

### **Ecclesiastes Bible Study Week 3**

Let's begin by looking at Chapter 6:1-12

- What is the evil that lies heavy upon humankind?
- Who is the giver of wealth here? Who also does not allow people to enjoy it?
- Who is better off than the person who does not enjoy life's good things? Why?
- Do the wise have any advantage over fools?
- Can we know what will happen after we are gone?

Next, let's read Chapter 7: 1-14

- Why might the day of death be better than the day of birth? And why is this thought linked to ointment and reputations?
- Why is it better to be in the house of mourning than in the house of feasting?
- Is sorrow better than laughter?
- Is it better to hear the rebuke of the wise than the song of fools? What might give us pause when considering the words of the wise in verse 7?
- Why might the end of something be better than it's beginning?
- Why might nostalgia be foolish (see verse 10)?
- What do you think Qohelet is saying in verse 13?
- Is God responsible for both our prosperity and our adversity, as it says in verse 14? What do you think about Qohelet's view of God in this verse? What do you think he is saying about God here?

Next, let's read Chapter 7:15-29

- What does Qohelet mean by "do not be too righteous, and do not act too wise; why should you destroy yourself?" in verse 16?
- How does this fit with "do not be too wicked, and do not be a fool" in verse 17?
- What do you think Qohelet means when he says "It is good that you should take hold of the one, without letting go of the other," in verse 18?
- Why might moderation be a sign of wisdom? Of what benefit is it?
- What do you think about verses 19, 20, 21, and 22? Are they just random proverbs?
- What does Qohelet mean in verse 24 when he says "That which is, is far off, and deep, very deep; who can find it out?"
- What do you think Qohelet is saying in verses 26-29? Is he just being a misogynist here, or is there more significance to the imagery of the woman he is describing? Based on what you have read so far from Qohelet, would you be surprised if he was a misogynist?
- Look at verse 27 more closely. Why do you think the Frame Narrator is peeking out behind the curtains here?