is no good in man himself. His goodness is of God. He decides that the thing for man to do, is do the very best he can under the circumstances. It does bring joy, when you know you have done good.

Ecclesiastes 3:13 "And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it [is] the gift of God."

I personally believe that part of the joy in life comes from realizing you have worked, and done your best. It is a good feeling to work all day, and then, come home and eat food you have provided for yourself. Psalms 128:2 "For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy [shalt] thou [be], and [it shall be] well with thee." I Timothy 2:2 "For kings, and [for] all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." I Timothy 6:8 "And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." I believe God gave man a job to do, to help man.

Ecclesiastes 3:14 "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth [it], that [men] should fear before him."

God created all things. Whatever we do, or whatever we are, is because God allowed it. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He never changes. God has set restraints upon the earth. The things that happen are by His permission. Our lives are at peace, when we realize that God has a plan for our lives, and we submit to that plan. Psalms 119:90 "Thy faithfulness [is] unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth." Psalms 119:91 "They continue this day according to thine ordinances: for all [are] thy servants." God is absolute. We cannot change Him, or His wishes.

Ecclesiastes 3:15 "That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past."

The sad thing is that each generation fails to learn from the past, and seems to have to make the very same mistakes. The sins Adam and Eve committed are still being committed today. Even at the end, the Bible says it will be as it was in the days of Noah. Luke 17:26 "And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man." Luke 17:27 "They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all." Luke 17:28 "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;" Luke 17:29 "But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed [them] all." Luke 17:30 "Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed."

Ecclesiastes 3:16 "And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, [that] wickedness [was] there; and the place of righteousness, [that] iniquity [was] there."

The place of judgement, here, is speaking of the place of those in authority. This is saying, that the judgement of these world authorities is wicked. The place of righteousness could be speaking of the church. It is such a shame that even there, iniquity is found.

Ecclesiastes 3:17 "I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for [there is] a time there for every purpose and for every work."

The righteous are those in right standing with God. Their judgement will be for rewards. This time of judging, both the righteous and the wicked, is speaking of that time when the sheep are separated from the goats. The goats are sent to the everlasting fire. The righteous are sent to heaven. Matthew 25:31 "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:" Matthew 25:32 "And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth [his] sheep from the goats:" Matthew 25:33 "And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left." Matthew 25:34 "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:" Matthew 25:41 "Then shall he say

also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:"

Ecclesiastes 3:18 "I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts."

This does not mean that man is just another animal. It means that man does not control his destiny, any more than if he were a beast. God allows things to take place that man might activate his own will, to do good rather than evil. The man, who lets his flesh rule his decisions, is very much like an animal. The true difference in man and animal is that man has the power to do good, or evil. Man has a soul, beasts do not.

Ecclesiastes 3:19 "For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all [is] vanity."

Man and beast are the same, in the sense that they both have been given the breath of life by God. All things live and die by permission of God. The difference in man is his soul. He is made in the image of God, and has the power to choose right from wrong. A man who chooses to live for his flesh is living like an animal.

Ecclesiastes 3:20 "All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again."

Again, it is the flesh that returns to dust. The spirit within that flesh lives on. John 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." We see from the following Scripture, that the spirit of man does not remain in the grave. I Corinthians 15:42 "So also [is] the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:" I Corinthians 15:43 "It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:" I Corinthians 15:44 " It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." Man differs from animals, in the fact that they have a spirit.

Ecclesiastes 3:21 "Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?"

The beast remains in the grave, and is not raised.

Ecclesiastes 3:22 "Wherefore I perceive that [there is] nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that [is] his portion: for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?"

We must accept by faith that we will live eternally in heaven. It would take no faith to believe in heaven, if we had already been there and back and saw what it looked like. It is as if Solomon is saying we better enjoy the fruit of our labor here, in case we do not make it to heaven. Matthew 6:34 "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day [is] the evil thereof." There is no actual proof, that we can see with physical eyes,

that would cause us to believe in heaven. Faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ is our ticket to heaven.

## Ecclesiastes 4 Questions

1. What is it as if Solomon is saying in verse 9?
2. "Travail", in this particular instance, is speaking of what?
3. Man does not control the circumstances. He does, however, control what?
4. Success or failure is because of the \_\_\_\_\_, not the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Quote Genesis chapter 1 verse 31.
6. How did evil enter the earth, if God made everything good?
7. Why can we not understand the entire plan of God?
8. Solomon had determined there is no good in \_\_\_\_\_.
9. His goodness is of \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Where does the author believe part of the joy of life comes from?
11. Quote Psalms chapter 128 verse 2.
12. Having food and raiment let us be \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Whatsoever God doeth, it shall be \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Our lives are at peace when we realize what?
15. Quote Psalms chapter 119 verses 90 and 91.
16. What is sad about every generation?
17. Quote Luke chapter 17 verse 26.
18. In the days of Lot, it rained fire and brimstone from \_\_\_\_\_.
19. What is the place of judgement speaking of?
20. Where is the place of righteousness?
21. Who are the righteous?
22. When do the righteous and wicked stand together for judgement?
23. What happens to His sheep?
24. What happens to the goats?
25. How are man and beast alike?
26. What is the true difference in man and beast?
27. All things live and die by permission \_\_\_\_\_.
28. The \_\_\_\_\_ returns to dust.
29. Quote 1 Corinthians chapter 15 verse 44.
30. Quote Matthew chapter 6 verse 34.

We will begin this lesson in Ecclesiastes 4:1 "So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of [such as were] oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors [there was] power; but they had no comforter."

There is an oppression that comes on good men from the worldly men. There is, also, an oppression that Satan tries to harass us all with. The following is an example of oppression from the worldly. Exodus 1:13 "And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour:" Exodus 1:14 "And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, [was] with rigour." Of that oppression which comes from Satan, is a spiritual oppression. Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to help the believers overcome that oppression. John 14:26 "But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." John 16:7 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you."

Ecclesiastes 4:2 "Wherefore I praised the dead which are already dead more than the living which are yet alive."

The dead have already run their race. They do not have to face the problems of this life. Solomon is speaking of the thoughts of his mind about this world, and the world to come. Job had a very similar statement to say about this very thing. Job 3:18 "[There] the prisoners rest together; they hear not the voice of the oppressor." We find the blessedness of death for the believer in the following. Revelation 14:13 "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed [are] the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

Ecclesiastes 4:3 "Yea, better [is he] than both they, which hath not yet been, who hath not seen the evil work that is done under the sun."

It appears, that Solomon is looking back over his life and seeing the sorrows and injustices that men do against their fellowmen. He dwells on the sadness of life. He says, it is better not to have been born, than see all of this sorrow. This is, generally, the way most people feel, when they are away from God. It seems so futile to live, if there is no heaven. Even Job asked the question, "Why did I not die from my mother's womb?" There is a great deal of sadness in this life. The joy comes in feeling assured of your salvation. Hope for the believer is in the resurrection to eternal life in Jesus.

Ecclesiastes 4:4 "Again, I considered all travail, and every right work, that for this a man is envied of his neighbour. This [is] also vanity and vexation of spirit."

This is speaking of a person working hard and becoming a success, and then, his neighbors become envious of his success. Usually the person who is envious, would not put out the effort it took to be a success. The very

first time this happened, was between the two brothers, Cain and Abel. Cain was jealous, because God accepted Abel's offering, and did not accept his. He became so envious, he killed his brother. Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, because they envied his relationship with his dad. Even the men of the temple envied Jesus, and had Him destroyed. Mark 15:10 "For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy." Solomon says, you have trouble in this life, but the most trouble comes when you are successful, and your friends begin to envy you.

Ecclesiastes 4:5 "The fool foldeth his hands together, and eateth his own flesh."

Verse 4 spoke of success causing people to envy you, and eventually caused sadness. Now, Solomon contrasts that with someone who is too lazy to work. He is saying, is this better? He speaks of the person being destructive to himself {eateth his own flesh}.

Ecclesiastes 4:6 "Better [is] an handful [with] quietness, than both the hands full [with] travail and vexation of spirit."

Solomon is saying, that many times with great wealth and success, goes much unhappiness. Your friends and loved ones envy and sometimes even despise you, when you are more successful than they are. He has decided it is better to have less, and have your friends. Proverbs 15:16 "Better [is] little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith." II Thessalonians 3:12 "Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread."

Ecclesiastes 4:7 "Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun."

In our society today, we would say Solomon was experiencing deep depression. He believes that human efforts are all in vain.

Ecclesiastes 4:8 "There is one [alone], and [there is] not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother: yet [is there] no end of all his labour; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither [saith he], For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good? This [is] also vanity, yea, it [is] a sore travail."

This is speaking of loneliness. This, too, is strange coming from Solomon. He is surrounded by wives and concubines, but feeling very alone. He believes to be alone is no good, because you have no family. This shows the despair of a man who has had wealth, wisdom, fame, and even all the worldly things his heart desired, and still finds no satisfaction. What he is looking for? Peace, comes from God and not in things.

Ecclesiastes 4:9 "Two [are] better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour."

The reward he is speaking of here is a sharing. They can share their successes. In fact, they can even console each other in their failures. Two are better than one, if they are of one accord.

Ecclesiastes 4:10 "For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him [that is] alone when he falleth; for [he hath] not another to help him up."

The verse above, is not necessarily speaking of a wife, but it could be applied thusly. Genesis 2:18 "And the LORD God said, [It is] not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." The Lord sent ministers out two by two. I believe the following Scripture is why He did this. Matthew 18:19 "Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven." Mark 6:7 "And he called [unto him] the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;" The number "two" means agreement. This is speaking of one helping the other, and them being in agreement.

Ecclesiastes 4:11 "Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm [alone]?"

The body puts off a certain amount of heat, and two in a bed together can stay warmer than just one. The robe many of the Israelites wore served as a blanket to sleep under, as well. Two blankets are warmer than one.

Ecclesiastes 4:12 "And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken."

This is speaking of the strength that comes with the bonding of two, or three, together. The following Scripture tells us something of the strength of more than one. Deuteronomy 32:30 "How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?"

Ecclesiastes 4:13 "Better [is] a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished."

The problem with the king is he has become hardened in his heart, and is not aware of his need to repent. Sad as it is, if he dies in this condition, he would go to hell. The fact that he had been king, would not help him at all. This wise child is still teachable and is wise enough to realize he needs a Saviour. Proverbs 28:6 "Better [is] the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than [he that is] perverse [in his] ways, though he [be] rich."

Ecclesiastes 4:14 "For out of prison he cometh to reign; whereas also [he that is] born in his kingdom becometh poor."

The best example of this is when Joseph was in jail in Egypt for something he did not do, and was brought out of prison to reign as second in command.

Ecclesiastes 4:15 "I considered all the living which walk under the sun, with the second child that shall stand up in his stead."

This has so many suggestions. The firstborn was thought to be the one who would reign in his father's stead. This was not so in many instances. Jacob and Esau are a very good example of this. Jacob was the second born, but received the favored son's blessing. This could, also, apply to Ephraim and Manasseh. Ephraim was the second son, but received the right hand blessing. It is a type and shadow of the Jew and the Christian. The natural Jew was God's first choice, but the Christians {second choice} received Jesus more readily.



Ecclesiastes 4:16 "[There is] no end of all the people, [even] of all that have been before them: they also that come after shall not rejoice in him. Surely this also [is] vanity and vexation of spirit."

We see in this, the multitude who came to follow the second. In Joseph's case, they were dependent on the second in command for food. His help was soon forgotten after the famine was over. The king who reigned later forgot all the blessings Joseph had brought. They did not remember him.

## Ecclesiastes 5 Questions

1. Where can oppression on a good man come from?
2. Quote Exodus chapter 1 verses 13 and 14.
3. Jesus sent the \_\_\_\_\_ to the Christians to comfort them.
4. Quote John chapter 16 verse 7.
5. Why did Solomon praise the dead?
6. Quote Job chapter 3 verse 18.
7. Blessed are the dead which \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord.
8. What does Solomon seem to be doing?
9. How do most people, who are away from God, feel?
10. What question did Job ask, in despair?
11. Hope for the believer is in the \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus.
12. What happens, many times, when a person is successful.
13. Who were the first examples in the Bible of jealousy?
14. What did the jealousy lead to?
15. Quote Mark chapter 15 verse 10.
16. What type of person is verse 5 speaking of?
17. Quote Proverbs chapter 15 verse 16.
18. With \_\_\_\_\_ they work, and eat their own bread.
19. In our society today, we would say Solomon was experiencing \_\_\_\_\_.
20. Why is it strange to think of Solomon as being lonely?
21. What is he looking for?
22. Where is the only place to find it?
23. Why are two better than one?
24. Quote Genesis chapter 2 verse 18.
25. That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, what will happen?
26. How did Jesus send out the apostles?
27. What is verse 12 speaking of?
28. Quote Deuteronomy chapter 32 verse 30.
29. What is the problem with the king in verse 13?
30. Quote Proverbs chapter 28 verse 6.
31. Who is the best example of the one mentioned in verse 14?
32. Name some of the examples, where the second born received the first born blessing.
33. Who are these a type and shadow of?

We will begin this lesson in Ecclesiastes 5:1 "Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil."

Acts 7:33 "Then said the Lord to him, Put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou standest is holy ground." Anywhere God is, is holy ground. It matters not whether it is in the temple in Jerusalem, the tabernacles of those days, or our churches today, God is there where true believers meet. The way to "keep our foot" is to walk in the Light. John 8:12 "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." I John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." This path with the Light of Jesus leads us safely to the house of God. James 1:19 "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:" God is still speaking today, but few are listening. The sacrifice that God wants is our obedience and praise of Him. Hebrews 13:15 "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of [our] lips giving thanks to his name." I Samuel 15:22 "And Samuel said, Hath the LORD [as great] delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey [is] better than sacrifice, [and] to hearken than the fat of rams." God does not want the formality of keeping His law. He wants us to obey Him, love Him, and praise Him. He wants our hearts.

Ecclesiastes 5:2 "Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter [any] thing before God: for God [is] in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few."

James 1:19 "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:" James 1:20 "For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." James 3:2 "For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same [is] a perfect man, [and] able also to bridle the whole body." The tongue is an evil weapon that destroys. We must let the Spirit of God bridle our tongues. Matthew 12:36 "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." We must also be careful not to pray amiss. James 4:3 "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume [it] upon your lusts."

Ecclesiastes 5:3 "For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice [is known] by multitude of words."

Dreams happen for a number of reasons. One thing that causes us to dream, is when we have eaten something that does not agree with us. Another reason we dream, is an attack from Satan. We, sometimes, work very hard and our mind cannot slow down when we sleep. This is what is spoken of in the verse above. We do have dreams from God many times, as well. These dreams can be telling us of something that will happen, or they may guide us in some manner. We must learn to tell where our dreams are from. In the last part, of the verse above, we see that too much talking can cause us to sin. Proverbs 10:19 "In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that

refraineth his lips [is] wise." Matthew 6:7 "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen [do]: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking."

Ecclesiastes 5:4 "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for [he hath] no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed."

Ananias and Saphira found out how dangerous it was to vow a vow to God, and not keep it. God killed them both. Acts 5:3 "But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back [part] of the price of the land?" Acts 5:4 "Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God." Acts 5:5 "And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things." Saphira is shown separately, to show her own sin killed her, not her husband's. Acts 5:10 "Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying [her] forth, buried [her] by her husband." It is a dangerous thing to vow a vow to God and, not keep it.

Ecclesiastes 5:5 "Better [is it] that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay."

Jesus explains it very well in the following Scriptures. Matthew 5:34 "But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:" Matthew 5:35 "Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King." Matthew 5:36 "Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black." Matthew 5:37 "But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil."

Ecclesiastes 5:6 "Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it [was] an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?"

I have mentioned several times before, that the flesh, or the spirit, rules the will of a person. When the flesh rules, we are not pleasing to God. The mouth speaks of the abundance of the heart. If our heart is controlled by the flesh, it is wicked, and evil things come out of our mouth. On the other hand, if our hearts are controlled by the spirit, then we say good things. Luke 6:45 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh."

Ecclesiastes 5:7 "For in the multitude of dreams and many words [there are] also [divers] vanities: but fear thou God."

We spoke earlier in this lesson, how dreams come from various places. You must not base your belief on just dreams. The dreams could be from a source other than God. The dreams that are safe to believe, are those that line up with the Word of God. We find that people who believe in just dreams are really not grounded well in the Word of God. The man who is rash with his vows will live to regret them. Prayers prayed amiss are, also, a downfall. Put your faith in God. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.

Ecclesiastes 5:8 "If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for [he that is] higher than the highest regardeth; and [there be] higher than they."

The person, who has been placed as judge of others, must remember there is a judge of all the earth, that he will have to stand before himself. With whatever judgement he judges, he will be judged. "Marvel", in this Scripture above, is speaking of being amazed, or wondering. Colossians 4:1 "Masters, give unto [your] servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven."

Ecclesiastes 5:9 "Moreover the profit of the earth is for all: the king [himself] is served by the field."

God made the earth, and everything in it, for the use of man. It all belongs to God. We are allowed the use of parts of it at the times God chooses to allow us. The king may get a little more of the benefit from the earth {in a material way} than the common man, but it all belongs to God. The king is no different than the common man, except God made him king.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this [is] also vanity."

This speaks of someone who has made silver, or wealth his god. When a person does this, he is never satisfied he has enough. I Timothy 6:10 "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

Ecclesiastes 5:11 "When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good [is there] to the owners thereof, saving the beholding [of them] with their eyes?"

Solomon is expressing the fact that wealth has many hidden problems. This is saying, if you suddenly come into a great deal of money, you will have relatives and friends, whose names you cannot remember, come to share in your good fortune. Increase in your wealth is an open door for others to ask for loans and financial assistance of all kinds. The only real gain the person has, is in the knowledge the wealth is there. It can be very fleeting. Wealth does not improve your taste for food. It does not help you sleep better. It, possibly, might cause you to sleep less. It is questionable whether it is a blessing, or a curse.

Ecclesiastes 5:12 "The sleep of a labouring man [is] sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep."

The laborer comes in tired from the physical work he has done. He does not have enough money, so someone is constantly trying to cheat him out of it. He lays his head on the pillow and sleeps. The rich, possibly, are not physically tired, because they have not worked. Their minds will not calm down long enough to cause them to sleep. They must be constantly on guard, so as not to lose their money. Proverbs 3:24 "When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet."

Ecclesiastes 5:13 "There is a sore evil [which] I have seen under the sun, [namely], riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt."

