



Making **SENSE**

of the **MESS**

THE UNIVERSE BEYOND OUR GRASP

Ecclesiastes 7

Ecclesiastes 7

¹A good name is better than fine perfume, and the day of death better than the day of birth. It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of everyone; the living should take this to heart. Frustration is better than laughter, because a sad face is good for the heart. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of pleasure.

Ecclesiastes 7

⁵ It is better to heed the rebuke of a wise person than to listen to the song of fools. Like the crackling of thorns under the pot, so is the laughter of fools. This too is meaningless. Extortion turns a wise person into a fool, and a bribe corrupts the heart. The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride. Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, or anger resides in the lap of fools.

Ecclesiastes 7

¹⁰ Do not say, "Why were the old days better than these?" For it is not wise to ask such questions.

Wisdom, like an inheritance, is a good thing and benefits those who see the sun. Wisdom is a shelter as money is a shelter, but the advantage of knowledge is this:

Wisdom preserves those who have it.

Consider what God has done:

Who can straighten what he has made crooked?

Ecclesiastes 7

¹⁴ When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider this: God has made the one as well as the other. Therefore, no one can discover anything about their future. In this meaningless life of mine I have seen both of these: the righteous perishing in their righteousness, and the wicked living long in their wickedness. Do not be overrighteous, neither be overwise — why destroy yourself? Do not be overwicked, and do not be a fool — why die before your time?

Ecclesiastes 7

¹⁸ It is good to grasp the one and not let go of the other. Whoever fears God will avoid all extremes.

Wisdom makes one wise person more powerful than ten rulers in a city. Indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right and never sins. Do not pay attention to every word people say, or you may hear your servant cursing you — for you know in your heart that many times you yourself have cursed others.

