

Ecclesiastes V
The Wise and Foolish Contrasted
Ecclesiastes 4:13-16

- I. THE POOR AND WISE CHILD (Ecclesiastes 4:13-14)
- a. The Condition – A Poor Child
 - i. He is poor – To the world, this child is in a bad position for anything good to happen with his life.
 - ii. He is a child – So not only is he poor, he is a child, therefore, his ability to get himself out of his poverty is very limited.
 - b. The Advantage – A Wise Child
 - i. He is wise – This makes a tremendous difference. With the right wisdom, he can do some incredible things.
 - 1. Some interesting points on wisdom:
 - a. Will make one happy (Proverbs 3:13)
 - b. It is better than silver and gold (Proverbs 3:14)
 - c. It is personified as a woman (Proverbs 3:15)
 - d. She is more precious than rubies (Proverbs 3:16)
 - e. Her ways are pleasant, and her paths peace (Proverbs 3:17)
 - f. She is a tree of life to those that take hold of her (Proverbs 3:18)
 - g. By wisdom the LORD founded the earth (Proverbs 3:19)
 - h. The LORD gives wisdom (Proverbs 2:6-7; Daniel 2:20-22; James 1:5)
 - i. Wisdom dwells with prudence (Proverbs 8:12)
 - j. By wisdom kings reign (Proverbs 8:15)
 - 2. Some examples of wisdom in youth:
 - a. Joseph (Genesis 41:39-44)
 - i. Joseph had went from being poor after his brothers had sold him into slavery, placed in prison for a crime that he had not committed, to being placed in a position only second to Pharaoh. (Ecclesiastes 4:14)

- ii. Because of the wisdom that God had given Joseph not only did he save the people of Egypt from famine, he saved his own family, those that had turned on him while he was young. (Genesis 41:33-38; 42:1-6)
 - b. Elihu (Job 32:1-10)
 - i. He was the youngest in the company (Job 32:4)
 - ii. He pointed out that it was God that gives understanding (Job 32:8)
 - iii. He correctly stated that it is God that gives wisdom (Job 35:10-11), that God is mighty in strength and wisdom (Job 36:5)
- II. THE OLD AND FOOLISH KING (Ecclesiastes 4:13-14)
 - a. This King is Foolish (Ecclesiastes 4:13)
 - i. Better is the poor than he (Proverbs 28:6)
 - ii. He is compared to a lion and/or a bear (Proverbs 28:15-16)
 - b. He Will No More Be Admonished (Ecclesiastes 4:13)
 - i. Ahab with the Micaiah prophet (1 Kings 22:8)
 - ii. King Asa of Judah (2 Chronicles 16:9) – See more history on Asa
 - 1. Asa had sought God while he was young (2 Chronicles 14:1-4, 9-12)
 - 2. Asa heard the word of the Lord and hearkened unto it (2 Chronicles 15:1-2, 10-15)
 - 3. Asa begins his descent from relying on God (2 Chronicles 16:1-3)
 - 4. Asa is rebuked for his actions (2 Chronicles 16:7-9)
 - 5. Asa does not heed the rebuke of Hanani (2 Chronicles 16:10) – Note the following:
 - a. Asa places Hanani in prison
 - b. Asa oppresses some of the people following this event
 - 6. Asa in his old age does not seek the LORD for his own personal sickness (2 Chronicles 16:12)
 - 7. One could say that Asa made the people “poor” (Ecclesiastes 4:14)

- III. THE SECOND CHILD & THE PEOPLE (Ecclesiastes 4:15-16)
- a. The King's Son
 - i. This could be the son of the king mentioned in verses 13 and 14
 - ii. Notice that it says, "the second child that shall stand up in his stead." – It sounds as if it could be referring back to the previous verse.
 - b. The Second Child Illustrated
 - i. Absalom
 - 1. Son of King David
 - 2. He tried to steal the hearts of the people (2 Samuel 15:6)
 - 3. He pulled key people away from David (2 Samuel 15:12-13, 31)
 - 4. In the end Absalom is killed by Joab (2 Samuel 18:14)
 - ii. Adonijah (1 Kings 1:5-7)
 - 1. Brother to Absalom (v. 6)
 - 2. Exalted himself to be king (v. 5)
 - 3. Asked for Abishag (1 Kings 2:21, 23-25)
 - c. He Shall Not Be Rejoiced In (Ecclesiastes 4:16)
 - i. Think about this in the terms of being known
 - ii. Fame, "well known"
 - iii. The people will not rejoice in him
 - iv. Some of the people had followed after Absalom
 - 1. These people fought against David and his servants (2 Samuel 18:1-7)
 - 2. The servants of David slew the people of Israel (2 Samuel 18:7)
 - a. There is a cost involved in this rebellion
 - b. The servants of David and the people of Israel go to battle against one another.
 - v. The people reunite the kingdom under David (2 Kings 19:1-15)
 - 1. In the end Absalom is killed
 - 2. And the people follow after David again
 - d. Solomon's End Thoughts (Ecclesiastes 4:16)
 - i. Surely this is vanity
 - ii. And vexation of spirit
 - 1. *Vanity* = "void, empty"
 - 2. *Vexation* = root word "vex"; means; "to attack, harass, trouble"
 - a. Lot's soul was vexed (2 Peter 2:8)
 - b. The Children of Israel when disobeying (Nehemiah 9:27)