I Timothy 6:17 "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;" I Timothy 6:18 "That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;" I Timothy 6:19 "Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life." Mark 10:25 "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

Ecclesiastes 5:14 "But those riches perish by evil travail: and he begetteth a son, and [there is] nothing in his hand."

Riches are here today, and gone tomorrow. It is the Lord that determines, just how much of the riches of the world He can entrust you with. I Samuel 2:7 "The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up." Just because a person has great riches does not mean they will still have them, when it is time to pass them on to their children. God is the one who determines that.

Ecclesiastes 5:15 "As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand."

Death cancels out the riches a man possesses on the earth. When he dies, the things he possessed on the earth pass on to someone else. The only things we will possess in heaven, are the things we stored there, when we were still alive. Luke 12:20 "But God said unto him, [Thou] fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" I Timothy 6:7 "For we brought nothing into [this] world, [and it is] certain we can carry nothing out."

Ecclesiastes 5:16 "And this also [is] a sore evil, [that] in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind?"

The wind is spoken of here, because we do not know where it comes from, and we do not know where it goes. Riches are as transient as the wind. They come rather unexpectedly, and leave the same way. John 6:27 "Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed."

Ecclesiastes 5:17 "All his days also he eateth in darkness, and [he hath] much sorrow and wrath with his sickness."

Money cannot buy you health, or happiness. Eating in darkness indicates he had not sought God. He was sick at the loss of his money. His greatest concern should have been nearing death without God, instead he was more concerned about nearing death without money.

Ecclesiastes 5:18 "Behold [that] which I have seen: [it is] good and comely [for one] to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his

labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it [is] his portion."

The things that God provides for our use here on the earth, we should be thankful for. Those who pray and thank God for all they have are doing the will of God. Paul teaches a very good lesson in the following verse. Philippians 4:11 "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, [therewith] to be content." We must be thankful to God for what we have been provided, regardless if it is great, or small.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 "Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this [is] the gift of God."

We are what we are, by the grace of God. God makes some rich. He makes others poor. He sets kings on their thrones. Solomon is just thanking God for all the bountiful world blessings God has bestowed upon him. Deuteronomy 8:18 "But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for [it is] he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as [it is] this day."

Ecclesiastes 5:20 "For he shall not much remember the days of his life; because God answereth [him] in the joy of his heart."

It is very difficult, when we get a little older, to look back into our lives and remember the details. The person who learns to accept things day by day in the peace that Christ provides, does not fret about things that might have been. Romans 5:11 "And not only [so], but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement."

## Ecclesiastes 6 Questions

1. Quote Acts chapter 7 verse 33.
2. Where is holy ground?
3. How can we "Keep our foot"?
4. Quote John chapter 8 verse 12.
5. Quote 1 John chapter 1 verse 7.
6. Let every man be \_\_\_\_\_ to hear, and \_\_\_\_\_ to speak.
7. What is the sacrifice that God wants from us?
8. Quote Hebrews chapter 13 verse 15.
9. To \_\_\_\_\_ is better than sacrifice.
10. Let thy words be \_\_\_\_\_.
11. If any man offend not in word, the same is a \_\_\_\_\_ man.
12. We must let the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ bridle our tongues.
13. Quote Matthew chapter 12 verse 36.
14. Why do we ask, and receive not?
15. What causes dreams?
16. Quote Proverbs chapter 10 verse 19.
17. The heathen think that they shall be heard for their \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
18. Who broke a vow to God, and were killed for it?
19. Swear \_\_\_\_\_ at all.
20. Why can we not afford to swear?
21. Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy \_\_\_\_\_ to sin.
22. The \_\_\_\_\_, or the \_\_\_\_\_, rules the will of a person.
23. Quote Luke chapter 6 verse 45.
24. Why should you not base your belief on dreams?
25. The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ is the beginning of wisdom.
26. What must the judges on this earth remember?
27. What is "marvel" in verse 8 speaking of?
28. Who is verse 10 speaking of?
29. Quote 1 Timothy chapter 6 verse 10.
30. What happens, when your goods increase?
31. Why does a laborer sleep better?
32. Quote 1 Timothy chapter 6 verse 17.
33. Who makes a person rich, or poor?
34. Quote 1 Timothy chapter 6 verse 7.
35. Why is the wind spoken of in verse 16?
36. What does "eating in darkness" indicate?
37. What had Paul learned about wealth?
38. Quote Deuteronomy chapter 8 verse 18.
39. How did we receive atonement?



We will begin this lesson in Ecclesiastes 6:1 "There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it [is] common among men:"

The expression "under the sun" is speaking of life in the physical world. The evil that all men are tempted with is self-gratification. At some point in his life, everyone has been a bit self-centered. Sin occurs, when we try to please our flesh.

Ecclesiastes 6:2 "A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this [is] vanity, and it [is] an evil disease."

Men, such as Solomon, who have known great wealth and honor, will all tell you that the riches did not make them happy. The abundance of things cannot satisfy the soul of mankind. The statement that he wanted nothing, is saying in the physical realm, he wanted for nothing. Anything money could buy, he had. The truth is, money cannot buy happiness. "To eat", in this Scripture, is speaking not of physical food, but of enjoyment. It is so sad that he will not receive enjoyment from all of this, but a total stranger will enjoy it. The evil disease brings death. I believe it is speaking of sin.

Ecclesiastes 6:3 "If a man beget an hundred [children], and live many years, so that the days of his years be many, and his soul be not filled with good, and also [that] he have no burial; I say, [that] an untimely birth [is] better than he."

It seems, that Solomon is, of all men, most miserable. He even wishes he had not lived beyond his birth. Children were thought of as a blessing of God. To have a hundred children, would be an extreme blessing. Living many years was thought of as a blessing, as well. The truth is, that without God, all of this would be nothing to desire. The only real peace and joy that any of us have is in the Lord. The soul of man is the will of man, and is, also, related to the heart of man. True goodness comes from the heart of man. The hope that Solomon is bemoaning here, as if it were lost, is the hope of eternal life.

Ecclesiastes 6:4 "For he cometh in with vanity, and departeth in darkness, and his name shall be covered with darkness."

When a person is born, he is nothing, until the breath of life is breathed into him by God. Then he becomes a living soul. Solomon is speaking, here, as if that life was not breathed into him, and he was a baby who never lived. He had never come to the Light. We know that this is the condition of all mankind, until they receive the Light {Jesus Christ} into their lives. He is life. John 8:12 "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." Acts 26:18 "To open their eyes, [and] to turn [them] from darkness to light, and [from] the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." To be born of the Spirit of God, is to be filled with the Light of Jesus. II Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Ecclesiastes 6:5 "Moreover he hath not seen the sun, nor known [any thing]: this hath more rest than the other."

He is still speaking of those who are not born alive. I would tend to believe this is speaking of the spiritually dead. The sun is a container for the light. II Corinthians 4:4 "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." Satan is the god of this world, that brings darkness to the spirit of mankind. Jesus brings the Light, and does away with that darkness.

Ecclesiastes 6:6 "Yea, though he live a thousand years twice [told], yet hath he seen no good: do not all go to one place?"

The "one place", spoken of here, is the grave. Yes, all flesh goes to the grave. It was made of dust, and will return to dust. Man is more than just flesh. The spirit of man is made in the image of God, that lives on forever. Years on this earth do not even matter. The eternal life is what is important. Two thousand years would not be long enough for man {without God} to find satisfaction in this life. The only real satisfaction is in the Lord.

Ecclesiastes 6:7 "All the labour of man [is] for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled."

This is true that the physical body of man requires more and more food. They can never get enough, that they are not hungry again the next day. Life without God would seem that it was a never ending cycle of trying to satisfy yourself with food. Matthew 5:6 "Blessed [are] they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

Ecclesiastes 6:8 "For what hath the wise more than the fool? What hath the poor, that knoweth to walk before the living?"

These are profound statements that Solomon is making of the flesh man. Truly they are neither one [wise or foolish} ever satisfied with what they have. The poor, that knoweth to walk before the living, is saying that he has chosen the path that leads to life. Perhaps, the poor finds it more readily, because he is so busy making food for his family, he has no time to get into sin. This does not mean that all poor men are saved, anymore than it means all wise men are lost. This is just saying, that wealth and intelligence does not get you to heaven. It says a poor man is more apt to seek God, because of the necessities he does without. We must realize we need a Saviour, before we can have the Saviour.

Ecclesiastes 6:9 "Better [is] the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the desire: this [is] also vanity and vexation of spirit."

"The sight of the eyes", in this, probably, is speaking of the things around us in the physical. "Wandering of the desire" is, probably, speaking

of the imagination of the heart. A wandering imagination many times causes a person to sin. Proverbs 17:24 "Wisdom [is] before him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool [are] in the ends of the earth."

Ecclesiastes 6:10 "That which hath been is named already, and it is known that it [is] man: neither may he contend with him that is mightier than he."

It was part of God's plan to make man. If we wonder why we are born, we are questioning God's good judgement. Some things about our lives we cannot change. We have no control over who our parents were, whether we are born a Caucasian, Negroid, or Asiatic. We have no control over whether we are male, or female. All these things are determined by God. God is our Creator. We cannot, and should not, argue with God. We must accept everything in God's will. The only thing we do have control over, is whether we accept the Lord as our Saviour, or not. Our free will determines whether we follow the desires of our flesh, or whether we follow the spirit.

Ecclesiastes 6:11 "Seeing there be many things that increase vanity, what [is] man the better?"

The blessings God bestows upon us should not cause us to be vain, because they are a gift. We are intelligent, because God gave us intelligence. We are rich, because God chose for us to be rich. We are famous, because God chose for us to be famous. How can we have great pride and vanity in this? It is not of our doing.

Ecclesiastes 6:12 "For who knoweth what [is] good for man in [this] life, all the days of his vain life which he spendeth as a shadow? for who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?"

Only God knows the answers to this. We can discuss ways to improve our society, but truly the only help is in God. We are here today and gone tomorrow. Our life is like a shadow, or a vapor. If we are vain about things God has bestowed upon us in this life, our lives are not much good. Vanity has no place in our lives. "Under the sun" is speaking of this life on the earth. I cannot make myself successful. That is up to God. I can do my best, and He can make my work a blessing. Someone else can come along, and build better than what we have done. It is a continual thing. James 4:14 "Whereas ye know not what [shall be] on the morrow. For what [is] your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

## Ecclesiastes 7 Questions

1. What does the expression "under the sun" refer to?
2. What is the evil all men are tempted with?
3. Verse 2 is speaking of what kind of man?
4. What will all very wealthy men tell you about their wealth?
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ of things cannot satisfy the soul of man.
6. What is "to eat", in verse 2, speaking of?
7. What does the author believe the evil disease to be?
8. How do we know that Solomon is, of all men, most miserable?
9. What was thought to be blessings?
10. The only real peace and joy, that any of us have is in the \_\_\_\_\_.
11. True goodness comes from the \_\_\_\_\_ of man.
12. When a person is born, he is nothing, until what happens?
13. Quote John chapter 8 verse 12.
14. Quote Acts chapter 26 verse 18.
15. If any man be in Christ, he is a \_\_\_\_\_.
16. Quote Galatians chapter 2 verse 20.
17. What does the author believe about the dead in verse 5?
18. Quote 2 Corinthians chapter 4 verse 4.
19. What is the "one place" in verse 6?
20. The \_\_\_\_\_ of man is made in the image of God.
21. All of the labor of man is for his \_\_\_\_\_.
22. Quote Matthew chapter 5 verse 6.
23. Answer verse 8.
24. Why is a poor man more apt to seek God?
25. "The sight of the eyes" is, probably, speaking of what?
26. What is "wandering of the desire", probably, speaking of?
27. Quote Proverbs chapter 17 verse 24.
28. If we wonder why we are born, we are doing what?
29. What are some things we have no control of?
30. What do we have control over?
31. Why is one more intelligent than another?
32. Who knows the answer to verse 12?
33. Quote James chapter 4 verse 14.

We will begin this lesson in Ecclesiastes 7:1 "A good name [is] better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth."

It appears, that Solomon is giving some words of wisdom on the value of different things in life. A good name is, probably, the most valuable thing a person can have {in the physical}. The only things that are more important, are our relationship with God and our families. It is a blessing to children, when they are left an honorable name by their father and mother. They are one step ahead of creating a good name for themselves. At least, everyone expects them to be of good character, when their parents have a good character. It is very nice to smell good, but more important is a person's character. The day of death is better than the day of one's birth, because there are a lot of problems and heartaches in this world. When we die {if we are saved} those troubles and heartaches are over. Revelation 14:13 "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed [are] the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

Ecclesiastes 7:2 "[It is] better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that [is] the end of all men; and the living will lay [it] to his heart."

Actually, we have this reversed. We rejoice when someone is born, and mourn when they die. Birth brings a lifetime of problems that we must deal with. At death {if we are Christians} we are told there will be no more sorrow. Revelation 21:4 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Ecclesiastes 7:3 "Sorrow [is] better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better."

I have used the following expression many times: We do not learn anything on the mountain top, we learn in the valley. Problems come to make us strong. Psalms 119:71 "[It is] good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes." James 4:8 "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse [your] hands, [ye] sinners; and purify [your] hearts, [ye] double minded." James 4:9 "Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and [your] joy to heaviness." James 4:10 "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." None of this is saying that laughter is bad. It is, in fact, good. It is speaking of sorrow for our sins causing us to repent and be renewed in our hearts.

Ecclesiastes 7:4 "The heart of the wise [is] in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools [is] in the house of mirth."

This is just explaining that what we do with our lives here on this earth, is a very serious matter. We cannot just drift through life pleasing our flesh, and have a future. Our future lives are very serious things. We will spend all of eternity in one of two places. If we never get serious about our relationship with God, we will spend eternity in hell. On the

other hand, if we get serious with God, repent of our sins, and become a new creature in Christ, we will inherit eternal life in heaven.

Ecclesiastes 7:5 "[It is] better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools."

The "song of fools" is speaking of songs of revelry. This type of song is usually accompanied with drinking or drugs. We find that suggestions in this type of songs encourage one to sin. The present day rock music has terrible suggestive lyrics. Some of the words spoken are covered with the loud beat. Many young people do not even know what the words are. The sad thing is, that they are recorded in the subconscious mind, even when they do not realize what they are saying. The rebuke of the wise, is to cause the person not to sin. We can certainly see that the rebuke is better. Proverbs 15:32 "He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding."

Ecclesiastes 7:6 "For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so [is] the laughter of the fool: this also [is] vanity."

The thorns, in this instance, are being burned. The laughter of a fool is as temporary as the thorns which burn. The fool's laughter is soon over, and reality sets in. The most foolish thing a person could do, is reject the Lord for earthly pleasure.

Ecclesiastes 7:7 "Surely oppression maketh a wise man mad; and a gift destroyeth the heart."

Oppression is an attack on the wise from the outside. It can be an attack from Satan, or from some person under the influence of Satan. It is maddening to be attacked. It is even more terrible to be the oppressor yourself. The truly wise will not be the oppressor. Isaiah 33:15 "He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil;" Isaiah 33:16 "He shall dwell on high: his place of defence [shall be] the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters [shall be] sure." Exodus 23:8 "And thou shalt take no gift: for the gift blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous." The "gift that destroys the heart" is speaking of bribery.

Ecclesiastes 7:8 "Better [is] the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: [and] the patient in spirit [is] better than the proud in spirit."

He that shall endure to the end shall be saved. In that particular sense, the end is much better than the beginning. At the beginning of a job, we are uncertain of ourselves. We have many obstacles to overcome. At the end, we have done all of this and have overcome. The proud in spirit do not receive instruction very well. Those who are patient will make fewer mistakes. Luke 21:19 "In your patience possess ye your souls."

Ecclesiastes 7:9 "Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools."

A very common way of describing this person, would be to say he was "hot tempered". Proverbs 14:29 "[He that is] slow to wrath [is] of great

understanding: but [he that is] hasty of spirit exalteth folly." Ephesians 4:26 "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:" Ephesians 4:27 "Neither give place to the devil." Ephesians 4:31 "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:" Anger leads to murder and hate which are both forbidden to believers.

Ecclesiastes 7:10 "Say not thou, What is [the cause] that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this."

Many people look back to the "good old days". They were not "good old days", when they were living them. They are good when you look back, because you have forgotten the problems. It seems in verse 10 above, he is discontented with things the way they are. He really has no way of knowing that one time is better than another. God has us in whatever circumstance is best for us at the present. We should be content, whatever is happening. There are times when we look back, that one particular thing was better, but every time has its problems, as well.

Ecclesiastes 7:11 "Wisdom [is] good with an inheritance: and [by it there is] profit to them that see the sun."

This is speaking of someone who has inherited money and prestige. His wisdom will be considered quicker than someone of low estate. Men are respecters of persons. Wealth that is used for good purposes is good. Solomon was a good example of that, because his father David was thought so highly of.

Ecclesiastes 7:12 "For wisdom [is] a defence, [and] money [is] a defence: but the excellency of knowledge [is, that] wisdom giveth life to them that have it."

Wisdom and money are a protection for those who have them. Godly wisdom brings eternal life. Knowledge is accumulated learning. The more you study God's Word, the closer you are to receiving Him in His fulness. John 17:3 "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

## Ecclesiastes 8 Questions

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ is better than precious ointment.
2. What are the only things that are better?
3. Why is the day of death better than the day of birth for a person?
4. Quote Revelation chapter 14 verse 13.
5. Quote Revelation chapter 21 verse 4.
6. Why is sorrow better than laughter?
7. Why do we have problems?
8. Quote Psalms chapter 119 verse 71.
9. What is it really saying about sorrow and laughter?
10. If we drift through life pleasing our flesh, we have no \_\_\_\_\_.
11. When we become new creatures in Christ, what do we inherit?
12. What is the "song of fools" speaking of?
13. What goes along with this type of songs?
14. Quote Proverbs chapter 15 verse 32.
15. What is happening to the thorns in verse 6?
16. What is the most foolish thing a person can do?
17. Where does oppression come from?
18. Quote Isaiah chapter 33 verses 15 and 16.
19. The "gift that destroys the heart" is \_\_\_\_\_.
20. Quote Luke chapter 21 verse 19.
21. What kind of person is verse 9 speaking of?
22. Quote Proverbs 14 verse 29.
23. Be ye angry, and \_\_\_\_\_ not.
24. Many people look back to time they call what?
25. Why are they so good?
26. Wisdom is good with an \_\_\_\_\_.
27. Godly wisdom brings \_\_\_\_\_.
28. Knowledge is \_\_\_\_\_.
29. Quote John chapter 17 verse 3.



