



Making **SENSE**

of the **MESS**

THE STUDY OF ECCLESIASTES



Making **SENSE**

of the **MESS**

DEAD FLIES, SNAKE BITES, & TWITTER

Ecclesiastes 9:13-10:20

Ecclesiastes

Everything Is Meaningless

1 The words of the Teacher,^a son of David, king in Jerusalem:

2 “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher.

“Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”

3 What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun?

4 Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever.

5 The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises.

6 The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course.

7 All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full.

To the place the streams come from, there they return again.

8 All things are wearisome, more than one can say.

The eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing.

9 What has been will be again,

laid on mankind! **14** I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

15 What is crooked cannot be straightened; what is lacking cannot be counted.

16 I said to myself, “Look, I have increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge.”

17 Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind.

18 For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief.

Pleasures Are Meaningless

2 I said to myself, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good.” But that also proved to be meaningless. **2** “Laughter,” I said, “is madness. And what does pleasure accomplish?” **3** I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly — my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was good for peo-



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Hevel

(a Hebrew word-which means like smoke or vapor)



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My prayer today is that we will be able to learn from Solomon's perspective on life but through the lens of Christ as our way, our truth, and the life. That we would understand that the foolish ways of life are meaningless and destructive compared to the blessed life that Christ offers.

13 I also saw under the sun this example of wisdom that greatly impressed me: 14 There was once a small city with only a few people in it. And a powerful king came against it, surrounded it and built huge siege works against it. 15 Now there lived in that city a man poor but wise, and he saved the city by his wisdom. But nobody remembered that poor man. 16 So I said “Wisdom is better than strength.” But the poor man’s wisdom is despised, and his words are no longer heeded.

17 The quiet words of the wise are more to be heeded than the shouts of a ruler of fools.

18 Wisdom is better than weapons of war but one sinner destroys much good.

10:1 As dead flies give perfume a bad smell, so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor.

2 The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left.

3 Even as fools walk along the road, they lack sense and show everyone how stupid they are.

4 If a ruler's anger rises against you, do not leave your post; calmness can lay great offenses to rest.

5 There is an evil I have seen under the sun, the sort of error that arises from a ruler:

6 Fools are put in many high positions, while the rich occupy the low ones.

7 I have seen slaves on horseback, while princes go on foot like slaves.

8 Whoever digs a pit may fall into it; whoever breaks through a wall may be bitten by a snake.

9 Whoever quarries stones may be injured by them; whoever splits logs may be endangered by them.

10 If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed, but skill will bring success.

11 If a snake bites before it is charmed, the charmer receives no fee.

12 Words from the mouth of the wise are gracious, but fools are consumed by their own lips.

13 At the beginning their words are folly; at the end they are wicked madness—

**14 and fools multiply words. No one knows what is coming—
who can tell someone else what will happen after them?**

15 The toil of fools wearies them; they do not know the way to town.

16 Woe to the land whose king was a servant and whose princes feast in the morning.

17 Blessed is the land whose king is of noble birth and whose princes eat at a proper time—for strength and not for drunkenness.

18 Through laziness, the rafters sag; because of idle hands, the house leaks.

19 A feast is made for laughter, wine makes life merry, and money is the answer for everything.

20 Do not revile the king even in your thoughts, or curse the rich in your bedroom, because a bird in the sky may carry your words, and a bird on the wing may report what you say.



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1. Seek Wise Counsel



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2. **Wisdom normally does not come from the loudest mouth. It can also come from unexpected places**



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Making **SENSE** of the **MESS**

1. Seek Wise Counsel
2. Wisdom normally does not come from the loudest mouth. It can also come from unexpected places
3. Do not expect to get thanked if you give wise counsel (at least not on this side of eternity)
4. Be aware of foolish thinking



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“The image, in case we don’t see (or smell!) it, is that of an expensive batch of perfume attracting a few flies. Some of those insects, unknown to the owner or maker, die and fall into the ointment (or perhaps die because they come too close and sniff). Over time, the sweet, seductive smell is replaced by a putrid, rancid one. The whole batch is ruined because of a few little bugs.

The lesson from the flies is that as valuable as wisdom is (and as much we hope it will be preserved), nevertheless a small amount of folly, for example, the verbosity of a fool or one awful political— can ruin what wisdom has accomplished.”

-Douglass O’Donnell



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Church, be on the lookout for foolishness and guard
the most precious things of this life.



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Elmer Fudd Disarmed by Animators in ...
spectrumlocalnews.com



▶ 7:31

Looney Tunes Classic Animated Cartoon ...
youtube.com





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If my body is 60% water, why don't I evaporate? Back to the drawing board science nerds!



why do the woman never have to take a DNA test to see if it's their child



Really Dumb Tweets
@rlydumbtweets

i have no hope for humans anymore

If Donald Trump becomes president I'm leaving America and moving to Alaska 🍷 100

7/19/15, 6:57 PM

24 RETWEETS 23 FAVORITES



@BurgerKing I bought your tenders the other day, then realized they're nuggets.this is false advertising, what if I was allergic to nuggets!

12 May via web ☆ Favorite ↻ Undo Retweet ↻ Reply

Mentioned in this Tweet



BurgerKing BURGER KING · Follow
The official **BURGER KING**® Twitter account. Letting you **HAVE IT YOUR WAY**® in 140 characters or less.



Somebody born in 2020 will see the year 3000 when they're 80. That's wild.



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Mouth-Management

(ask the Holy Spirit to help you be slow to speak)

Quiet words of the wise are to be heeded (9:17)

Words from the wise are gracious (10:12)



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“Be on your guard against the yeast of the pharisees which is hypocrisy. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.”

Luke 12:2-3



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1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **2** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 12:1-3



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24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

Matthew 7:24-27



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“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



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11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:3-11



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“The beginning of the remedy lies in our individual hands: our greatest contribution to the good of our nation, to the political stability and wholesomeness, to social standards and decency and to proper and just government, is our individual devotion and obedience to God’s Word.

Recovery starts with me.

“Isn’t this what the Lord Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount? When he has set out the basic principles of kingdom-life...he immediately transposes the ‘they’ of general principle into the ‘you’ of personal discipleship. This blessedness is for you when this is your life-style. But more: when this is your life-style you become the salt of purification and the darkness-dispelling light the world so desperately needs.”

-Prof Alec Motyer

