

8 speedily, the heart of the sons of men is fully set to do evil. (12) Though a sinner does evil a hundred times and prolongs his life, yet I know that it will be well with those who fear God, because they fear before him; (13) but it will not be well with the wicked, neither will he prolong his days like a shadow, because he does not fear before God.

(14) There is a vanity which takes place on earth, that there are righteous men to whom it happens according to the deeds of the wicked, and there are wicked men to whom it happens according to the deeds of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity. (15) And I commend enjoyment, for man has no good thing under the sun but to eat, and drink, and enjoy himself, for this will go with him in his toil through the days of life which God gives him under the sun.

(16) When I applied my mind to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done on earth, how neither day nor night one's eyes see sleep; (17) then I saw all the work of God, that man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. However much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out; even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out.

9 But all this I laid to heart, examining it all, how the righteous and the wise and their deeds are in the hand of God; whether it is love or hate man does not know. Everything before them is vanity, (2) since one fate comes to all, to the righteous and the wicked, to the good and the evil, to the clean and the unclean, to him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As is the good man, so is the sinner; and he who swears is as he who shuns an oath. (3) This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that one fate comes to all; also the hearts of men are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead. (4) But he who is joined with all the living has hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion. (5) For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward; but the memory of them is lost. (6) Their love and their hate and their envy have already perished, and they have no more for ever any share in all that is done under the sun.

(7) Go, eat your bread with enjoyment, and drink your wine with a merry heart; for God has already approved what you do.

(8) Let your garments be always white; let not oil be lacking on your head.

(9) Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life which he has given you under the sun because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. (10) Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in *Sheol*, to which you are going.

(11) Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, or bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to the men of skill; but time and chance happen to them all. (12) for man does not know his time. Like fish which are taken in an evil net, and like birds which are caught in a snare, so the sons of men are snared at an evil time, when it suddenly falls upon them.

(13) I have also seen this example of wisdom under the sun, and it seemed great to me. (14) There was a little city with few men in it; and a great king came against it and besieged it, building great slegeworks against it. (15) But there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that poor man. (16) but I say that wisdom is better than might, though the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heeded.

(17) The words of the wise heard in quiet are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools. (18) Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.

*Reviewed
9-2*