We will begin this lesson in Ecclesiastes 7:13 "Consider the work of God: for who can make [that] straight, which he hath made crooked?"

In the last lesson, we saw Solomon complaining that things were not as good as they used to be. God does not like complaining. We cannot change God, or the things He has established. We must accept the things we cannot change. We may need to alter our lives to conform to the things God has done. We must change, not God. Ephesians 1:11 "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:" Certain things in our lives are predestined. Our salvation is not predestined. Many other things in our life are.

Ecclesiastes 7:14 "In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him."

When things are going well, we should be happy and full of praise to God. When we are having troublesome times, we should just do the very best we can and not be disappointed. If we wait, better times will come. Behind every dark cloud, there is a silver lining. We would not appreciate the sunshine, unless there were cloudy days. Acts 14:22 "Confirming the souls of the disciples, [and] exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." It is as if God has given good and evil for us to compare. At the end of life, we would be able to look back over our lives and realize we had experienced both. It is our attitude toward the good days and the problem days that make us what we are.

Ecclesiastes 7:15 "All [things] have I seen in the days of my vanity: there is a just [man] that perisheth in his righteousness, and there is a wicked [man] that longeth [his life] in his wickedness."

Solomon is thinking on the things that seem to be unexplainable about life. Sometimes, it seems that those who live for God, have the most problems in this earth. The reward promised for righteousness, is long life and prosperity. Sometimes, that does not happen in this life. The wicked seem to live on and on and to prosper. The only answer I might have for that, is the fact that God is longsuffering. He gives the sinner ample time to repent. The true rewards for the righteous are the rewards they receive during their eternal life in heaven.

Ecclesiastes 7:16 "Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself?"

Being "righteous over much" is, possibly, speaking of the formality of religion. God does not appreciate us keeping rituals in the church. He wants a relationship with us. To make oneself wise, is to appear to others to be arrogant and conceited. These things are not wise at all, because they turn God and man against us. Matthew 6:1 "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 6:2 "Therefore when thou doest [thine] alms, do

not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward." Matthew 6:3 "But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:" Matthew 6:4 "That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly." Matthew 6:5 "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites [are]: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward." Matthew 6:6 "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Matthew 6:7 "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen [do]: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking."

Ecclesiastes 7:17 "Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldst thou die before thy time?"

Solomon had warned, in the previous verse, about the danger of having a form of righteousness. He, now, is saying that is not a license to go out and sin. "Dying before their time" would indicate God killing them for their sins. James 1:21 "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls." Matthew 10:28 "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

Ecclesiastes 7:18 "[It is] good that thou shouldst take hold of this; yea, also from this withdraw not thine hand: for he that feareth God shall come forth of them all."

This is expressing, again, that they should live as near a righteous life as possible. They should not be a follower of God in form only, but should be a believer in their hearts. It is wrong to sin. It is, also, wrong to be a Christian in form only. Luke 1:50 "And his mercy [is] on them that fear him from generation to generation." Luke 11:42 "But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."

Ecclesiastes 7:19 "Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten mighty [men] which are in the city."

Wisdom coupled with fear of God is one of the mightiest forces upon the earth. Godly wisdom is more help to a person than the help of ten mighty men. Colossians 1:9 "For this cause we also, since the day we heard [it], do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;" Colossians 1:10 "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;" Colossians 1:11 "Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;"

Ecclesiastes 7:20 "For [there is] not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not."

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" I John 1:10 "If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." We can see from all of the above Scriptures, that it is the nature of men to sin. At some time or other, each of us has sinned. The wonderful thing is that Jesus took our sins upon His body on the cross. He became our substitute. When we receive Jesus as our Saviour, we are free from sin. He washed us in His precious blood, and we became righteous in the sight of God. Jesus put us in right standing with God.

Ecclesiastes 7:21 "Also take no heed unto all words that are spoken; lest thou hear thy servant curse thee:"

We must be careful not to hear accusations others make about our servant, or anyone else. Most of the time, they are not true. If we are dead in Christ, ugly things said about us will not harm us. Look, with me, at a description of those who are in right standing with God. I Corinthians 13:5 "Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;" I Corinthians 13:6 "Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;" I Corinthians 13:7 "Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."

Ecclesiastes 7:22 "For oftentimes also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself likewise hast cursed others."

How can a person blame someone else for the same sin he has committed himself? If you are honest with yourself, you know you have done a similar thing to what your servant said about you. God will forgive you, if you forgive others. God judges us with the same measure, we judge others. James 3:9 "Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God."

Ecclesiastes 7:23 "All this have I proved by wisdom: I said, I will be wise; but it [was] far from me."

The wisdom in these lessons have to do with the way things are on the earth. Solomon did have much wisdom pertaining to these things. We remember, God gave Solomon wisdom to rule his people justly. He knew practical rules of living, but the deeper things of the Spirit of God, who can know? I Kings 3:11 "And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;" I Kings 3:12 "Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee." Solomon did not have enough wisdom to keep him from worshipping false gods. I Corinthians 1:20 "Where [is] the wise? where [is] the scribe? where [is] the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?"

Ecclesiastes 7:24 "That which is far off, and exceeding deep, who can find it out?"

Perhaps, this is speaking of the things of God. Not anyone, including Solomon, truly understands the depth of God. Just the fact of Him being eternal, is more than man of few days can understand. Romans 11:33 "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how

unsearchable [are] his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" I Timothy 6:16 "Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom [be] honour and power everlasting. Amen."

Ecclesiastes 7:25 "I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason [of things], and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness [and] madness:"

Man, through all of his efforts, cannot figure out the things of God. It seemed, that Solomon was overwhelmed with the desire to know the secrets of life. He applied himself to the fullest. He knew more than any mortal man, yet he did not know the secrets of God. We really cannot please God by gaining head knowledge about Him. He wants our hearts. He wants us to have faith in Him. Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Ecclesiastes 7:26 "And I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart [is] snares and nets, [and] her hands [as] bands: whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her."

Solomon makes this statement, because his 700 wives have turned him to worship false gods. I Kings 11:3 "And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart." I Kings 11:4 "For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, [that] his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as [was] the heart of David his father." His love for these women caused him to turn from God. Solomon calls himself a sinner here.

Ecclesiastes 7:27 "Behold, this have I found, saith the preacher, [counting] one by one, to find out the account:" Ecclesiastes 7:28 "Which yet my soul seeketh, but I find not: one man among a thousand have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found." Ecclesiastes 7:29 "Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions."

Solomon has looked back over his life, and found there are very few men {perhaps 1 in a thousand} who are totally upright. In all the women he married, he did not find one who truly loved God. His wives were heathen women. Solomon is saying "very few truly are saved".

## Ecclesiastes 9 Questions

1. We must accept the things we cannot \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Quote Ephesians chapter 1 verse 11.
3. What is one thing that is not predestined for us?
4. In the day of prosperity be \_\_\_\_\_.
5. What should we do in troublesome times?
6. Quote Acts chapter 14 verse 22.
7. What really makes us what we are?
8. What are some unexplainable things about life?
9. When do the true rewards for the righteous come?
10. What does "righteous over much" mean?
11. When you make yourself wise, how do you appear to others?
12. Quote Matthew chapter 6 verses 1 through 7.
13. What is Solomon saying in verse 17?
14. Quote James chapter 1 verse 21.
15. We must not fear those who can kill the body, but whom?
16. It is wrong to sin, but it is, also, wrong to do what?
17. Quote Luke chapter 1 verse 50.
18. Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than \_\_\_\_\_ mighty men.
19. What is one of the mightiest forces in the earth?
20. Quote Colossians chapter 1 verses 9, 10, and 11.
21. There is not a just man upon the \_\_\_\_\_.
22. Quote Romans chapter 3 verse 23.
23. It is the nature of men to \_\_\_\_\_.
24. What is the wonderful thing that Jesus did for all of us?
25. Quote 1 Corinthians chapter 13 verses 5 through 7.
26. We bless God, and curse men who are made after the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
27. What kind of wisdom did Solomon have?
28. Where had Solomon gotten this wisdom?
29. Who truly understands the depth of God?
30. Quote Romans chapter 11 verse 33.
31. Who has seen God?
32. We really can not please God by gaining \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge.
33. What does God want from us?
34. What is faith?
35. What had Solomon's wives caused him to do?
36. How many men, in a thousand, did he find totally upright?
37. How many of his wives truly loved God?
38. What is Solomon saying in this?

We will begin in Ecclesiastes 8:1 "Who [is] as the wise [man]? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed."

God had given Solomon wisdom beyond all of his fellowmen. We find that interpretation, as well as wisdom, is a gift from God. Joseph was given the ability by God to interpret dreams. Daniel was gifted to interpret dreams, as well. Moses' head shone so brightly when he came down from the mountain after communicating with God, that he had to cover his head so as not to blind the people. I believe God put the first 5 books of the Bible in Moses' mind while he was on the mountain. This great wisdom caused his head to shine. Most of Genesis occurred long before Moses' lifetime. He had to receive it from somewhere. The type of wisdom and understanding, spoken of here, would cause the facial features to change. Look what happened to Stephen's face. Acts 6:15 And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.

Ecclesiastes 8:2 "I [counsel thee] to keep the king's commandment, and [that] in regard of the oath of God."

It appears, from this, the kings commandments had been given with an oath to God. It is best to keep them, if you value your life. Romans 13:1 "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." Romans 13:2 "Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation." Romans 13:3 "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:" Romans 13:4 "For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to [execute] wrath upon him that doeth evil."

Ecclesiastes 8:3 "Be not hasty to go out of his sight: stand not in an evil thing; for he doeth whatsoever pleaseth him."

The king is the ruler of the land. He is the authority God has put in power. This is saying, do not try to get away from the rule of the king. Do not shirk your duty.

Ecclesiastes 8:4 "Where the word of a king [is, there is] power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou?"

This is explaining that there is no rule over the king, except God. The king has the last say over his people. The word of the king is the law of the land. No one can question the king. He, who questioned the king, would be severely punished. The only time anyone should disobey the rule of the land, is when it is direct opposition to the law of God. The Egyptian midwives feared God, and did not kill the boy babies. God saved their lives, because they were obedient to Him.

Ecclesiastes 8:5 "Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment."

When you keep the commandments of the king, you will not be punished. The wise man sees beyond the immediate happening, and knows there is a God in heaven who will some day judge the whole earth, including the king. Speaking of the wise man's heart is speaking of the moral aspect of his life. Even though he does not like the commandment of the king, the wise man will keep them, if they are not opposed to God's law. I Peter 3:13 "And who [is] he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?" I Peter 3:14 "But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy [are ye]: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;"

Ecclesiastes 8:6 "Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man [is] great upon him."

This is giving reasons why a person should obey the king in the land. Everything, and everyone, has an appointed time. Generally speaking an evil king will not be king very long. God sees the misery of His people, like He did the children of Israel in Egypt. God will not allow the misery to go on forever.

Ecclesiastes 8:7 "For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be?"

We do not know exactly when the end of our lives on earth will be. We do not even know exactly when the coming of the Lord shall be either. I Thessalonians 5:1 "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you." I Thessalonians 5:2 "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night." I Thessalonians 5:3 "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."

Ecclesiastes 8:8 "[There is] no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither [hath he] power in the day of death: and [there is] no discharge in [that] war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it."

Spirit, in this sense, is speaking of the spirit of man, which is actually his life. That is that breath of life within us. Jesus dismissed His Spirit from His body, and told it to go to the Father, when He said: Luke 23:46 "And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost." We do not have control over our spirit to tell it such. Our spirit leaves our body at the command of God. We do not know what hour, or day, we will die to this earth. At the time of death of our physical body, there seems to be a separation of those who belong to Jesus, and those who do not. We do know that Jesus went into hell, and preached, and brought out the captives with Him. I Peter 3:19 "By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;" Ephesians 4:8 "Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men."

Ecclesiastes 8:9 "All this have I seen, and applied my heart unto every work that is done under the sun: [there is] a time wherein one man ruleth over another to his own hurt."

The master must consider the possibility of being hurt, when he rules his people too harshly. In the days of slaves, they were very valuable to

their master, as long as they could work. If he caused injury to them, they were of no value to him anymore. Solomon has viewed the actions of those around him, and discovered it is much better to take care of your servants. A contented servant will get much more done for his master.

Ecclesiastes 8:10 "And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done: this [is] also vanity."

Solomon is seeing the apparent injustices in this life. The wicked, possibly, should not be buried, but treated like the animals they were. We saw this happen in the case of wicked Jezebel. II Kings 9:10 "And the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the portion of Jezreel, and [there shall be] none to bury [her]. And he opened the door, and fled." In this particular case, the wicked were given a place of burial with the righteous. It, also, appears they had pretended to be righteous, because they came and went from the place of the holy.

Ecclesiastes 8:11 "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil."

Much judgement does not take place on the earth. Some, who appear to be living the way God would have them to live, will find judgement from God to be harsh. Matthew 7:22 "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?" Matthew 7:23 "And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Those living sinful lives, who are not punished immediately, cause others to go the way of sin, too. They think it is easy to cover up their sins. You may get away with your sin on this earth and no one know, but be sure, God knows.

Ecclesiastes 8:12 "Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his [days] be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:"

It is really of no concern to us how God deals with the sinner. The one thing we must do, is live the very best we can ourselves. God is not willing that even one should perish. Perhaps, He is waiting, giving ample time for Him to repent. Our concern is not his sins, or how God deals with him. Our concern is our own sins. If we live right, God will bless us. Psalms 37:18 "The LORD knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever." Those who live for God will inherit eternal life. Matthew 25:34 "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:"

Ecclesiastes 8:13 "But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong [his] days, [which are] as a shadow; because he feareth not before God."

Solomon knew that God had not promised long life to the wicked. It troubled Solomon that he saw seeming contradictions to this. In verse 13 above, Solomon is stating, that many times the wicked's life was shortened. He believed this to be the correct solution to evil. Isaiah 57:21 "[There



is] no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." Those who live for God have hope of the resurrection. Those who do not have a fearful awaiting of the judgement, and then the lake of fire. Matthew 13:49 "So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just," Matthew 13:50 "And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Ecclesiastes 8:14 "There is a vanity which is done upon the earth; that there be just [men], unto whom it happeneth according to the work of the wicked; again, there be wicked [men], to whom it happeneth according to the work of the righteous: I said that this also [is] vanity."

The key to this is "upon the earth". Jesus said it best when he said in Matthew 13:30 "Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn." On this earth, the wicked and the righteous live together side by side. It appears, sometimes, that the evil growth {tares} is as great, or greater, than the righteous {wheat}. The separation comes at judgement. To the natural eye, this seems unfair.

Ecclesiastes 8:15 "Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry: for that shall abide with him of his labour the days of his life, which God giveth him under the sun."

Under the sun, this might be true, if there was no eternal life. Solomon is saying, to enjoy life to the fullest on this earth. He is saying, be thankful for the blessings of this life and enjoy laughter, food, and drink. This is the reward for the labor of this life. This certainly is true in the physical realm. Notice, the recognition that God gave it to him. I Timothy 4:4 "For every creature of God [is] good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:" I Timothy 6:17 "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;"

Ecclesiastes 8:16 "When I applied mine heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done upon the earth: (for also [there is that] neither day nor night seeth sleep with his eyes:)"

We must notice, again, that Solomon is looking at the happenings of this earth. He is applying his wisdom, so that he might understand the earthly life. All of this is Solomon trying to find out what this life is all about. Many women will say, that housework is like the last phrase here. It seems it never ends. They clean house and cook on Monday, and then, it is to do all over again on Tuesday. It is not uncommon for thinking man to try to understand life and where it leads. Solomon says, you would get no sleep at all, if you waited, until you understood life, to sleep. The questions go on.

Ecclesiastes 8:17 "Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek [it] out, yet he shall not find [it]; yea farther; though a wise [man] think to know [it], yet shall he not be able to find [it]."

The intelligence of the most intelligent man that ever lived is as nothing compared with God's intelligence. It is impossible to understand everything about God. The intelligence of man does not get him to heaven. God wants us to accept Him on simple faith. There are secrets of God that will not be known, until we get to heaven. The little understanding that we have, and the little more understanding that Solomon had, are gifts from God. Even at that, mortal man cannot know the depth of God. Romans 11:33 "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable [are] his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" Solomon, like us, will have to wait until he gets to heaven to know more.

## Ecclesiastes 10 Questions

1. God had given \_\_\_\_\_ wisdom above his fellows.
2. \_\_\_\_\_, as well as wisdom, is a gift from God.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ head shone, when he came down from the mountain after communicating with God.
4. Where does the author believe Moses got the first 5 books of the Bible?
5. Most of Genesis happened when?
6. Quote Acts chapter 6 verse 15.
7. Let every soul be subject unto the \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The powers that be are \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
9. Quote Romans chapter 13 verse 3.
10. What is verse 3 saying?
11. There is no rule over the king, except \_\_\_\_\_.
12. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ is the law of the land.
13. When is the only time a person should disobey the rule of the land?
14. Who were very good examples of the correct time to disobey the king?
15. What does the wise man look ahead and see, when he is under the king?
16. Why will an evil king not be king very long?
17. Quote 1 Thessalonians chapter 5 verses 1, 2, and 3.
18. What is spirit, in verse 8, speaking of?
19. Quote Luke chapter 23 verse 46.
20. Our spirit leaves our body at the command of \_\_\_\_\_.
21. Where did Jesus go, and preach, and bring its captives out with Him?
22. Quote Ephesians chapter 4 verse 8.
23. The master must remember what when he is ruling others?
24. In verse 10, Solomon is seeing the apparent \_\_\_\_\_ in this life.
25. What happened to wicked Jezebel?
26. Quote Matthew chapter 7 verses 22 and 23.
27. Whose business is it of how God deals with the sinners?
28. Quote Palms chapter 37 verse 18.
29. What happens to the blessed of the Father?
30. What hope do the believers have, that the sinners do not have?
31. What happens to the wicked, at the end?
32. What is the key to verse 14?
33. Who are the "wheat"?
34. Who are the "tares"?
35. In verse 15, what did Solomon recommend?
36. What makes the food we eat clean?
37. What charge are the rich given in 1 Timothy chapter 6 verse 17.
38. How do women feel about housework, that fits this lesson?
39. \_\_\_\_\_ does not get us to heaven.
40. God wants our simple \_\_\_\_\_.