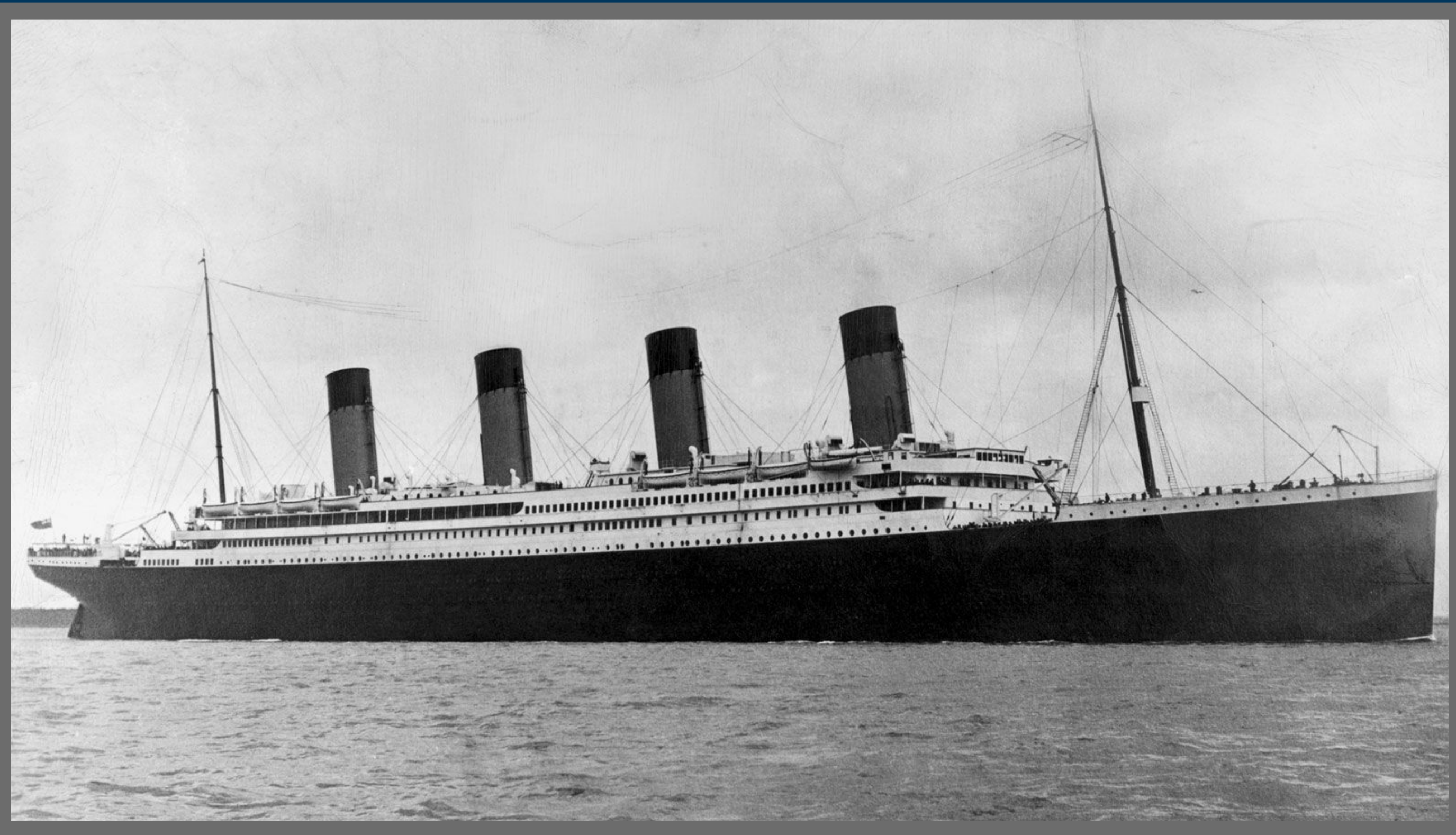
Ecclesiastes 7

²³ All this I tested by wisdom and I said, “I am determined to be wise”— but this was beyond me. Whatever exists is far off and most profound — who can discover it? So I turned my mind to understand, to investigate and to search out wisdom and the scheme of things and to understand the stupidity of wickedness and the madness of folly. I find more bitter than death the woman who is a snare, whose heart is a trap and whose hands are chains.

Ecclesiastes 7

²⁶ The man who pleases God will escape her,
but the sinner she will ensnare.

“Look,” says the Teacher, “this is what I have discovered: Adding one thing to another to discover the scheme of things — while I was still searching but not finding — I found one upright man among a thousand, but not one upright woman among them all. This only have I found: God created mankind upright, but they have gone in search of many schemes.”

