

## Ecclesiastes 7:1-29

- I. **Futility:**
- II. **God's Immutable Plan for Life (3:1-22)**
- III. **The Futility of the Circumstances of Life (4:1-5:20)**
- IV. **The Futility of Life as a Whole (6:1-1)**
- V. **Counsel for Living With Vanity (7:1-12:8)**
  - A. **Counsel in View of Man's Wickedness (7:1-29)**
    - 1. **Some Solomonic Proverbs. 7:1-14**
    - 2. **Some Practical Applications. 7:15-18**

- 15 I have seen everything during my lifetime of *futility*; there is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his wickedness.
- 16 Do not be excessively righteous, and do not be overly wise. Why should you ruin yourself?
- 17 Do not be excessively wicked, and do not be a fool. Why should you die before your time?
- 18 It is good that you grasp one thing, and also not let go of the other; for the one who fears God comes forth with both of them.

### **Summary:**

- 1. **Some things we just can't \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - 2. **We should seek the wisdom necessary to \_\_\_\_\_ our lives.**
  - 3. **We should also realize that our \_\_\_\_\_ at times are not just either-or, but maybe both, or neither.**
  - 4. **\_\_\_\_\_ for God lets us come to see the balance in life.**
3. **Live In Grace. 7:19-22**
- 19 Wisdom strengthens a wise man more than ten rulers who are in a city.
- 20 Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.
- 21 Also, do not take seriously all words which are spoken, lest you hear your servant cursing you.
- 22 For you also have realized that you likewise have many times cursed others.

### **Summary:**

- 1. **Wisdom from God is better for life than the \_\_\_\_\_ power bases.**
  - 2. **No one is always \_\_\_\_\_, except The One. Rom 3:9-12**
  - 3. **The wise person is not overly \_\_\_\_\_ to what everyone says.**
  - 4. **The wise person realizes that they too have \_\_\_\_\_, and probably in the same manner.**
  - 4. **Be Truly Wise. 7:23-26**
- 23 I tested all this with wisdom, and I said, "I will be wise," but it was far from me.
- 24 What has been is remote and exceedingly mysterious. Who can discover it?
- 25 I directed my mind to know, to investigate, and to seek wisdom and an explanation, and to know the evil of folly and the foolishness of madness.

26 And I discovered more bitter than death the woman whose heart is snares and nets, whose hands are chains. One who is pleasing to God will escape from her, but the sinner will be captured by her.

**Summary:**

1. The truly wise man knows that he is not \_\_\_\_\_ wise.
2. The past does not contain all the \_\_\_\_\_ and the future is not known.
3. Solomon wanted to explore good and evil to the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. His discoveries should let the \_\_\_\_\_ wise keep from being ensnared by evil.

**5. Realize We Are Flawed. 7:27-29**

27 "Behold, I have discovered this," says the Preacher, "adding one thing to another to find an explanation,

28 which I am still seeking (**lit: yet my soul is seeking**) but have not found. I have (**should be a "not" in here**) found one man among a thousand, but I (**nor**) have (**I**) not found a woman among all these.

29 "Behold, I have found only this, that God made men (**The Man = Adam**) upright, but they (**the offspring of Adam**) have sought out many devices." (**CHISHABON = 2x; 2 Chr 26:15; a war engine**)

**Summary:**

1. The Preacher keeps \_\_\_\_\_ for that which is not vanity.
2. He has found very \_\_\_\_\_ people who were truly wise and upright.
3. His conclusion is that God made Adam perfect, but his offspring figured out a wide \_\_\_\_\_ of ways to hurl stones at one another.

### **Ecclesiastes 8:1-17**

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V. **Counsel for Living With Vanity (7:1-12:8)**

A. **Counsel in View of Man's Wickedness (7:1-29)**

B. **Counsel in View of God's Inscrutable Providences (8:1-9:18)**

1. **Wisdom Is Good. 8:1**

1 Who is like the wise man (**CHAKAM**) and who knows the interpretation of a matter? A man's wisdom illumines him and causes his stern face(s) to beam. (**light up**)

**Summary:**

1. While the last chapter ended on a \_\_\_\_\_ note, this one begins on a positive one.
2. A truly wise person will leave behind their \_\_\_\_\_ and move on to the good things.
3. Wisdom realized is a joy to the soul and puts a \_\_\_\_\_ on one's face.