We will begin this lesson in Ecclesiastes 9:1 "For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, [are] in the hand of God: no man knoweth either love or hatred [by] all [that is] before them."

Without God, man does not even have the power to tell the difference between love and hate. Everything that man is, God created him to be. Solomon is wise, because God gave him wisdom. Even the breath that we take, is by permission of God. Even the little we do understand, is by the Holy Spirit of God revealing it to us. Solomon had searched the world over to find out what life is. He came back to the conclusion he started with. God is all in all. There are no solutions aside from God. Solomon is a thinker, and he has come to the end of his earthly wisdom, no smarter than when he began. We are like sheep that must have a Shepherd to lead us.

Ecclesiastes 9:2 "All [things come] alike to all: [there is] one event to the righteous, and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean; to him that sacrificeth, and to him that sacrificeth not: as [is] the good, so [is] the sinner; [and] he that sweareth, as [he] that feareth an oath."

This is like the statement, "It rains on the just and on the unjust". Certain things happen to all of us. We are all born. We all die. These things are alike for the sinner and for the righteous. On this earth, it pretty much appears that similar things happen to all of us. That is true, until God's wrath comes, and then, those who are not righteous in the sight of God, have terrible trouble. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah is a very good example of the wrath of God being poured out on the wicked. The flood in Noah's time was another example of God's wrath. In that particular time, the people had sinned so greatly that God was sorry He had made man. Nearer our time, the Black Plague killed many, because the wrath of God had fallen. In our generation, I believe the disease A.I.D.S. is the wrath of God on the earth. Sometimes when the wrath of God comes, innocent people are injured, because of their close proximity to the sinners. The only thing that stops the wrath of God, is true repentance. In many instances, when the wrath of God falls, He saves a few, like He did with Noah's family. God does make a separation, but the natural man cannot see it. We must remember in all of this, that Solomon is looking at world conditions.

Ecclesiastes 9:3 "This [is] an evil among all [things] that are done under the sun, that [there is] one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness [is] in their heart while they live, and after that [they go] to the dead."

"Sons of men" is speaking of mankind in his sinful condition before he is saved. When a person is saved, he becomes a son of God. Unregenerate man does have a sinful heart. If he does not repent and become saved, he will go to hell. The following is a very good example of unsaved man. Genesis 6:5 "And God saw that the wickedness of man [was] great in the earth, and [that] every imagination of the thoughts of his heart [was] only evil continually." Matthew 15:19 "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:" These are describing a man born of the flesh.

Ecclesiastes 9:4 "For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion."

As long as a person is alive, there is hope for him. As long as there is a breath in the body, he can repent and be saved. The dog was thought of as a useless animal, and the lion was thought of as being the bravest. A dead lion has less courage than a live dog, regardless of how useless the dog is.

Ecclesiastes 9:5 "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten."

The wicked and the righteous realize that they will die. The dead do not know anything. Their spirits have left their bodies. The living are usually trying to accomplish something, before they die. Those that die are soon forgotten. All of this is speaking of the flesh man. This is speaking of death of the flesh. The spirit of man lives on. Hebrews 9:27 "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"

Ecclesiastes 9:6 "Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any [thing] that is done under the sun."

All of these things are speaking of those living in the flesh on this earth. When their bodies die, they stop feeling love, hate, and envy. All of their feelings that manifested themselves in their lives on the earth are gone when they die. They have no more effect on the earth.

Ecclesiastes 9:7 "Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works."

Man's labors on the earth give him the right to enjoy the food and drink he has earned. Food and wine, here, are spoken of as his daily foodstuff. Wine was drunk with meals, and this is not speaking of getting drunk. They lived for the time on earth. The last part of the verse above, is offering salvation through God for them. Jesus Christ makes us acceptable to the Father.

Ecclesiastes 9:8 "Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment."

The garments being always white speaks of being clothed in righteousness {white}. White speaks of purity, and righteousness. In the 23rd Psalm, we read "thou anointest my head with oil".

Ecclesiastes 9:9 "Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that [is] thy portion in [this] life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun."

In chapter 7 of this book, it appeared that Solomon thought all women to be evil. As we can easily see, here, that is not what he believed at all. The women he had married were from tribes forbidden to intermarry. Solomon had taken these women as wives in form only, because he did not want war with their fathers and brothers. The worst thing about this, was the fact

that they brought their false gods with them. They brought idol worship into the country, and Solomon built them temples for their false gods. A good wife is more precious than rubies. Notice, I said wife, not wives. The best arrangement is for one man and one woman to become one flesh and live that way, until one of them dies. This is a peaceful, contented life. Colossians 3:19 "Husbands, love [your] wives, and be not bitter against them."

Ecclesiastes 9:10 "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do [it] with thy might; for [there is] no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."

I truly believe to have a happy life, mankind must work. It is wonderful to be loved and wanted, but it is much more wonderful to be needed. There is a feeling of accomplishment that comes from a job well done. We are the happiest, when we are the busiest. Then we do not have time to worry and fret. When we are in the grave, all activity stops.

Ecclesiastes 9:11 "I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race [is] not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all."

We find that Solomon is using his own experience to explain this. The fastest runner who ever ran a race, could not win with a sprained ankle. The battle is not always won by the largest number of well trained troops either. Gideon is a very good example of that. He took 300 men, and whipped thousands of the enemy. It is not always the wise who make money either. You may go into a business venture that ordinarily would be sound, and have unavoidable circumstances cause you to fail. You could be the most skillful person who ever worked, but if the materials you were working with were poor, the finished product would be defective. Circumstances enter into our success or failure. I prefer to say, God is blessing when everything works smooth. We must take advantage of opportunities that arise. We must do our best and pray for God to bless. Then we might succeed.

Ecclesiastes 9:12 "For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so [are] the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them."

This is saying that mankind has no idea how long he will live. We might start to town to work, and be killed before we get there. Some die very young. It is sometimes an accident, and other times a disease that strikes when we least expect it. One of the worst losses of a loved one to deal with, is when they die suddenly. We should not say, tomorrow, I will do something. We may not be alive tomorrow. We should say "if God be willing, I will do that tomorrow".

Ecclesiastes 9:13 "This wisdom have I seen also under the sun, and it [seemed] great unto me:"

Again, Solomon has looked throughout the earth and come to the conclusion that something, or someone, had control of this. Mankind must live within the circumstances he finds himself. God controls everything.

Ecclesiastes 9:14 "[There was] a little city, and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it:" Ecclesiastes 9:15 "Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered that same poor man."

This is a parable. Solomon could be speaking of any small town. In that city, was found a wise man who was poor. The people would not listen to him, because he was poor. Even though he saved their city, they soon forgot that he had saved them. This could be a type and shadow of all the wonderful miracles that Jesus did for them, being soon forgotten just before the crucifixion. He was their Saviour, and yet, they did not even receive Him, until after His resurrection. At one point, the Bible says, all forsook Him. Matthew 13:57 "And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house."

Ecclesiastes 9:16 "Then said I, Wisdom [is] better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom [is] despised, and his words are not heard."

Most people would listen to the wise man, if he was wealthy. They have no respect for the poor. They, possibly, believe if he is so wise, is he not rich? Generally speaking, the words of a poor wise man are not heeded. They were heeded long enough to save them in verse 15 above. Wisdom is better than strength. Wisdom brings the necessities of life to the wise.

Ecclesiastes 9:17 "The words of wise [men are] heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools."

This is just saying, that a quiet man who speaks the truth through wisdom from God will be heard. A fool shouting will not be received. You would shut off your hearing the from fool. He has nothing of profit to say. Even if the fool is a king, those who hear him, will not receive his message.

Ecclesiastes 9:18 "Wisdom [is] better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good."

Solomon practiced this very thing. During his 40 year reign, there were no wars. He was known as a man of peace. He used the wisdom God had given him to stay out of war. This was the very reason he married so many women. All the weapons of war might not bring peace, but wisdom can. God would destroy countries that turned away from Him in sin. Hebrews 12:15 "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble [you], and thereby many be defiled;" Hebrews 12:16 "Lest there [be] any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright."

Be wise unto salvation.

## Ecclesiastes 11 Questions

1. Whose hand are the righteous and the wise in?
2. Everything man is, \_\_\_\_\_ created him to be.
3. Where does wisdom come from?
4. What had Solomon searched the world over to find?
5. We are like \_\_\_\_\_ that must have a \_\_\_\_\_ to lead us.
6. It rains on the \_\_\_\_\_ and on the \_\_\_\_\_.
7. What are some things that happen to all of us?
8. When does the sameness of God's dealing with mankind stop?
9. Who are good examples of God's wrath on the wicked?
10. What is a sign of God's wrath on our society today?
11. Why are innocent people sometimes hurt by the wrath of God on the wicked?
12. Who did God save in the great flood?
13. Who is the expression "sons of men" speaking of?
14. When a person is saved, he becomes a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Quote Genesis chapter 6 verse 5.
16. Where do evil thoughts come from?
17. As long as you are living, there is \_\_\_\_\_.
18. In verse 5, who knows they will die?
19. Quote Hebrews chapter 9 verse 27.
20. What is verse 6 saying about love, hatred, and envy?
21. Verse 7 says, man's labors give him what right?
22. What do white garments speak of?
23. Where do we read "thou anointest my head with oil"?
24. Who is Solomon saying to live with all the days of your life?
25. Why was Solomon not happy with his 700 wives?
26. A good wife is more precious than \_\_\_\_\_.
27. Quote Colossians chapter 3 verse 19.
28. What does the author believe makes a happy life?
29. The race is not to the \_\_\_\_\_.
30. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ happeneth to them all.
31. Give some of the examples about time and chance affecting our lives.
32. What is the life of man compared to in verse 12?
33. Solomon found that \_\_\_\_\_ controls everything.
34. What is verse 14 and 15.
35. What did the poor wise man do in verse 15?
36. \_\_\_\_\_ is better than strength.
37. The poor man's wisdom is \_\_\_\_\_.
38. Wisdom is better than \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
39. Quote Hebrews chapter 12 verses 15 and 16.
40. Be wise unto \_\_\_\_\_.



We will begin this lesson in Ecclesiastes 10:1 "Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: [so doth] a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom [and] honour."

Folly, in this verse, means silliness, or foolishness. We know that anything dead, has a bad odor. For the flies to be dead where perfume {apothecary} was, is worse. When a person expected sweet odor of perfume, they smelled dead flies. What a disappointment. It is, also, a disappointment to expect wise sayings to come from someone's mouth, and instead, they speak foolishness. What a disappointment this is.

Ecclesiastes 10:2 "A wise man's heart [is] at his right hand; but a fool's heart at his left."

The right side of the body has always symbolized the spiritual side of mankind. The left hand speaks of his earthly nature. A wise man will let his spirit control him, and not his flesh.

Ecclesiastes 10:3 "Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth [him], and he saith to every one [that] he [is] a fool."

When the fool stays at home, no one realizes his foolishness, but when he goes out into the world, everyone he comes in contact with, knows he is a fool.

Ecclesiastes 10:4 "If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offences."

This is just saying, be wise and do not answer back to the ruler. Just quietly accept what he says, and it will pass over.

Ecclesiastes 10:5 "There is an evil [which] I have seen under the sun, as an error [which] proceedeth from the ruler:"

Again, we see the expression "under the sun". We remember that this is speaking of those who are living on the earth. We will take note here, that Solomon sees that the ruler is not always right. He makes errors, too. He is human.

Ecclesiastes 10:6 "Folly is set in great dignity, and the rich sit in low place."

Sometimes, a ruler will choose a foolish person for very high office, and that is a mistake. Perhaps, the person is a relative, friend, or someone he owes a favor. None of those reasons are correct for choosing a leader. In this, the king has acted foolishly.

Ecclesiastes 10:7 "I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth."

To ride on a horse in the manner spoken of here, is speaking of the person being honored. What Solomon could be saying, is there were people

being honored, who should not have been, and there were others who should have been honored, who were working as servants.

Ecclesiastes 10:8 "He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him."

This is another way of saying, "Whatever you sow, you will reap". Psalms 7:15 "He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch [which] he made." Psalms 7:16 "His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate." The hedge mentioned above, is possibly, speaking of the hedge the Lord puts around the faithful. For the hedge to be removed, would bring an attack from that old serpent, the devil.

Ecclesiastes 10:9 "Whoso removeth stones shall be hurt therewith; [and] he that cleaveth wood shall be endangered thereby."

Working with large stones can be dangerous, if they roll back on you. Splitting wood can, also, be very dangerous to the one who is splitting. The wood separates violently, sometimes, and can hit those standing there.

Ecclesiastes 10:10 "If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom [is] profitable to direct."

This is speaking of a knife, or an ax that needs to be sharpened, to make it cut more easily. Whetting the edge sharpens the blade. To cut with a dull ax, or knife, would take much more power, than if it were sharpened. Wisdom helps us find better ways of doing things. Wisdom helps in practical living. It, also, helps in the spiritual life of man.

Ecclesiastes 10:11 "Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment; and a babbler is no better."

This is saying, the serpent bites without provocation. The babbler, here, is speaking of someone who uses his tongue to charm people into doing things his way. The babbler of this kind is just as dangerous as the serpent.

Ecclesiastes 10:12 "The words of a wise man's mouth [are] gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself."

A wise man is careful what he says, and how he says it. His speech is full of grace. His tongue is used to build people up, instead of to tear them down. A fool talks loud, and says things he has not considered. He destroys others with his speech, and in turn destroys himself.

Ecclesiastes 10:13 "The beginning of the words of his mouth [is] foolishness: and the end of his talk [is] mischievous madness."

The more he talks, the worse it gets. This talk of this foolish person is what they are inside. Their hearts are filled with mischief, and that mischief comes out in their speech. The speech gets worse every time he speaks. Proverbs 15:2 "The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness."

Ecclesiastes 10:14 "A fool also is full of words: a man cannot tell what shall be; and what shall be after him, who can tell him?"

"Fool", in this verse means a dense, confused thinker. It is so strange, that a person with confused thoughts, talks continuously. Solomon says in this, that no one except God truly knows the future. The answer is, no one can tell him. It is enough to live each day as it comes. Proverbs 15:2 "The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness." James 4:13 "Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:" James 4:14 "Whereas ye know not what [shall be] on the morrow. For what [is] your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

Ecclesiastes 10:15 "The labour of the foolish wearieeth every one of them, because he knoweth not how to go to the city."

The foolish pretends he knows the way to the city, when in fact, he does not. If he does not know the way to the city, he definitely does not know what is to come. The following Scriptures is a showing of the way to everlasting life. Matthew 11:28 "Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.: Matthew 11:29 "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:30 "For my yoke [is] easy, and my burden is light."

Ecclesiastes 10:16 "Woe to thee, O land, when thy king [is] a child, and thy princes eat in the morning!"

The position of king bears with it a great responsibility to rule the people fairly and wisely. A child is not trained. The princes that eat in the morning are speaking of those who sleep late. To be king, you must rise early and rule wisely. The princes "eating in the morning" could have to do with rising early to start drinking. Isaiah 5:11 "Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, [that] they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, [till] wine inflame them!"

Ecclesiastes 10:17 "Blessed [art] thou, O land, when thy king [is] the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness!"

This is saying, that the king is a son of people of noble character. They do not get up early to drink, but to eat for strength. A king that was drunk could not lead his people properly. The people are blessed when their king is of noble character, and is not a drunkard. Proverbs 31:4 "[It is] not for kings, O Lemuel, [it is] not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:" Proverbs 31:5 "Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted."

Ecclesiastes 10:18 "By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through."

All buildings require a certain amount of care. If they are not cared for, they will fall into ruin and decay. "Slothfulness" is speaking of laziness. This is still speaking of kings, or rulers. It is even worse for them to be lazy. The king leads the country. The leader must set an example

for others to follow. Proverbs 10:4 "He becometh poor that dealeth [with] a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich." Proverbs 12:24 "The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute."

Ecclesiastes 10:19 "A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all [things]."

We must remember, once again, that Solomon is speaking of the things the way they are on the earth. This is speaking of kings, who have neglected their office. They are spending their time laughing and drinking. On this earth, there is need for money. Without money, you cannot pay the rent, or the utilities. You need money for food, and for Dr. bills. Having enough money to live on, helps in your marriage, as well. The love of money is sin. To work and make enough money to provide for your family, is honorable. The king is actually provider for all of his people. It is doubly important that he stays sober, and provides for his people.

Ecclesiastes 10:20 "Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter."

Some people curse whoever is in office. Solomon is saying here, it is dangerous to curse the one who rules over you. Even if you curse him in privacy, someone might hear, and tell him. In the days of the kings, this could cost you your head. It is, also, wrong to curse the rich. Someone will tell what you have said, and then, you will be in trouble. Jesus says it best in the following Scriptures. Luke 12:2 "For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known." Luke 12:3 "Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops." Here is one more Scripture on the matter. Acts 23:5 "Then said Paul, I wist not, brethren, that he was the high priest: for it is written, Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people."

## Ecclesiastes 12 Questions

1. What does folly, in verse 1, mean?
2. What does "apothecary" mean?
3. When they were expecting to smell the sweet odor of perfume, they smelled what?
4. A wise man's heart is at his \_\_\_\_\_ hand.
5. When a fool stays at \_\_\_\_\_, no one realizes his foolishness.
6. What is meant by verse 4?
7. What does "under the sun" indicate?
8. Why would a king choose a foolish person for high office?
9. I have seen servants upon \_\_\_\_\_.
10. What did this usually show?
11. What was Solomon really saying in this?
12. Verse 8 is another way of saying what?
13. Quote Psalms chapter 7 verse 16.
14. If the hedge were removed, what might happen?
15. What dangers are spoken of in verse 9?
16. What is verse 10 speaking of?
17. \_\_\_\_\_ helps us find better ways of doing things.
18. What is the babblers speaking of in verse 11?
19. How does a wise man speak?
20. How does a fool speak?
21. Why do they speak mischief?
22. Quote Proverbs chapter 15 verse 2.
23. Where did Jesus say to come in Matthew chapter 11 verses 28, and 29.
24. Why is it woe for a child to be king?
25. What is "eating in the morning" speaking of?
26. Quote Isaiah chapter 5 verse 11.
27. In verse 17, the princes eat for what?
28. Why is strong drink not for kings and princes?
29. What happens to a building that is neglected?
30. The love of money is \_\_\_\_\_.
31. Curse not the \_\_\_\_\_.
32. Quote Luke chapter 12 verse 3.
33. Thou shalt not speak evil of the \_\_\_\_\_ of thy people.