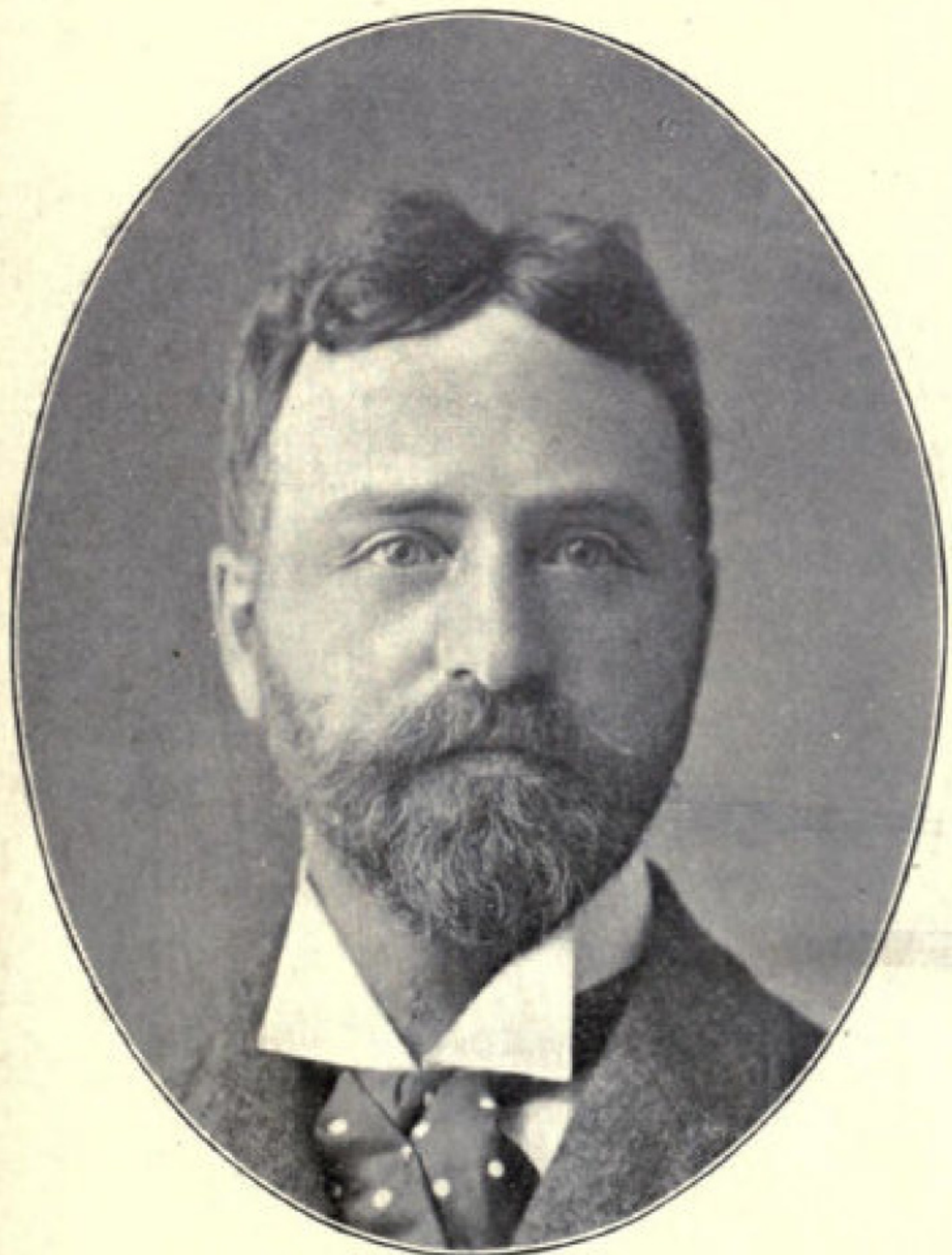


11:40pm
April 14, 1912

160 Minutes

2:20am
April 15, 1912





CAPT. ARTHUR G. PEUCHEN, Q.O.R.;
PRESIDENT AND MANAGER THE STANDARD CHEMICAL
COMPANY OF TORONTO, LIMITED,
TORONTO.



Arthur Peuchen

Everything changed within a few
short minutes.



Everything changed within a few
short minutes.



Mark 8:34-36

“Then He called the crowd to him along with His disciples and said: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?’”

William Shakespeare; 1602

“There are more things in heaven
and earth, Horatio, than are
dreamt of in your philosophy”

Hamlet; Act 1; Scene 5

Don't get so caught up in the
lower story that you lose sight
of the upper story.

Pastor Jody

6/19/22

Ecclesiastes 7

1. The Invitation of Death

vv. 1-6

2. The Limitation of Wisdom

vv. 7-29

1. The Invitation of Death vv. 1-6

“Death isn’t just a line we cross when our time us up. Death is an evangelist. He looks us in the eye and asks us to look right back with a steady gaze and allow him to do his work in us.

Death is a preacher with a very simple message. Death has an invitation for us. He wants to teach us that the day our death can be a friend to us in advance.”

David Gibson

I'm not downplaying the
tragedy of death.

But I'm telling you that I have
seen dozens and dozens of
people come to their time of
death with complete peace.

**Ecclesiastes is telling us to
live life backwards.**

v. 1

**“A good name is better than
fine perfume, and the day
of death better than the
day of birth.”**

A good name is better than
fine perfume

the day
of death better than the
day of birth

_____ better than _____.

A good name is better than fine perfume. (1a)

The day of death is better than the day of birth. (1b)

The house of mourning is better than a
house of feasting. (2a)

Frustration is better than laughter. (3)

_____ better than _____.

A wise person's rebuke is better than a fool's song. (5)

The end of a matter is better than its beginning. (8a)

Patience is better than pride. (8b)

Former days are not necessarily better than
these days. (10)

Death is an invitation to
put our priorities in
perspective.

**I can't say it any more
strongly...**

**Don't blow off God's
invitation to eternal life.**

Ecclesiastes is saying:

“Don’t be a fool! Stop trying to escape life’s agonies by drowning them away—by laughing them off and pretending they don’t exist. Look forward to the day of your death and ask yourself, what kind of person should I be?”

Ecclesiastes 7

1. The Invitation of Death vv. 1-6

2. The Limitation of Wisdom vv. 7-29

*“Do not be overrighteous,
neither be overwise —
why destroy yourself?”*

Ecclesiastes 7

2. The Limitation of Wisdom vv. 7-29

a. An argument from the life of Solomon himself.

*~ he knew what he should do,
but he couldn't do it.*

Ecclesiastes 7

2. The Limitation of Wisdom vv. 7-29

b. We have to go beyond “Lower Story wisdom” — to “Upper Story faith”.

v. 10

“Do not say, ‘Why were the old days better than these?’ For it is not wise to ask such questions.”

Ecclesiastes 7

2. The Limitation of Wisdom vv. 7-29

It's as if we convince ourselves
that God is no longer in control.

Ecclesiastes 7

2. The Limitation of Wisdom vv. 7-29

v. 13

*“Consider what God has done:
Who can straighten what
He has made crooked?”*

We have a
"3 pound brain problem"



*~ there is just so much that we are
incapable of understanding.*

How often did our parents
say to us:

“One day, you’ll understand
what I’m talking about.”

Ecclesiastes 7:14

**“When times are good, be happy;
but when times are bad, consider this:
God has made the one as well as the
other. Therefore, no one can discover
anything about their future.”**

If God is the God of all your circumstances then it doesn't matter whether things go well (prosperity) or not well (adversity) in this life.

Your Father in heaven knows.

God is faithful. You can trust Him.

God is in charge of all our human experiences. And in Christ He makes straight again that which was crooked (often a very painful process), so that in this life we do not live as men and women without hope.

