

Ecclesiastes Bible Study Week 4

Let's begin by taking a look at Chapter 8:1-9

- What does Qohelet think of kings and government authorities?
- Are they helpful or are they dangerous in his view?
- What do you think about verse 9? Can you think of examples of people using authority to harm others?

Next, let's read 8:10-17

- What happens when justice is delayed in verse 11?
- Why do you think Qohelet changes his tone in verses 12 and 13? Do these verses contradict verse 14?
- What do you think Qohelet is saying with verse 15? Is this a consolation to us, or an act of despair?
- Can anyone, even the wise, know everything under the sun, according to verses 16 and 17?

Next, let's look at 9:1-12

- What is the fate that comes to all in verses 2 and 3?
- What do you think Qohelet means when he says "a living dog is better than a dead lion" in verse 4?
- What do the living have that the dead do not in verses 5 & 6?
- We see another – and the final – carpe diem passage in verses 7-10. Are these statements of hope or despair for Qohelet? What does he recommend in this final carpe diem passage?
- What do you think about verses 11 & 12? Can we ever anticipate the time of disaster? Does chance really govern the happenings of our lives?

Next, look at 9:13-18

- What do these verses say about the value of wisdom? Is it worth having at all?
- What do you think of verse 18? Does this ring true?
- Are the benefits of wisdom fragile? Can they be overturned or taken away? Do they last?

Next, let's look at Chapter 10:1-20

- Does folly outweigh wisdom in verses 1-4?
- What do you think about his views of social order in verses 5-7, and again in 16-20
- Why should we not curse the kings or the rich?

Do the benefits of wisdom endure, or are they fragile? What can overturn them?