We will begin in Ecclesiastes 11:1 "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days."

"Casting thy bread upon the waters" is speaking of sharing bread with those less fortunate. When you give to those in need, you are giving to God. God will give back to you in such abundance, you will never know need. Psalms 112:9 "He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour." Luke 6:38 "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

Ecclesiastes 11:2 "Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth."

This is expounding on verse 1. It is saying, do not stop by giving one person bread, but give to everyone in need. A person never knows what time he will need help himself. Those who have helped others, will be helped themselves. Psalms 41:1 "Blessed [is] he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble."

Ecclesiastes 11:3 "If the clouds be full of rain, they empty [themselves] upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be."

Some things are inevitable. The clouds being full and pouring rain is natural, the tree falling is not under our control either. This is just saying, that life is uncertain. We do not know when troubles will come. We must be thoughtful of others in trouble, and then, God will take care of us in our trouble. Trouble is inevitable. It comes to everyone sometime. We must learn to accept things the way they are.

Ecclesiastes 11:4 "He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap."

This is speaking of someone who makes excuses for not doing things. Just because the wind is blowing, is no reason not to sow. The idea is to find a way to sow in the wind, not to make excuses why you cannot sow. The very same thing is true regarding reaping. There are a thousand excuses that could be made why you cannot reap, but that will not bring in the crops. No one will benefit from the crop then.

Ecclesiastes 11:5 "As thou knowest not what [is] the way of the spirit, [nor] how the bones [do grow] in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all."

These are speaking of some of the mysteries of God. The spirit is like the wind. The wind blows, and we enjoy the freshness of the air, but we cannot see it, or describe it. The bones in the mother's womb is another mystery that truly only God knows. God is the Creator of life. Everytime a baby is born, we know that God has not given up on mankind. Somehow, mothers and daddies are coupled with God in the process of creating this new life.

Man and woman are the instruments God chooses to create life through. That is one really good reason that homosexuality is not an alternate lifestyle. Sex occurs to create life. Two men cannot create. For men to sleep with men is against nature. The same is true with two women. The natural thing is for a man and a woman to sleep together and pro-create life with God. We do not understand the process. We just know that is the way God made things.

Ecclesiastes 11:6 "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both [shall be] alike good."

Generally, early in the morning, the wind is not blowing. You, also, are fresh and energetic in the morning. You have more energy to work. This is not just speaking of farming, but is speaking of all who have work to do. Do not be lazy, get up and be about your work. It is, also, saying do not quit half-way through the job. If the sowing in the morning happens not to take, then the sowing in the evening will. We must put out whatever effort is needed to succeed. We do the work, and it is God who prospers the effort. If both morning and evening efforts prosper, how great that prosperity will be.

Ecclesiastes 11:7 "Truly the light [is] sweet, and a pleasant [thing it is] for the eyes to behold the sun:"

Light, in this sense, could be, also, speaking of life. We do know that all believers are children of the Light. We are not in darkness. Very little can be accomplished in the dark. After the night is passed and the sun comes up in the morning, it is very pleasant. The darkest time is just before the sun comes up. I John 1:5 "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." I John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

Ecclesiastes 11:8 "But if a man live many years, [and] rejoice in them all; yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many. All that cometh [is] vanity."

The time of darkness, spoken of here, is speaking of tribulation that comes upon all men. It is not the amount of trouble we have that makes us what we are. It is our attitude toward that darkness. We must use that time of darkness to make us better appreciate the Light. The time of darkness makes us remember how wonderful the Light is. If we had light all the time, we would not appreciate the Light. There is physical darkness, and there is spiritual darkness. I believe this Scripture is speaking of both. Solomon, again, feels that man has little control over the times of darkness and light. He does have control; of his own attitude about that darkness.

Ecclesiastes 11:9 "Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these [things] God will bring thee into judgment."

In the book of Proverbs, Solomon went into great detail about the conduct of a young man. He explained that his mother and father had taught him well in this matter. Young people are supposed to enjoy their youth, but

they are, also, apt to get themselves in trouble. They must control their desires, to avoid sinning against God. Youth do not have the problems that older people do. Older people are already in the process of making a living and meeting the bills for the family. Youth, who follows the call of his flesh, will bring himself into the judgement of God, because of the sins he commits. It is best to let the Spirit of God teach and direct your life from an early age, to avoid much sin.

Ecclesiastes 11:10 "Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth [are] vanity."

Children and youth make a lot of mistakes. They are not trained in the school of experience. II Timothy 2:22 "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart." I Corinthians 13:11 "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things." As never before, the youth of our generation should follow after their spirit, and not their flesh. Lust of the flesh is not only sin in the sight of God, but today can, also, get you exposed to A.I.D.S. In this sense, the warning above is physical, as well as spiritual.



## Ecclesiastes 13 Questions

1. Cast thy bread upon the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What does that expression mean?
3. When you give to those in need, you are giving to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Quote Psalms chapter 112 verse 9.
5. Quote Luke chapter 6 verse 38.
6. What is verse 2 saying?
7. Quote Psalms chapter 41 verse 1.
8. What causes the clouds, full of rain, to empty themselves upon the earth?
9. Who is verse 4 describing?
10. The spirit, in verse 5, is like the \_\_\_\_\_
11. The things mentioned in verse 5, are \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ is the Creator of life.
13. What do we realize every time a new baby is born?
14. Sex occurs to \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Two men having personal relations is \_\_\_\_\_.
16. Verse 6 says, sow \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_.
17. Do not \_\_\_\_\_ half-way through the job.
18. In verse 7, the light is spoken of as being \_\_\_\_\_.
19. It could, also, be speaking of what?
20. Quote 1 John chapter 1 verses 5 and 7.
21. Why is it necessary to have darkness?
22. What book, in the Bible, is about the conduct of the young man?
23. The youth that follows his flesh has what happen?
24. Why do the youth make so many mistakes?
25. Quote 2 Timothy chapter 2 verse 22.
26. Quote 1 Corinthians chapter 13 verse 11.
27. What are some of the dangers today, that go with lust of the flesh?

We will begin this lesson in Ecclesiastes 12:1 "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;"

We were discussing the problems of youth in the last lesson. Now, Solomon is bringing answers for those problems. The earlier a person comes to the Lord, the fewer problems he, or she, will have. Sometimes, I believe it is easier for the youth to come to the Lord. The average age of those who come to Christ in America today is 16. My own personal view is that as soon as a person is aware of sin, he is old enough to consider Jesus as his Saviour. For some, it is very early. Some people are old before they realize their need for a Saviour. The age that you come is unimportant, if you are sincere. When a person comes to the Lord at an early age, the Lord helps him through those difficult years, when the lust of the flesh is so great. God left us a roadmap to get to heaven with. It is His Bible. If we study the Bible, we have no difficulty in determining what is sin, and what is not. In our later years, it seems that the lusts connected with youth fade away. In each person's life, there is an end. We all grow old and die.

Ecclesiastes 12:2 "While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain:"

In these last lessons Solomon has used the expression "under the sun". Perhaps, this is speaking, in verse 2, of the time when life is no more. In the later part of our lives, the sun and all other natural lights are dimmed to us. Our vision is not as good, as it was in our youth.

Ecclesiastes 12:3 "In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened,"

All of this is describing the later years of a person's natural life. The strongest man will be bowed, if he lives long enough. The tremble could be for weakness, or for fear of his last days. In the United States, when a person reaches 65 he stops working every day. He stays at home a great deal, usually and some times stands at the window looking out contemplating his past life. It is not as bright as it was in his youth. Life is fading away. His vision becomes weaker as he nears the end of life on this earth.

Ecclesiastes 12:4 "And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low;"

The sounds that go with normal life will not be as loud and distinct as they had been, because the hearing is gone. This speaks, also, of a time when the person, who is aged, does not desire the music and parties that went with youth.

Ecclesiastes 12:5 "Also [when] they shall be afraid of [that which is] high, and fears [shall be] in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:"

The aged become fearful of heights. They are not as sure of themselves, as they were in their youth. There is fear of falling and breaking something. We do not mend as quickly as we did in our youth. Fear is not the only reason. Our strength is not what it was when we were young. Fear, in the verse above, is speaking of a time when we are not as self-confident as we were in our youth. The almond tree blooms turn from pink to white when the season is about over. This, probably, symbolizes the grey hair that goes with age. The grasshopper is associated with pestilence. Even the lowly grasshopper becomes a problem, when we are old. "Desire" is speaking of the lusts of youth which fade away with age. Man "goeth to his long home" is speaking of heaven. The mourners are there, because he has died.

Ecclesiastes 12:6 "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."

The silver "cord being loosed" and the "bowl being broken" is speaking of the life of man being over, or poured out. Age has cut him off from life. The water of life, now, does not flow.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."

The flesh of man returns to the dust. Genesis 3:19 "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou [art], and unto dust shalt thou return." The life within the flesh is the spirit of man. It lives on. Genesis 2:7 "And the LORD God formed man [of] the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." I Corinthians 15:44 "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." The spiritual body rises to heaven.

Ecclesiastes 12:8 "Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all [is] vanity."

Solomon is speaking of the natural side of life being vanity. Solomon sees the frailty of mortal things. What is born of the flesh is flesh. Flesh returns to dirt, or nothing.

Ecclesiastes 12:9 "And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, [and] set in order many proverbs."

The wisdom of Solomon was for him to judge his people justly. He used proverbs and parables to teach the people how to lead a better life upon the earth. His goal was to help his people. He has certainly done that, and in so doing taught us, as well. I Kings 4:32 "And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five."

Ecclesiastes 12:10 "The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and [that which was] written [was] upright, [even] words of truth."

Solomon was committed to the truth. The words he brought were not his own, they were placed into his mind by God, when he received the gift of wisdom. I Kings 4:29 "And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding

exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that [is] on the sea shore." I Kings 4:30 "And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt." His wisdom was not of this world, it was a gift from God.

Ecclesiastes 12:11 "The words of the wise [are] as goads, and as nails fastened [by] the masters of assemblies, [which] are given from one shepherd."

A "goad" is a sharpened iron rod. It is like a spike. This goad and the nails show the truth is fastened to the words of Solomon. They are actually the Words of God coming through Solomon. The One Shepherd is Jesus Christ.

Ecclesiastes 12:12 "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."

This is very true today. There are hundreds of thousands of books written just on the Bible subjects. There would be literally millions on all subjects. Even these Bible studies will add to that number. In the flesh, mankind is constantly trying to learn new things in books. All gaining of knowledge takes much work. The continuous study of books becomes wearisome, as we grow older.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this [is] the whole [duty] of man."

Solomon has searched to find the secret of life. He ponders every natural situation that man has experienced. Suddenly, Solomon turns from the natural man to the spirit of man. He finds the answer there. The only solution to any problem we have, is in God. The secret to a truly successful life, is to fear God and keep His commandments. Jesus summed it up like this. Mark 12:30 "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this [is] the first commandment." Mark 12:31 "And the second [is] like, [namely] this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."

Ecclesiastes 12:14 "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether [it be] good, or whether [it be] evil."

Let me give a few Scriptures for us to ponder on this last statement Solomon makes here. Matthew 12:36 "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." John 5:22 "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:" John 5:25 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live." John 5:26 "For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;" John 5:27 "And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man." John 5:28 "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice," John 5:29 "And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." Revelation 20:15 "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

## Ecclesiastes 14 Questions

1. Remember now thy \_\_\_\_\_ in the days of thy youth.
2. Why is it important to come to the Lord early in life?
3. What is the average age of those who come to Christ in America?
4. When does the author believe a person is old enough to come to the Lord?
5. In each person's life, there is an \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What is verse 2 speaking of?
7. Verse 3 is speaking of the \_\_\_\_\_ years of the natural life of man.
8. Who will be bowed?
9. What is the trembling from?
10. Why is it not as bright in old age, as it was in youth?
11. Verse 4 speaks of impaired \_\_\_\_\_.
12. The aged become fearful of \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Why is this so?
14. What is "desire", in verse 5, speaking of?
15. What does the "bowl broken" symbolize?
16. The flesh of man returns to the \_\_\_\_\_.
17. Quote Genesis chapter 3 verse 19.
18. The life within the flesh is the \_\_\_\_\_ of man.
19. Quote 1 Corinthians chapter 15 verse 44.
20. Solomon is speaking of the \_\_\_\_\_ side of life being vanity.
21. How many proverbs did Solomon speak?
22. Solomon was committed to the \_\_\_\_\_.
23. Quote 1 Kings chapter 4 verses 29 and 30.
24. What is a "goad"?
25. Who is the "One Shepherd"?
26. What is the conclusion of the whole matter?
27. Quote Mark chapter 12 verses 30 and 31.
28. Which of the Scriptures at the end of this lesson are more exciting to you?

The Song Of Solomon is sometimes, also, called the Song Of Songs. It is agreed by most scholars, that Solomon was the penman of this book. Love is spoken of in such an explicit way in this book, that some people wanted to leave it out of the Bible. I personally believe that would be a mistake. It is not to be taken literally. It is love poetry and is really speaking of God's love affair with Israel, or Jesus' love affair with the church. We will deal with it as the relationship with Jesus Christ and His church. The bridegroom in this book is speaking of Christ, and the bride is speaking of all Christians.

Some of the modern hymns in the church were based upon this book. One is "Jesus Rose Of Sharon". Some believe that "I Have Found A Friend In Jesus" is taken from this book, also. Psalms chapter 45 is a companion to this book. It is, also, a song of loves, which speaks of Christ and His kingdom. "My beloved" is a frequent expression. This is what the Christians call Christ, as in the following Scripture. Song of Solomon 2:16 "My beloved [is] mine, and I [am] his: he feedeth among the lilies." The Father, also, spoke of Jesus as "My beloved". Matthew 3:17 "And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matthew 17:5 "While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."

We will now begin in Song of Solomon 1:1 "The song of songs, which [is] Solomon's."

This very first verse leaves no doubt this is penned by Solomon. He intended this to be a love song to those lost souls who have found a Saviour and a groom.

Song of Solomon 1:2 "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love [is] better than wine."

The way a bride and her groom show their mutual love for each other is in kissing each other's lips. This shows a very close relationship that the world does not share in. Christ has just such a relationship with the church. John 15:13 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." The greatest love that exists is that Agape love that Christ had for His followers. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." This love is far beyond human love. This is love of the unlovely.

Song of Solomon 1:3 "Because of the savour of thy good ointments thy name [is as] ointment poured forth, therefore do the virgins love thee."

Jesus told a parable about ten virgins who were waiting for the bridegroom. Five of them ran out of oil, before He arrived. This is speaking of virgins in the sense of those who have not profaned themselves with false gods. II Corinthians 11:2 "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present [you as] a chaste virgin to Christ." The virgin, in all of these instances, is speaking of the believers in Christ, who make up the bride. The name of

Jesus is sweet to the Christians. Jesus means Saviour, and that is exactly what He did for all of us who will receive Him. We see, in the following Scripture, that one woman thought much more of Jesus than she did her expensive perfume. Matthew 26:7 "There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat [at meat]."

Song of Solomon 1:4 "Draw me, we will run after thee: the king hath brought me into his chambers: we will be glad and rejoice in thee, we will remember thy love more than wine: the upright love thee."

These are words spoken from a heart of love. I believe the bride is speaking to her bridegroom here. The upright are the Christians. All believers in Christ will be carried to the chambers of the Lord. John 14:2 "In my Father's house are many mansions: if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." John 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye may be also." He wants our love more than anything else. He asked Peter three times, "Lovest thou me"? He loves us, and wants us to return that love to Him.

Song of Solomon 1:5 "I [am] black, but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, as the tents of Kedar, as the curtains of Solomon."

Black, in this particular instance, means dusky. This could be skin tanned by the sun, or dusty from the desert. Black can, also, indicate famine or wretchedness, as well. "Comely" means suitable or beautiful in this Scripture. The word "Kedar" means to be dark. It is, also, a tribe descended from Ishmael. The curtains of Solomon could be speaking of a tent in the wilderness, where he stayed, when he was away from the palace. The bridegroom seems to be speaking of her unworthiness here. It appears, from the verse above, these are the Christians who make up the bride, and not the natural house of Israel.

Song of Solomon 1:6 "Look not upon me, because I [am] black, because the sun hath looked upon me: my mother's children were angry with me; they made me the keeper of the vineyards; [but] mine own vineyard have I not kept."

This black, again, means dark from the sun. It is almost as if the bride is saying, do not look at my outward appearance. It appears, the bride had done the work that had been intended for the brothers. This still makes me think of the physical house of Israel, which represents the "male child" throughout the Bible. The "maid child" always represent the church. The maid child did the work the male child would not do. Matthew 10:36 "And a man's foes [shall be] they of his own household." Galatians 4:29 "But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him [that was born] after the Spirit, even so [it is] now." Natural Israel {brothers}, were the flesh. Spiritual Israel {daughters} are the Christians.

Song of Solomon 1:7 "Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou makest [thy flock] to rest at noon: for why should I be as one that turneth aside by the flocks of thy companions?"

This is the bride speaking to the bridegroom {Jesus}. He is the Shepherd. His sheep do not follow after other shepherds. John 10:27 " My

sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:" He leads all the believers to a place of safety.

Song of Solomon 1:8 "If thou know not, O thou fairest among women, go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock, and feed thy kids beside the shepherds' tents."

The fairest among women is the bride of Christ. They are to bring the young Christians with them. They are to eat what the Shepherd has provided. They must stay as close as possible to the Shepherd. Their protection is in His presence. This is like the Christians on earth staying as close to the Lord as they can. They are waiting for the rapture of the church. They will be doing whatever they can to bring more into the sheepfold. They do not wander out in the world, they stay close to the Shepherd.

Song of Solomon 1:9 "I have compared thee, O my love, to a company of horses in Pharaoh's chariots."

The horses are just speaking of the stately beauty and the strength that the horses had. They were at the command of Pharaoh. They were the finest in the land. This is, possibly, speaking of the bride, being chosen and being the finest.

Song of Solomon 1:10 "Thy cheeks are comely with rows [of jewels], thy neck with chains [of gold]."

This is speaking of the blessings the groom had bestowed upon the bride. Jesus has brought us blessings beyond measure, the greatest of which is eternal life. The chains of gold around the neck show His approval of the bride.

Song of Solomon 1:11 "We will make thee borders of gold with studs of silver."

"Silver" symbolizes redemption. Gold symbolizes God. God has put a protection around His bride. He has sealed her with redemption.

Song of Solomon 1:12 "While the king [sitteth] at his table, my spikenard sendeth forth the smell thereof."