2. **Obey The King-Illustration Of Pleasing God. 8:2-4**

2 I say, "Keep (**Qal Imp SHAMAR**) the command of the king because of the oath (**SHeBUAH = 30x**) before God.

3 "Do not be in a hurry to leave (**Niph IPF BAHAL = agitated; cf Gen 45:3**) him (**the king**). Do not join in an evil matter, for he (**the king**) will do whatever he pleases."  
4 Since the word of the king is authoritative (**SHILtWN = 2x; from a potentate**), who will say to him, "What are you doing?"

**Summary:**

1. Everyone should \_\_\_\_\_ the king's commands with the first and foremost king being the Lord Himself.
2. Solomon encourages those who might be quickly swept away by an evil plan to \_\_\_\_\_ about it first.
3. The king is not \_\_\_\_\_ to you for what he does.
4. Authorities are accountable to \_\_\_\_\_ authorities.

**3. Reasons To Obey The King. 8:5-9**

5 He who keeps a royal command (**MITZWAH = 181x; Gen 26:5**) experiences no trouble, for a wise (**man's**) heart (**inner being**) knows the proper time (**'ETH**) and procedure (**MISHPAT**).

6 For there is a proper time and procedure for every delight (**CHAPHETZ = 39x; cf 3:1; 1 Sam 15:22**), when a man's trouble is heavy upon him.

7 If no one knows what will happen, who can tell him when it will happen?

8 No man has authority to restrain the wind with the wind, or authority over the day of death; and there is no discharge (**MISHLACHAT = 2x; Psa 78:49**) in the time of war, and evil will not deliver those who practice it.

9 All this I have seen and applied my mind to every deed that has been done under the sun wherein a man has exercised authority over another man to his (**own**) hurt.

**Summary:**

1. Wisdom includes the importance of \_\_\_\_\_ with obedience.
2. While there is an appropriate time and procedure, there is also a walk of \_\_\_\_\_, in that you may not know what the king has planned.
3. There are \_\_\_\_\_ to authority:
  - A. In the \_\_\_\_\_ realm. (The wind)
  - B. In the \_\_\_\_\_ realm. (day of death)
  - C. In the \_\_\_\_\_ realm. (no discharge from duty)
  - D. In the \_\_\_\_\_ realm. (evil will not deliver)
4. Solomon has sought to understand \_\_\_\_\_ of authority.
5. A truly wise man will know the \_\_\_\_\_ way to use authority.

**4. One Should Fear God. 8:10-13**

10 So then, I have seen the wicked buried, those who used to go in and out from the holy place, and they are soon forgotten in the city where they did thus. This too is **futility**.

11 Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil.

12 Although a sinner does evil a hundred times and may lengthen his life, still I know that it will be well for those who fear God, who fear Him openly.

13 But it will not be well for the evil man and he will not lengthen his days like a shadow, because he does not fear God.

**Summary:**

1. There are those who were religiously observant of the forms of the law, but were wicked in their hearts, and left no lasting \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Some will believe that because the wicked endure and even prosper, it is the \_\_\_\_\_ way of life.
3. There are no good thoughts going on in their soul because they have no \_\_\_\_\_ for God.
4. Slow justice \_\_\_\_\_ criminal activity.
5. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of \_\_\_\_\_. Prov 1:7

**5. When God Doesn't Make Sense. 8:14-15**

14 There is *futility* which is done on the earth, that is, there are righteous men to whom it (*futility*) happens according to the deeds of the wicked. On the other hand, there are evil men to whom it (*futility*) happens according to the deeds of the righteous. I say that this too is *futility*.

15 So I commended pleasure, for there is nothing good for a man under the sun except to eat and to drink and to be merry, and this will stand by him in his toils throughout the days of his life which God has given him under the sun.

**Summary:**

1. There is a frustration in the wise man when evil and good do not receive the \_\_\_\_\_ justice.
2. If this frustration is left unchecked, it leads to the thought process that the only thing that matters is our own \_\_\_\_\_ pleasure.
3. One day though all will be \_\_\_\_\_. Mal 3:13-4:3

**6. Man Cannot Discover It All. 8:16-17**

16 When I gave my heart to know wisdom and to see the task which has been done on the earth (even though one should never sleep day or night),  
 17 and I saw every work of God, I concluded that man cannot discover the work which has been done under the sun. Even though man should seek laboriously, he will not discover; and though the wise man should say, "I know," he cannot discover.

**Summary:**

1. It is impossible for any one human to fully \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ all that God has done on the earth.
2. If that is a person's life objective, then life can be nothing but \_\_\_\_\_.
3. While inductive reasoning has its place, there is always the possibility of \_\_\_\_\_ data.
4. It is a matter of having the wrong \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Thinking one's does know it all is simply a manifestation of \_\_\_\_\_.