"Spikenard" is a strong perfume. The king is at rest. The Lord is even now sitting at the right hand of the Father. One of the things we are instructed to do as Christians, is to partake of the Lord's table. Every time we take communion, we are to do it in remembrance of Him. The fragrance is the sweet odor rising to the Lord. The prayers of the saints are to rise to Him as a sweet smelling savor.

Song of Solomon 1:13 "A bundle of myrrh [is] my wellbeloved unto me; he shall lie all night betwixt my breasts."

"Myrrh" is sweet smelling savor for the wedding bed. Myrrh was, also, used in the anointing oil. This is speaking of that wonderful communion between Christ and His church. The statement above is speaking of Christ's personal relationship with each believer. Christianity is not collective. It is a personal relationship between Christ and each Christian. Christianity



is not a religion, it is a relationship. "Betwixt my breasts" means next to my heart.

Song of Solomon 1:14 "My beloved [is] unto me [as] a cluster of camphire in the vineyards of En-gedi."

The figurative meaning of "camphire" is price of redemption. There were beautiful gardens in En-gedi in the time of Solomon. Jesus is our redemption. The plan of salvation is beautiful beyond compare.

Song of Solomon 1:15 "Behold, thou [art] fair, my love; behold, thou [art] fair; thou [hast] doves' eyes."

The bride has spoken of the wonder of the groom in previous verses. Now, the groom speaks of the soft eyes of the bride. The "dove" symbolizes love. Not only does the Lord love us, but He wants our love, as well. He wants to see love in our eyes for Him. The beauty, spoken of here, is that inward beauty that is seen in the eyes, which are the windows to the soul.

Song of Solomon 1:16 "Behold, thou [art] fair, my beloved, yea, pleasant: also our bed [is] green."

The bed of green is similar to the green pastures in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. Psalms 23:2 "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters." The mutual admiration of the bride and groom is very important.

Song of Solomon 1:17 "The beams of our house [are] cedar, [and] our rafters of fir."

This speaks of a home that is made of cedar. Cedar is a wood that is strong, and does not rot easily. This is a home that would be very similar to a comfortable country home. Hebrews 11:10 "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker [is] God."

## Song Of Solomon 1 Questions

1. What other name is Song of Solomon known as?
2. Who was the penman?
3. Why did some people want to remove this book from the Bible?
4. What is it really speaking of?
5. In this lesson, we deal with it as speaking of \_\_\_\_\_ and His \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What are some songs taken from this book?
7. What chapter in Psalms is a companion to this book?
8. The Christians call Christ \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Quote Matthew chapter 3 verse 17.
10. Where is another Scripture where the Father calls Jesus, my beloved Son?
11. The very first verse says these are \_\_\_\_\_.
12. A bride and groom show their mutual love for each other by \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Quote John chapter 15 verse 13.
14. Quote John chapter 3 verse 16.
15. Thy name is as ointment \_\_\_\_\_ forth.
16. Jesus told a parable about \_\_\_\_\_ virgins who were waiting for the bridegroom.
17. I am jealous over you with \_\_\_\_\_.
18. Who is the virgin speaking of?
19. Quote Matthew chapter 26 verse 7.
20. The upright are the \_\_\_\_\_.
21. Quote John chapter 14 verse 2.
22. How many times did Jesus ask Peter, "Lovest thou me"?
23. What does "black", in verse 5, mean?
24. What does "comely" mean?
25. What does "Kedar" mean?
26. Who was Kedar descended from?
27. Why was she black?
28. Quote Matthew chapter 10 verse 36.
29. The "man child" represents the \_\_\_\_\_.
30. The "maid child" represents who?
31. Quote Galatians chapter 4 verse 29.
32. Who is the Shepherd?
33. Quote John chapter 10 verse 27.
34. Who are the fairest among women?
35. What are the horses, in verse 9, speaking of?
36. What is the greatest blessing Jesus has given us?
37. "Silver" symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_.
38. What is "spikenard"?
39. What is "Myrrh"?
40. Christianity is not a religion, it is a \_\_\_\_\_.
41. What is the figurative meaning of "camphire"?
42. The \_\_\_\_\_ are the windows of the soul.
43. Quote Psalms chapter 23 verse 2.
44. The beams of our house is \_\_\_\_\_.
45. Quote Hebrews chapter 11 verse 10.

We will begin this lesson in Song of Solomon 2:1 "I [am] the rose of Sharon, [and] the lily of the valleys."

Jesus is the Rose of Sharon. He is, also, the Lily of the valley. When we are in the valley, we can look at the Lily, and realize there is a better tomorrow in Jesus. Many times when we look at the beautiful rose or the lily, it does something in our hearts and quickens our spirit to the reality of God. God's creation reveals His beauty to the world.

Song of Solomon 2:2 "As the lily among thorns, so [is] my love among the daughters."

There may be thorns of life surrounding us, but if we will keep our eye on the lily, we will have hope. God did not take the Christians out of the world. He saved them in the middle of the thorns. This is like the parable of the wheat and the tares that grow together, until harvest. The tares are harvested and burned, and the wheat is taken to His barn {heaven}.

Song of Solomon 2:3 "As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so [is] my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit [was] sweet to my taste."

The apple tree has beautiful blooms and wonderful fruit, when it matures. For it to be in the middle of trees of wood {worldliness} makes it even more desirable. Jesus is like no other who ever lived. John 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." John 1:15 "John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me." John 1:16 "And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace." John 1:17 "For the law was given by Moses, [but] grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." The fruit He gave was grace and truth. All the prophets and judges were not to be compared with the very Son of God, who is the groom of all who will dare to believe.

Song of Solomon 2:4 "He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me [was] love."

The "banqueting" house is a place to take those who are very dear to you. This is speaking of a place of abundance. This is a place where you will hunger and thirst no more. His protection over His bride is love. Isaiah 11:10 "And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious." John 15:10 "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."

Song of Solomon 2:5 "Stay me with flagons, comfort me with apples: for I [am] sick of love."

A "flagon" is something closely pressed together, as a cake of raisins. This is speaking of the love being so intense, that she is almost overcome.

She must turn to earthly food, and be refreshed with fruit and raisin cakes. Her love is so great, she is overwhelmed by it.

Song of Solomon 2:6 "His left hand [is] under my head, and his right hand doth embrace me."

The left hand has to do with the world, or the earth. This is, possibly, saying He is lifting her head above the world. He lifts the church out of the world. The right side has to do with the Spirit. The love of Christ fills her with His Spirit. This is speaking of the Spirit of God covering the church. Acts 2:17 "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:"

Song of Solomon 2:7 "I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roes, and by the hinds of the field, that ye stir not up, nor awake [my] love, till he please."

The daughters of Jerusalem are the physical house of Israel. The one speaking in this, is the bride who is made up of the Christians. There is a time when Jesus will seek, again, those of the physical house of Israel. Perhaps, this is what is spoken of here. Luke 23:28 "But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children." Ephesians 5:32 "This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." Ephesians 5:33 "Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife [see] that she reverence [her] husband."

Song of Solomon 2:8 "The voice of my beloved! behold, he cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills."

At the voice of the King, even the dead will be quickened and rise from the grave. When He steps upon Mount of Olives, it cleaves in two. When He returns, the trumpet will blow in the sky. The trumpet is the same as His voice. All Christians are listening now for the voice of their beloved {Jesus Christ}.

Song of Solomon 2:9 "My beloved is like a roe or a young hart: behold, he standeth behind our wall, he looketh forth at the windows, shewing himself through the lattice."

He is outside, and the bride must come out to Him. He is seeking fellowship with the believers. He will not force Himself into their lives. He shows Himself to them, but they must come out to Him.

Song of Solomon 2:10 "My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away."

This is speaking of the rapture of the church. His voice is what activates our spirit to rise and follow Him. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:" I Thessalonians 4:17 "Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

Song of Solomon 2:11 "For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over [and] gone;"

Between the time the Christians are carried away into heaven, and the return of Jesus with them to reign on the earth, the wrath of God falls. When Jesus comes back to the earth to reign, the entire earth will be like the garden of Eden. There will be no bad times, when Jesus is here caring for us. Sadness will be gone. Satan will be chained a thousand years.

Song of Solomon 2:12 "The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing [of birds] is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;"

Notice, the flowers appear, as if they had been gone. This is a time of new beginnings with our King {Jesus Christ}. This speaks of the earth as if it is a beautiful farmland. There will be perfect peace, because the King of peace will reign. This speaks of that 1000 year day {the sabbath of rest} that Jesus brings to all who believe.

Song of Solomon 2:13 "The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines [with] the tender grape give a [good] smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."

The "fig tree" symbolizes the physical house of Israel. This then, is speaking of a new growth of physical Israel. Remember, God had a remnant of the natural Israelite who came to Jesus. This is a renewing of them, as well as the followers of Jesus who are spiritual Israel. All who believe in Jesus, both Jew and Gentile are included in this.

Song of Solomon 2:14 "O my dove, [that art] in the clefts of the rock, in the secret [places] of the stairs, let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; for sweet [is] thy voice, and thy countenance [is] comely."

We do know that the Lord hides us in the cleft of the rock. Of course, He is that Rock. He loves to hear our voices lifted in prayer, praise, and song to Him. We are a sweet sound in His ear. He loves to be with us, as we love to be with Him. There is sweet communion as with a bride and bridegroom.

Song of Solomon 2:15 "Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines [have] tender grapes."

The "foxes" are speaking of the demons, or subordinate devils. They are constantly attacking the "vines" {Christians}. It is almost impossible to have new growth, because of the constant attack. This is a prayer for this attack to be taken away.

Song of Solomon 2:16 "My beloved [is] mine, and I [am] his: he feedeth among the lilies."

This is the bride speaking of the bridegroom {Jesus}. Hebrews 8:10 "For this [is] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:" This is speaking of all Israel {both Jew and Gentile} who have accepted Jesus. This reminds me of the words of the song "IN THE GARDEN". It

speaks of sweet fellowship with the Lord among the flowers. He walks and talks with His bride, as He walked with Adam, and talked with Him in the garden of Eden. Fellowship is totally restored.

Song of Solomon 2:17 "Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, turn, my beloved, and be thou like a roe or a young hart upon the mountains of Bether."

The day that breaks is that eternal day, where night never comes again. This is just another way of saying, come quickly, Lord Jesus. Romans 13:12 "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." II Peter 1:19 "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:"

## Song Of Solomon 2 Questions

1. Who is the Rose of Sharon?
2. Who is the Lily of the valley?
3. When we look at the beauty of nature, what does it do to us?
4. Where did the lily, in verse 2, grow?
5. What does that mean for us?
6. What happens to the tares in the parable?
7. What happens to the wheat?
8. What does "wood" symbolize?
9. Quote John chapter 1 verses 14 through 17.
10. What does the "banqueting house" show us?
11. His protection over His bride is \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Quote John chapter 15 verse 10.
13. What are the "flagons" of verse 5?
14. The left hand has to do with the \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Why is His left hand under the bride's head?
16. The right hand speaks of the \_\_\_\_\_.
17. Quote Acts chapter 2 verse 17.
18. This is a great mystery: but I speak of \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.
19. What happens to the Mount of Olives, when Jesus steps on it as King?
20. In verse 9, where is the Lord?
21. What is verse 10 speaking of?
22. Quote 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 verses 16 and 17.
23. What happens on the earth, between the rapture of the church and Jesus' return as King?
24. Verse 12 speaks of the earth as if it were a beautiful \_\_\_\_\_.
25. The "fig tree" symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_.
26. Who is the Rock?
27. What does the Lord love for us to do, that is a sweet sound in His ear?
28. Who are the "foxes"?
29. Who are the "vines"?
30. Quote Hebrews chapter 8 verse 10.
31. What does verse 16 remind the author of?
32. What day is verse 17 speaking of?
33. Quote 2 Peter chapter 1 verse 19.

We will begin this lesson in Song of Solomon 3:1 "By night on my bed I sought him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not."

This speaks of the church wanting the Lord Jesus to come back, but something seems to be delaying Him. Sometimes, Christians feel this separation, when they long to be out of this world and be with Jesus in heaven. They long for that close relationship they will enjoy with the Lord. Paul spoke a little of this, when he wanted to die and be with the Lord. Philippians 1:21 "For to me to live [is] Christ, and to die [is] gain." Philippians 1:22 "But if I live in the flesh, this [is] the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not." Philippians 1:23 "For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:" Philippians 1:24 "Nevertheless to abide in the flesh [is] more needful for you." Philippians 1:25 "And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;" This world is not the home of the Christian. The desire of the Christian is to be with Jesus. The Lord leaves us here for the purpose of winning the lost to Him.

Song of Solomon 3:2 "I will rise now, and go about the city in the streets, and in the broad ways I will seek him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not."

Jesus will not be found in the broad ways. The path that leads to righteousness is a straight and narrow path. Christianity is not a one time experience, it is a daily walk through life to Jesus. It is like a marriage. You do not get married, have one experience with your groom, and go back into the world. Marriage and Christianity are eternal commitments.

Song of Solomon 3:3 "The watchmen that go about the city found me: [to whom I said], Saw ye him whom my soul loveth?"

The watchmen are those who are to watch and warn. I believe this is speaking of spiritual leaders, who are to warn the people of the coming of the Lord. The Christian, in this instance, is asking the watchmen to help them find the time of the coming of the Lord.

Song of Solomon 3:4 "[It was] but a little that I passed from them, but I found him whom my soul loveth: I held him, and would not let him go, until I had brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me."

This is odd, but it speaks of the individual finding Christ for himself. The watchmen knew not when the Lord cometh. This speaks of the individual Christian who finds Christ, and hangs on with everything within him. He will not let go. The groom may have delayed His coming, but He was always near. This speaks of the "omnipresence" of God. He is near, and yet, He is in heaven at the right hand of the Father. The fact of the mother's chambers, here, is speaking of this being a holy union, which is not outside the teachings of the mother. This is not a clandestine relationship, but one sanctioned by the teachings of God.



Song of Solomon 3:5 "I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roes, and by the hinds of the field, that ye stir not up, nor awake [my] love, till he please."

This is the same statement as chapter 2 verse 7 in the last lesson. We took note that the "daughters of Jerusalem" were speaking of the physical house of Israel.

Song of Solomon 3:6 "Who [is] this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all powders of the merchant?"

God led the children of Israel through the wilderness with a pillar of smoke by day and a fire by night. The bridegroom is perfumed with myrrh and frankincense. "Frankincense" accompanies the meat sacrifice. Jesus was the perfect Lamb sacrifice. He was anointed for the sacrifice by the woman with the box of ointment. Mark 14:3 "And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured [it] on his head."

Song of Solomon 3:7 "Behold his bed, which [is] Solomon's; threescore valiant men [are] about it, of the valiant of Israel."

This symbolizes the Lord coming after His bride. This is very similar to the 45th Psalm. Psalms 45:10 "Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house;" This is speaking of carrying her home to be with Him. Threescore is 60. This 60 is speaking of the bodyguard which bring her to the groom. The church is ministered to by the angels of God. Hebrews 1:14 "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"

Song of Solomon 3:8 "They all hold swords, [being] expert in war: every man [hath] his sword upon his thigh because of fear in the night."

The bride of Christ {church} may go through dangerous places, but the Lord protects Her. The "sword", sometimes, symbolically means the Word of God. The Psalms 46:1 "God [is] our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalms 62:7 "In God [is] my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, [and] my refuge, [is] in God."

Song of Solomon 3:9 "King Solomon made himself a chariot of the wood of Lebanon."

"Wood", as we discussed earlier, speaks of worldliness. This speaks of the chariot being of the world.

Song of Solomon 3:10 "He made the pillars thereof [of] silver, the bottom thereof [of] gold, the covering of it [of] purple, the midst thereof being paved [with] love, for the daughters of Jerusalem."

"Silver" speaks of redemption. "Gold" speaks of God. "Purple" speaks of royalty. To me, this is speaking of the bride coming from the earth, or the worldly. She is redeemed {silver} by the blood of Jesus. God {gold} is the foundation. The path is paved by the love of God. Jesus is the way that was

opened to Physical Israel first, and then made open to the Gentiles who became spiritual Israel through belief. Galatians 3:29 "And if ye [be] Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Song of Solomon 3:11 "Go forth, O ye daughters of Zion, and behold king Solomon with the crown wherewith his mother crowned him in the day of his espousals, and in the day of the gladness of his heart."

"Zion" symbolizes the church. This is speaking of the bride of Christ. The crown of the Lord is because He is King. Hebrews 2:9 "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man." Revelation 19:12 "His eyes [were] as a flame of fire, and on his head [were] many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself." Revelation 19:13 "And he [was] clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God."

### Song Of Solomon 3 Questions

1. What is verse 1 speaking of?
2. When do Christians feel this separation the most?
3. Who spoke of this very clearly?
4. Quote Philippians chapter 1 verses 21 through 25.
5. What is wrong with the search in verse 2?
6. What is Christianity?
7. Marriage and Christianity are \_\_\_\_\_ commitments.
8. Who does the author believe the watchmen are speaking of?
9. What is the Christian asking the watchmen?
10. What is verse 4 speaking of?
11. What does "omnipresence" mean?
12. Who are "daughters of Jerusalem"?
13. Where did God manifest Himself to the children of Israel in a pillar of smoke?
14. What special use did the "frankincense" have?
15. Quote Mark chapter 14 verse 3.
16. What does verse 7 symbolize?
17. Quote Psalms chapter 45 verse 10.
18. Threescore is \_\_\_\_\_.
19. Quote Hebrews chapter 1 verse 14.
20. Who protects the church?
21. What does the "sword" symbolize?
22. Quote Psalms chapter 46 verse 1.
23. King Solomon made himself a chariot of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Lebanon.
24. "Wood" speaks of \_\_\_\_\_.
25. "Silver" speaks of \_\_\_\_\_.
26. The church is redeemed by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.
27. What does "purple" mean?
28. Quote Galatians chapter 3 verse 29.
29. "Zion" symbolizes the \_\_\_\_\_.
30. Quote Revelation chapter 19 verse 12.

We will begin this lesson in Song of Solomon 4:1 "Behold, thou [art] fair, my love; behold, thou [art] fair; thou [hast] doves' eyes within thy locks: thy hair [is] as a flock of goats, that appear from mount Gilead."

This is the bridegroom speaking to the bride. The groom is looking into the eyes of the bride, and likes what He sees. The eyes reveal what she really is inside. The hair of the goat was long and black. Perhaps, that is what is intended in the comparison here. This example of Solomon as groom on the earth, and all the beauty he sees in his bride is an example of the beauty Christ sees in His church. Ephesians 5:28 "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself." Ephesians 5:29 "For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:"

Song of Solomon 4:2 "Thy teeth [are] like a flock [of sheep that are even] shorn, which came up from the washing; whereof every one bear twins, and none [is] barren among them."

The comparison of the teeth of the bride to sheep is speaking of the whiteness. The sheep are washed and cleansed after the shearing. The believers in Christ are washed in the blood of the Lamb and made white as snow. The twins could be speaking of the fruitfulness and there is no barren. One of the blessings of a marriage is the children it produces. On the spiritual side of this, one of the blessings of being washed in the blood and saved, is when others are washed and saved, because of your witness. Most true Christians bear spiritual children.

Song of Solomon 4:3 "Thy lips [are] like a thread of scarlet, and thy speech [is] comely: thy temples [are] like a piece of a pomegranate within thy locks."

This is speaking of red lips. We discovered in another lesson that comely means beautiful. The pomegranates could be speaking of the reddish color of the bride's cheeks.

Song of Solomon 4:4 "Thy neck [is] like the tower of David builded for an armoury, whereon there hang a thousand bucklers, all shields of mighty men."

Perhaps, this is speaking of the bride being made to reign with the King. II Samuel 22:51 "[He is] the tower of salvation for his king: and sheweth mercy to his anointed, unto David, and to his seed for evermore." In this instance, the "tower" is spoken of as spiritual strength. Ephesians 4:15 "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, [even] Christ:" Ephesians 4:16 "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

Song of Solomon 4:5 "Thy two breasts [are] like two young roes that are twins, which feed among the lilies."

Proverbs 5:19 "[Let her be as] the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love."

Song of Solomon 4:6 "Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, I will get me to the mountain of myrrh, and to the hill of frankincense."

The two young roes feed among the lilies at night, and at daybreak, they run away. Christ, even now, is in heaven awaiting the time to come to the earth. On the earth is, possibly, speaking of a life of darkness. The day breaks when we are carried away into heaven with Jesus. There is no night there. The hill of frankincense could be speaking of the sacrifice. The myrrh is speaking of the sweet smell. Jesus is the perfect Lamb sacrifice.

Song of Solomon 4:7 "Thou [art] all fair, my love; [there is] no spot in thee."

This matters not whether it is speaking of Jesus, who was perfect and totally without sin, or whether it is speaking of the chaste virgin bride that is without spot or wrinkle. The bride is made righteous in the blood of Jesus.

Song of Solomon 4:8 "Come with me from Lebanon, [my] spouse, with me from Lebanon: look from the top of Amana, from the top of Shenir and Hermon, from the lions' dens, from the mountains of the leopards."

This is the bridegroom calling the bride, from her past earthly life, to be with Him. Lebanon and the other names here, are symbolic. The Bridegroom is calling His bride out of the world to Him.

Song of Solomon 4:9 "Thou hast ravished my heart, my sister, [my] spouse; thou hast ravished my heart with one of thine eyes, with one chain of thy neck."

"Ravished", in this verse, means she has encompassed His heart. She has taken His heart completely. My sister spouse is a step beyond being promised. This is His young bride. The fact of one eye or one chain, ravishing Him, perhaps, means that under the veil, He had just seen this much, but it was enough to cause His heart to race. It could, also, mean that her concentration was upon Him, as if she had one eye.

Song of Solomon 4:10 "How fair is thy love, my sister, [my] spouse! how much better is thy love than wine! and the smell of thine ointments than all spices!"

A "spouse" is a bride. This speaks of the special love He has for His bride. To Him, she is beautiful. He would not trade her love for anything, and that includes fine wine.

Song of Solomon 4:11 "Thy lips, O [my] spouse, drop [as] the honeycomb: honey and milk [are] under thy tongue; and the smell of thy garments [is] like the smell of Lebanon."

There are many things this could imply. The kisses between husband and wife are special. They are moments when the world is completely shut out. The implication, here, could be the special relationship Christ has with His

church. They are not part of the world. They belong to Him, and Him alone. His love for them is so great, it far surpasses this love and kisses of the bride and groom. Hebrews 13:15 "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of [our] lips giving thanks to his name." The smell of Lebanon could be like Cedar, which does not fade away. It preserves the relationship as cedar preserves from moths.

Song of Solomon 4:12 "A garden enclosed [is] my sister, [my] spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed."

This is saying, the bride has all He needs. The garden is a place of love and peace. This is a place of rest. The church is a comfort, companion, joy, and lover to Him. The spouse is for Him alone. The spring shut up and fountain sealed shows she is His. He will not share His bride {church} with anyone. We have spoken before that Jesus will have 100% of us, or He will not have us at all. He will not share us with false gods.

Song of Solomon 4:13 "Thy plants [are] an orchard of pomegranates, with pleasant fruits; camphire, with spikenard," Song of Solomon 4:14 "Spikenard and saffron; calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense; myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices:"

The words and emotions which come from the bride are beautiful to the bridegroom. Everything about her reminds Him of a beautiful garden, and the fruit it produces. Christ loves the church as the Bridegroom loves the bride. The union between Christ and the church is unexplainable. He bought her with His precious blood. He cares for her day to day. His love for her is greater than human love. It is unselfish love. He cannot say enough good about His bride. All of the valuable spices are mentioned to show He loves her more than all of them.

Song of Solomon 4:15 "A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon."

The beauty of the gardens and the living waters are like the fresh flow of love from the bride to the groom. This is like the life in the Spirit that we live. John 4:10 "Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water." John 4:14 "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." John 7:38 "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."

Song of Solomon 4:16 "Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, [that] the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits."

The "north and the south" represent the cold and the heat. The garden has to have both to do well. This is the bride inviting the Bridegroom to come and stay in the garden with her. Perhaps, this is speaking of the 1000 year reign of Jesus upon the earth, when the entire land will be like a huge garden. The devil will be chained, and the earth will be like a paradise garden. Whether we are thinking of an individual Christian, or whether we are thinking of the church as a whole, the desire of the bride is to become

more pleasing to the bridegroom. The gifts of the Spirit that the believers receive through the Spirit will help them become more pleasing to their Saviour.

## Song Of Solomon 4 Questions

1. Thou hast \_\_\_\_\_ ' eyes within thy locks.
2. Who is speaking in verse 1?
3. What do the eyes reveal?
4. Quote Ephesians chapter 5 verses 28 and 29.
5. The comparison of the teeth of the bride to sheep is speaking of the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What makes the believers white as snow?
7. What is another blessing, other than being saved?
8. Most true Christians bear \_\_\_\_\_ children.
9. Thy lips are like a thread of \_\_\_\_\_.
10. "Comely" means \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Quote 2 Samuel chapter 22 verse 51.
12. The "tower" is spoken of as \_\_\_\_\_ strength.
13. Quote Ephesians chapter 4 verses 15 and 16.
14. Quote Proverbs chapter 5 verse 19.
15. On the earth is, possibly, speaking of a life of \_\_\_\_\_.
16. When does the day break for the Christian?
17. What are the two possibilities for the meaning of verse 7?
18. The Bridegroom is calling His bride out of the \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.
19. What does "ravished" mean?
20. What does "sister spouse" tell us?
21. Quote Hebrews chapter 13 verse 15.
22. What % of us will Jesus settle for?
23. Everything about the bride reminds the Bridegroom of what?
24. Quote John chapter 4 verse 10.
25. Quote John chapter 4 verse 14.
26. He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
27. What do the "north and south" represent in verse 16?
28. What time could this be speaking of?
29. Where will the devil be during this time?
30. The earth will be like a \_\_\_\_\_.



We will begin Song of Solomon 5:1 "I am come into my garden, my sister, [my] spouse: I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk: eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved."

The Scripture above, is not to be taken literally. This has to be the Lord Jesus Christ speaking to the church, because He calls them both sister and spouse. Matthew 12:50 "For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." The church of the Lord Jesus Christ, throughout the Bible, is the maid child. The Natural Israelite is spoken of as the man child. All believers in Christ are the bride of Christ. All believers are, also, the sons of God. This is just showing that male and female, alike, belong to God. God had met with Adam in the garden of Eden. The garden of fellowship is restored in heaven for the believer. This speaks of that wonderful fellowship of believers and their God. "Myrrh" is sweet aloes for the wedding bed. This speaks of the union of Christ and His church. Jesus told the apostles, they would not drink wine with Him again, until heaven. Matthew 26:29 "But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." Friends speaks of sharing His joy.

Song of Solomon 5:2 "I sleep, but my heart waketh: [it is] the voice of my beloved that knocketh, [saying], Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, [and] my locks with the drops of the night."

We see from this, that when the body is asleep, the spirit of man is still active. The Lord does knock at our door to get us saved. We must allow Him to come in. "Undefiled" is the same as a chaste virgin in II Corinthians 11:2 "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present [you as] a chaste virgin to Christ." Both words indicate they have not worshipped false gods. We see what Jesus said about knocking in the next verse. Revelation 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." The spirit of mankind must answer that knock of the Lord, and be saved. The spirit must over-rule the flesh. To open the door to Christ is an act of our own free will. Ephesians 5:14 "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."

Song of Solomon 5:3 "I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them?"

Sometimes, we are walking through life doing alright. It seems the furthest thing from our mind, is coming to Christ. This is speaking of someone who is satisfied, not realizing his need for a Saviour. To answer that call, he would have to put on his coat and shoes. Complacency about salvation, perhaps, could be disastrous. Today is the day of salvation. In fact, this very moment is the moment of salvation.

Song of Solomon 5:4 "My beloved put in his hand by the hole [of the door], and my bowels were moved for him."

This is speaking of the Lord trying to enter, but the door to our heart is bolted shut like this door. The Lord may woo us several times trying to get us to come to Him. The sad thing is, sometime He will stop trying. We must come to the Lord, while the invitation is still there. "My bowels were moved for Him" means that her heart was stirred within her. It is speaking of her innermost being. Many times people are touched by a sermon, and their heart is tender toward the Lord. If they do not come to the Lord right then, the Spirit of the Lord may not touch them and draw them the next time they come to church. Verse 4 above is speaking of the extreme measures the Lord takes to get you saved.

Song of Solomon 5:5 "I rose up to open to my beloved; and my hands dropped [with] myrrh, and my fingers [with] sweet smelling myrrh, upon the handles of the lock."

This is speaking of the sweetness involved in coming to the Lord. The beautiful, unconditional love that He has for those who receive Him is mentioned here. There is so much love and forgiveness, that it pours like liquid. Revelation 22:17 "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

Song of Solomon 5:6 "I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had withdrawn himself, [and] was gone: my soul failed when he spake: I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer."

This is like coming to the Lord one day too late. He had come and knocked at her door, but the virgin had not answered in time. The soldiers, who crucified Jesus, realized He was the Son of God when the earth quaked and the darkness came upon the earth. It was too late, they had already crucified Him.

Song of Solomon 5:7 "The watchmen that went about the city found me, they smote me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took away my veil from me."

The watchmen were the spiritual leaders, who were to warn the people. They not only did not tell the people this was their Messiah, they actually smote Jesus. He was wounded by them for our transgressions. The veil in the temple was torn from the top to the bottom, when Jesus was crucified. The temple and the bride are both uncovered.

Song of Solomon 5:8 "I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him, that I [am] sick of love."

This is a call for the daughters of Jerusalem to join the church in search of Jesus. Galatians 6:2 "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

Song of Solomon 5:9 "What [is] thy beloved more than [another] beloved, O thou fairest among women? what [is] thy beloved more than [another] beloved, that thou dost so charge us?"

These are the unsaved wanting a reason to follow Jesus. They want to know what is so much better about what He offers, than what the false gods

offer. Tell us why you believe Him to be better, and we might follow, too, is what they are saying?

Song of Solomon 5:10 "My beloved [is] white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand."

This white is bright like a shining light. Jesus is the Light of the world. Ten thousand is speaking of a vast amount so large you could not number them. There is no other like Jesus.

Song of Solomon 5:11 "His head [is as] the most fine gold, his locks [are] bushy, [and] black as a raven."

The fine gold symbolizes God. This is speaking of the One we call Jesus. He is the Son of God. The black hair, possibly, is speaking of the rolling black of the hills.

Song of Solomon 5:12 "His eyes [are] as [the eyes] of doves by the rivers of waters, washed with milk, [and] fitly set."

His eyes are filled with compassion and love. The white of the eye was so white, it appeared to have been washed in milk. Those who drink strong drink and live rowdy lives have blood-shot eyes. This is speaking of wholesomeness to the fullest extent, with the eyes of white. His eyes were strong, but full of devotion to His bride {church}.

Song of Solomon 5:13 "His cheeks [are] as a bed of spices, [as] sweet flowers: his lips [like] lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh."

This is speaking of a very wholesome look. Everything about Him was desirable. He even smelled of sweet odors. Revelation 21:23 "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb [is] the light thereof."

Song of Solomon 5:14 "His hands [are as] gold rings set with the beryl: his belly [is as] bright ivory overlaid [with] sapphires."

Jesus is the Right Hand of God. He is the Doer of the Godhead. His hands are representing the Godhead in their work. "Gold" symbolizes God. The "ivory" speaks of the extreme whiteness, or righteousness. The sapphire is blue. It shows His heavenly character. The white and the blue mingled like this speaks of His holiness. Song of Solomon 5:15 "His legs [are as] pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold: his countenance [is] as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars."

The pillars of marble show great strength and, also, righteousness. The gold socket shows this held together by God. The bridegroom was not only handsome beyond compare, but was holy, as well. The "cedars" show strength and endurance.

Song of Solomon 5:16 "His mouth [is] most sweet: yea, he [is] altogether lovely. This [is] my beloved, and this [is] my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem."

Psalms 8:1 "O LORD our Lord, how excellent [is] thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens." Psalms 19:10 "More to be

desired [are they] than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb." Psalms 45:2 "Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever." This is the bride {church} telling the daughters of Jerusalem of their great loss. He is our Friend. He is our Saviour. He is our Bridegroom.

He is all good things wrapped up into One. Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things [are] honest, whatsoever things [are] just, whatsoever things [are] pure, whatsoever things [are] lovely, whatsoever things [are] of good report; if [there be] any virtue, and if [there be] any praise, think on these things." Jesus, our Bridegroom, is all of them.

## Song Of Solomon 5 Questions

1. Who is verse 1 speaking of?
2. Quote Matthew chapter 12 verse 50.
3. Who is spoken of as the maid child throughout the Bible?
4. Who is spoken of as the man child?
5. Who are the bride of Christ?
6. What is the garden of verse 1?
7. What is "myrrh"?
8. Quote Matthew chapter 26 verse 29.
9. I sleep, but my heart \_\_\_\_\_.
10. What is "undefiled" the same as?
11. Quote 2 Corinthians chapter 11 verse 2.
12. Quote Revelation chapter 3 verse 20.
13. The spirit must over-rule the \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Quote Ephesians chapter 5 verse 14.
15. What is verse 3 speaking of?
16. When is the day of salvation?
17. What is verse 4 speaking of?
18. What does "My bowels were moved for Him" mean?
19. What is "myrrh"?
20. Quote Revelation chapter 22 verse 17.
21. The Jews rejected Jesus as their \_\_\_\_\_.
22. Who were the watchmen in verse 7?
23. He was wounded for our \_\_\_\_\_.
24. Quote Galatians chapter 6 verse 2.
25. What were the unsaved saying in verse 9?
26. The "white", in verse 10, is like what?
27. Fine gold symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_.
28. His eyes are filled with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
29. The white of the eye was so white, it looked like what had happened to it?
30. His cheeks are as a bed of \_\_\_\_\_.
31. Quote Revelation chapter 21 verse 23.
32. Who is the Doer of the Godhead?
33. Ivory speaks of extreme \_\_\_\_\_.
34. What do pillars of marble show?
35. The "cedar" shows \_\_\_\_\_.
36. Quote Psalms chapter 8 verse 1.
37. What are some of the things Jesus is to us?
38. Quote Philippians chapter 4 verse 8.

We will begin this lesson in Song of Solomon 6:1 "Whither is thy beloved gone, O thou fairest among women? whither is thy beloved turned aside? that we may seek him with thee."

This is speaking of the Bridegroom being gone away for awhile. This symbolizes the Lord Jesus, who is even now seated in heaven at the right hand of the Father. He is building a home for His bride. The world does not understand that He is gone away, and is coming back for His bride. John 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye may be also." They are constantly asking, "If He is coming back, why has He not already come"? The bride is even now saying, "Come quickly Lord Jesus".

Song of Solomon 6:2 "My beloved is gone down into his garden, to the beds of spices, to feed in the gardens, and to gather lilies."

The Garden of Eden was patterned after the garden in heaven, where the tree of life is. Jesus is, even now, there waiting, until the Father tells Him it is time to come and get His bride.

Song of Solomon 6:3 "I [am] my beloved's, and my beloved [is] mine: he feedeth among the lilies."

The bride is not in despair. She knows Her bridegroom is coming back. All Christians who are the bride have taken on the name of their groom. Christian starts with Christ. Hebrews 8:10 "For this [is] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:" Revelation 21:3 "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, [and be] their God."

Song of Solomon 6:4 "Thou [art] beautiful, O my love, as Tirzah, comely as Jerusalem, terrible as [an army] with banners."

The bride of Christ is spoken of as all believers in Christ. It is, also, spoken of as New Jerusalem. The Scripture above, is the beginning of the groom speaking wonderful things to His bride. Ephesians 5:27 "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." The church is the city of God.

Song of Solomon 6:5 "Turn away thine eyes from me, for they have overcome me: thy hair [is] as a flock of goats that appear from Gilead."

In an earlier Scripture, we saw that the goats had long black hair. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ is victorious, when Jesus is present. Jesus is the victor. No earthly power will be able to withstand the church. The reason being the power of the Lord Jesus Christ in the church.

Song of Solomon 6:6 "Thy teeth [are] as a flock of sheep which go up from the washing, whereof every one beareth twins, and [there is] not one barren among them."

We have touched on this before. The teeth are white. This just means they are very fruitful.

Song of Solomon 6:7 "As a piece of a pomegranate [are] thy temples within thy locks."

This, perhaps, is speaking of our mind stayed upon God. God is not interested so much in a church with outward beauty, as He is in its inward beauty. He does not want us to have a form of religion. He wants us to love Him with all our heart, body, soul, and mind.

Song of Solomon 6:8 "There are threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, and virgins without number."

Threescore is speaking of 60. Fourscore is speaking of 80. Solomon never slept with many of the women he claimed as his wives. We have discussed that some of the marriages were for political reasons to keep peace in the land. The queens, concubines, and virgins represent the different types of women. The virgins represent the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Song of Solomon 6:9 "My dove, my undefiled is [but] one; she [is] the [only] one of her mother, she [is] the choice [one] of her that bare her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her; [yea], the queens and the concubines, and they praised her."

Now, we see the "virgins" separated out. They are those who have never worshipped false gods. They are pure. The "concubines", here, speak of the unconverted world. They are aware of Christianity, even though they never became the bride of Christ {Church}. The "queens" represent the natural Israelite that was in power, but was never converted to Christianity. Galatians 4:26 "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all."

Song of Solomon 6:10 "Who [is] she [that] looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, [and] terrible as [an army] with banners?"

The queens and the concubines can not believe the virgin is so precious to the Bridegroom. Revelation 19:14 "And the armies [which were] in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean." Matthew 13:43 "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."

Song of Solomon 6:11 "I went down into the garden of nuts to see the fruits of the valley, [and] to see whether the vine flourished, [and] the pomegranates budded."

The main message to be taken from this, is in the word "I". It shows that she, of her own free, will followed her groom. She was not a bondslave. She had freedom of movement. Christians come to Christ of their own free will. God does not force us to accept Him. He wants our love.

Song of Solomon 6:12 "Or ever I was aware, my soul made me [like] the chariots of Ammi-nadib."

"Ammi-nadib" means people of liberality. This just means that she had freedom or liberty to go and do as she wished. She went wherever she chose to go. This is very important, because of the freedom we have to receive the Lord, or to reject Him. God does not want us to be like puppets on strings. He wants our love. He wants us to choose to be with Him.

Song of Solomon 6:13 "Return, return, O Shulamite; return, return, that we may look upon thee. What will ye see in the Shulamite? As it were the company of two armies."

I believe the "Shulamite", here, is speaking of the bride of Christ. Those in attendance are calling her back. She is the church. The two armies could be speaking of physical Israel and spiritual Israel. Luke 15:10 "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."



## Song Of Solomon 6 Questions

1. Who is gone away for awhile?
2. Who does this symbolize?
3. Quote John chapter 14 verse 3.
4. What is the bride saying now?
5. My beloved is gone down into his \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What was the garden of Eden patterned after?
7. Why is the bride not in despair?
8. Quote Hebrews chapter 8 verse 10.
9. The tabernacle of God is with \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Besides the Christians, what is called the bride of Christ?
11. Quote Ephesians chapter 5 verse 27.
12. What have we learned about goat hair?
13. Why can the world not defeat the church?
14. What is verse 7 speaking of?
15. How does He want us to love Him?
16. How many is threescore?
17. How many is fourscore?
18. What were many of Solomon's marriages for?
19. What do "queens", "concubines", and "virgins" speak of?
20. In verse 9, who is separated out?
21. Who are they?
22. Quote Galatians chapter 4 verse 26.
23. Quote Revelation chapter 19 verse 14.
24. What does verse 11 show us?
25. What does "Ammi-nadib" mean?
26. Why is this important?
27. Who is the "Shulamite"?
28. Quote Luke chapter 15 verse 10.

We will begin this lesson in Song of Solomon 7:1 "How beautiful are thy feet with shoes, O prince's daughter! the joints of thy thighs [are] like jewels, the work of the hands of a cunning workman."

We are looking at these lessons from the spiritual standpoint, and not the literal. The Scriptures must help us in our relationship with Christ for them to be useful to us. The "feet with shoes" indicate she is going somewhere. The church in action is a delight to the Lord. He wants us moving. The church that stands still is stagnant and will, probably, begin to decline. Notice the statement "prince's daughter". All Christians will reign with King Jesus. We will be princes. Revelation 5:10 "And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." Jesus is the head and we reign under Him. We are to be about our Father's business as Jesus was. The hands indicate the work. The "jewels" speak of our precious relationship with Christ. We are jewels to him. How beautiful are the feet of them who bring the gospel.

Song of Solomon 7:2 "Thy navel [is like] a round goblet, [which] wanteth not liquor: thy belly [is like] an heap of wheat set about with lilies."

In the physical, we could be looking at a description of a dance before the lover. These body parts are involved in that sort of dance. We, however, are looking at the connection with the church. This is a description of the beauty of the body {Christians}.

Song of Solomon 7:3 "Thy two breasts [are] like two young roes [that are] twins."

The breasts are mentioned several times in Scripture as being a very comforting part of the body to the groom.

Song of Solomon 7:4 "Thy neck [is] as a tower of ivory; thine eyes [like] the fishpools in Heshbon, by the gate of Bath-rabbim: thy nose [is] as the tower of Lebanon which looketh toward Damascus."

The tower of ivory would have been tall and slender. It would, also, have been dazzling white, which speaks of righteousness. The eyes are deep with feeling. The bride is mentioned as the holy city Jerusalem. The implication is that the bride {church} and the city are one. In the natural, that would be impossible, but nothing is impossible to God. The nose, here, is symbolic of a tower.

Song of Solomon 7:5 "Thine head upon thee [is] like Carmel, and the hair of thine head like purple; the king [is] held in the galleries."

"Carmel", in this particular Scripture, is a city and it means fruitful field. "Purple" speaks of royalty. She is crowned with royalty, is what this is saying. The king is waiting to bring His praises to the bride.

Song of Solomon 7:6 "How fair and how pleasant art thou, O love, for delights!"

The bride {church} is beautiful in every aspect to the Bridegroom. Zephaniah 3:17 "The LORD thy God in the midst of thee [is] mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing."

Song of Solomon 7:7 "This thy stature is like to a palm tree, and thy breasts to clusters [of grapes]."

We see from the following Scriptures, that we are tall in stature, because we stand in the knowledge of Jesus. Ephesians 3:17 "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love," Ephesians 3:18 "May be able to comprehend with all saints what [is] the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;" Ephesians 3:19 "And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." Christians are like the palm tree in that they may grow tall and stately, but they are solidly grounded in Christ. The breasts speaks of the fruit the tree produces.

Song of Solomon 7:8 "I said, I will go up to the palm tree, I will take hold of the boughs thereof: now also thy breasts shall be as clusters of the vine, and the smell of thy nose like apples;"

The "palm" tree was symbolic of love. The Lord delights in the love of the believers who make up the church. The "vine", many times, is speaking of the believers in Christ, or Christ Himself. They produce fruit of righteousness. Galatians 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith," Ephesians 5:9 "(For the fruit of the Spirit [is] in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)"

Song of Solomon 7:9 "And the roof of thy mouth like the best wine for my beloved, that goeth [down] sweetly, causing the lips of those that are asleep to speak."

This wine is, possibly, speaking of being filled with the Holy Spirit of God, and then, being able to speak by that Spirit. "Those that are asleep" are the unsaved. When you are saved and filled with the Spirit of God, then you speak the good news of the gospel. Matthew 26:27 "And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave [it] to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;" The cup, spoken of here, contained wine that symbolized the blood of Jesus. They drank the life that He provided them.

Song of Solomon 7:10 "I [am] my beloved's, and his desire [is] toward me."

This is the bride speaking and recognizing the fact that she belongs to the Bridegroom. Jesus bought us and paid for us with His precious shed blood. John 17:24 "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world." I Corinthians 6:19 "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" I Corinthians 6:20 "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

Song of Solomon 7:11 "Come, my beloved, let us go forth into the field; let us lodge in the villages."

This speaks of a time and place of peace. This is like the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. Psalms 23:1 "The LORD [is] my shepherd; I shall not want." Psalms 23:2 "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters." Psalms 23:3 "He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." Psalms 23:4 "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou [art] with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Psalms 23:5 "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over." Psalms 23:6 "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever."

Song of Solomon 7:12 "Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine flourish, [whether] the tender grape appear, [and] the pomegranates bud forth: there will I give thee my loves."

The "vineyard" is the church. The "vine" is Jesus Christ. This may be a peculiar thing to ask about the church, but we know many churches are not flourishing in the truth of the gospel. John 15:1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman." We must be very careful to lift up the name of Jesus in our churches. We must not be Christians in name only. Some have a form of Christianity, but deny the power thereof. We must produce fruit fit for the kingdom.

Song of Solomon 7:13 "The mandrakes give a smell, and at our gates [are] all manner of pleasant [fruits], new and old, [which] I have laid up for thee, O my beloved."

Mandrakes were thought of as love flowers. They were supposed to make you more fertile. True Christianity produces fruit. Some are old, some are young. Some are black, some are white. Some are males, some are females. There is a great variety of fruit. Christianity must be deeper than just emotion. Christ wants our heart and our will. He wants us to love Him above all else and to obey Him. Matthew 22:37 "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." I Samuel 15:22 "And Samuel said, Hath the LORD [as great] delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey [is] better than sacrifice, [and] to hearken than the fat of rams." The beloved of God love Him and obey Him.

## Song Of Solomon 7 Questions

1. We are looking at these lessons from the \_\_\_\_\_ standpoint.
2. What does "the feet with shoes" indicate?
3. The church that stands still is \_\_\_\_\_.
4. What does "prince's daughter" show us?
5. Quote Revelation chapter 5 verse 10.
6. "Hands" indicate \_\_\_\_\_.
7. What do the "jewels" speak of?
8. Verse 2, in the physical, could be speaking of what?
9. Thy neck is as a tower of \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Describe this tower.
11. What does this dazzling white speak of?
12. The bride is spoken of as the holy city \_\_\_\_\_.
13. "Carmel", in verse 5, is a \_\_\_\_\_.
14. What does the name mean?
15. "Purple" speaks of \_\_\_\_\_.
16. Quote Zephaniah chapter 3 verse 17.
17. Why are the Christians spoken of as tall in stature?
18. Quote Ephesians chapter 3 verses 17 through 19.
19. The "palm tree" was symbolic of \_\_\_\_\_.
20. The "vine" speaks of whom?
21. Quote Galatians chapter 5 verse 22.
22. Quote Ephesians chapter 5 verse 9.
23. What is the wine, in verse 9, referring to?
24. Who is "those who are asleep" referring to?
25. Quote Matthew chapter 26 verse 27.
26. What did this wine refer to?
27. Who is speaking in verse 10?
28. Quote John chapter 17 verse 24.
29. Your \_\_\_\_\_ is the temple of the Holy Ghost.
30. What does verse 11 speak of?
31. Quote the 23rd Psalm.
32. The "vineyard" is the \_\_\_\_\_.
33. The "vine" is \_\_\_\_\_.
34. Quote John chapter 15 verse 1.
35. "Mandrakes" were thought of as \_\_\_\_\_.
36. True Christianity produces \_\_\_\_\_.
37. Who are Christians made up of?
38. Quote Matthew chapter 22 verse 37.
39. Quote 1 Samuel chapter 15 verse 22.

We will begin this lesson in Song of Solomon 8:1 "O that thou [wert] as my brother, that sucked the breasts of my mother! [when] I should find thee without, I would kiss thee; yea, I should not be despised."

This is wishing to be the brother, that the relationship could have gone on from the beginning. It is interesting, to me, that even though the Christians are the bride of Christ, they are, also, all sons of God. Jesus is The Son of God, but all believers in Christ are adopted into the family of God, and are sons of God. Romans 8:14 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Romans 8:15 "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." This is a spiritual thing. In the Spirit, we can be the bride of Christ and the sons of God all at the same time. These are not speaking of a gender, but a relationship. The kiss just indicates sweet love. Luke 7:45 "Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet." Luke 7:46 "My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment." Luke 7:47 "Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, [the same] loveth little."

Song of Solomon 8:2 "I would lead thee, [and] bring thee into my mother's house, [who] would instruct me: I would cause thee to drink of spiced wine of the juice of my pomegranate."

We see a true desire to learn the perfect ways of the Lord. The woman, here, is the church of God. We read in the book of Revelation of the Light of Jesus being in all 7 churches. This speaks of not only being ministered to by Jesus, but ministering to Him, as well. The love of the bride for Christ is shown here. Galatians 4:26 "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." The "mother's house" then, is speaking of New Jerusalem. Acts 17:11 "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." Acts 17:12 "Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few."

Song of Solomon 8:3 "His left hand [should be] under my head, and his right hand should embrace me."

We discovered in an earlier lesson, that the left hand was lifting her out of this sinful world, and the right hand spoke of the spiritual blessings. This is saying, He anointed her with the Holy Spirit of God.

Song of Solomon 8:4 "I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that ye stir not up, nor awake [my] love, until he please."

We, also, discovered that the "daughters of Jerusalem" were speaking of the physical house of Israel. Jesus spoke to them in the following Scripture. Luke 23:28 "But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children." They should weep, because they rejected Jesus.

Song of Solomon 8:5 "Who [is] this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved? I raised thee up under the apple tree: there thy mother brought thee forth: there she brought thee forth [that] bare thee."

The bride is not of the daughters of Jerusalem. She is made up of the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is that wild olive branch that was grafted into the tree. This bride is not of the physical house of Israel. This is a stranger from the wilderness. These are those who took Jesus on simple faith. The bride is dressed in the white robe of righteousness that Jesus provided her. We find that the strength of the bride {church} comes from Jesus. John 15:4 "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."

Song of Solomon 8:6 "Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love [is] strong as death; jealousy [is] cruel as the grave: the coals thereof [are] coals of fire, [which hath a] most vehement flame."

Notice, that this is not a flesh relationship. This is of the heart. The bride has taken Jesus in her heart. The seal is like a signet. The wedding band used in marriages is a symbol of the very same thing. Read the love chapter in 1 Corinthians chapter 13. Husbands and wives should not be jealous of each other. They should not be given reason to be jealous either. They are for each other. This marriage is to be forever. II Corinthians 11:2 "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present [you as] a chaste virgin to Christ." Jealousy is like a burning fire.

Song of Solomon 8:7 "Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if [a] man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned."

Paul sums it up very well in the following Scriptures. Romans 8:38 "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come," Romans 8:39 "Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Song of Solomon 8:8 "We have a little sister, and she hath no breasts: what shall we do for our sister in the day when she shall be spoken for?"

The little sister is not yet mature. I believe this is speaking of the very young Christian that is still on milk and honey of the Word. This is speaking of those who already are saved, desiring to bring others into the true fellowship with Christ.

Song of Solomon 8:9 "If she [be] a wall, we will build upon her a palace of silver: and if she [be] a door, we will enclose her with boards of cedar."

The "wall" is speaking of a steadfast Christian who is unmovable. Jesus is the Corner stone, and we are the lively stones. I Peter 2:5 "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." The door would be more moveable. We see, however, the door is to be enclosed with cedar. The cedar preserves and strengthens. The strong Christians are to help the

weaker. Acts 20:35 "I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Song of Solomon 8:10 "I [am] a wall, and my breasts like towers: then was I in his eyes as one that found favour."

The wall is made up of the Christians who are grounded in the Word. They are always attached to the Corner stone. I Corinthians 15:58 "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." The Lord always sees and approves the good work you do for the Lord.

Song of Solomon 8:11 "Solomon had a vineyard at Baal-hamon; he let out the vineyard unto keepers; every one for the fruit thereof was to bring a thousand [pieces] of silver."

The "vineyard", in the verse above, is, possibly, showing us the value of the church in the sight of God. "Silver" means redemption. We know that there is no money in the world that we would trade for our salvation. The vineyard is the church in its relationship with the vine {Jesus Christ}. Read the 21st chapter of Matthew, beginning with the 33rd verse about the vineyard. Just as the Scripture above, the vineyard was a prized possession.

Song of Solomon 8:12 "My vineyard, which [is] mine, [is] before me: thou, O Solomon, [must have] a thousand, and those that keep the fruit thereof two hundred."

Christians should be caring for the vineyard, and causing new growth, and bringing new fruit. Acts 20:28 "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

Song of Solomon 8:13 "Thou that dwellest in the gardens, the companions hearken to thy voice: cause me to hear [it]."

The Bridegroom {Jesus} is speaking to His bride, here. Jesus will restore the church to its original beauty, and provide a heavenly Garden of Eden for her to dwell in. The simplicity of Christianity is spoken of here. That is what makes it so beautiful. Jesus quickens the spirit of individuals in the church. He is the quickening Spirit. It is Jesus who perfects His bride {church}. Notice how the bride receives power. John 15:7 "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." John 16:24 "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." Jesus provides for His bride {church}.

Song of Solomon 8:14 "Make haste, my beloved, and be thou like to a roe or to a young hart upon the mountains of spices."

This is saying, "Come quickly Lord Jesus." Revelation 22:17 "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Revelation 22:20 "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."



## Song Of Solomon 8 Questions

1. Why was the brother mentioned in verse 1?
2. What does the author find interesting about the bride of Christ?
3. Quote Romans chapter 8 verses 14 and 15.
4. These are not speaking of a gender, but a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Quote Luke chapter 7 verses 45, 46, and 47.
6. In verse 2, we see a true desire to do what?
7. The woman, here, is the \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Which churches was the Light of Jesus in?
9. Quote Galatians chapter 4 verse 26.
10. The "mother's house" is speaking of \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Quote Acts chapter 17 verses 11 and 12.
12. What was the left hand doing in verse 3?
13. What was the right hand blessing of verse 3?
14. Who are the "daughters of Jerusalem" speaking of?
15. Quote Luke chapter 23 verse 28.
16. Why were they weeping?
17. What is the bride dressed in?
18. Quote John chapter 15 verse 4.
19. The seal is like a \_\_\_\_\_.
20. What is the love chapter in the Bible?
21. Quote 2 Corinthians chapter 11 verse 2.
22. How does Paul sum up verse 7?
23. Who is verse 8 speaking of?
24. Who is the "wall" in verse 9?
25. Quote 1 Peter chapter 2 verse 5.
26. What is special about cedar?
27. Quote Acts chapter 20 verse 35.
28. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
always abounding in the work of the Lord.
29. What is the "vineyard", in verse 11, showing?
30. Where can you read more thoroughly about the vineyard?
31. Quote Acts chapter 20 verse 28.
32. Who is speaking in verse 13.
33. Quote John chapter 15 verse 7.

*Thank you for taking the time to study these lessons.  
I pray that something in this study has blessed you.*

*Your friend in Jesus,*

*Louise*

**Love the Lord Ministries  
P.O. Box 197  
Winthrop, AR 71866  
(870) 381-7393  
LTLministries@yahoo.com**