

Ecclesiastes VIII
Wisdom for Life
Ecclesiastes 8:1-5

- I. WISDOM AND IT'S EXCELLENCE (Ecclesiastes 8:1)
 - a. It far outweighs folly (Ecclesiastes 2:13-14)
 - b. It is beyond man's wisdom, and is gotten from the mind of God (1 Corinthians 2:13-16)
 - i. Notice that the wisdom from God, helps you to understand His word.
 - ii. The Holy Ghost will guide you through the word of God, and help you in guiding your steps.
 - c. Notice that Joseph knew where the interpretations for Pharaoh's dreams would come (Genesis 40:8; 41:15-16, 38-39), Daniel also knew this (Daniel 2:28-30)
 - d. The Book of Proverbs begins with how to understand a proverb, interpretation, the words of the wise, and their dark sayings (Proverbs 1:6)
 - i. It takes the fear of the LORD
 - ii. It takes wisdom and understanding from God
 - e. Wisdom makes a man's countenance to change (Ecclesiastes 8:1b)
 - i. Wisdom will promote the man that will heed her (Proverbs 4:8)
 - ii. Wisdom is before the man that has understanding (Proverbs 17:24)
 - iii. Moses' face physically shown that he had been with God (Exodus 34:29-30)
- II. COUNSEL FOR THE KINGS COMMANDMENT (Ecclesiastes 8:2)
 - a. To Keep That Which the King Commands (Ecclesiastes 8:2)
 - i. In light of pleasing God (Proverbs 24:21)
 - ii. The royal seed of David submitted themselves to King Solomon (1 Chronicles 29:24)
 - iii. They are ordained by God (Romans 13:1-6)
 - 1. These rulers are placed in power by God.
 - 2. Because of this, we should obey those that are placed there, as long as their rule are in line with the laws of God (Acts 5:29).
 - b. In Regard to the Oath of God (Ecclesiastes 8:2b)
 - i. Oath = *Old English, "oath, judicial swearing, solemn appeal to deity in witness of truth or a promise."* – etymonline.com
 - ii. Oath in scripture

1. An oath made between two men before God for business (Exodus 22:10-11)
 2. An oath made to a king before the LORD (1 Kings 2:43, cp. 1 Kings 2:42), before a governor (Nehemiah 5:12)
 3. An oath made between the priest and before the LORD (2 Kings 11:4, see 2 Kings 11:1-3)
- iii. It would appear that Solomon is telling the reader that they need to keep the oath that they had made before God, in regards to keeping the commandments that had been given to them.
1. Application – We have the commandments of God in the King James Bible. We have the King’s commandments.
 2. Application – We are told to keep those commandments.
 - a. Just like Shimei; scholars today want to find ways to change God’s words.
 - b. They will change scripture to say anything other than what it really says:
 - i. They take it out of context
 - ii. They add to it
 - iii. They subtract from it
 - iv. They cannot take the Book as it stands in the context where it appears, believe it as it is, AND NOT SEE THE TRUTH.
- III. IN FEAR OF THE KING (Ecclesiastes 8:3-4)**
- a. Our Position in Regards to Him (Ecclesiastes 8:3-4)
 - i. Stand not in the evil way (Ecclesiastes 8:3a)
 1. Blessed is the man that stands not in the way of sinners (Psalm 1:1; 26:1, 4; Proverbs 13:20)
 2. The wicked have a way that is death (Proverbs 9:13-18)
 - ii. His word is all powerful (Ecclesiastes 8:4a)
 1. The earthly king (1 Kings 2:46; Proverbs 20:2)
 2. Our Lord and King
 - a. God is greater (Job 33:12 – spoken by Elihu)
 - b. His words is above His name (Psalm 138:2)
 - c. The Lord (Christ) will make war with the inhabitants of the earth, and will overcome them because of who he is (Revelation 17:14)
 - d. The word (word of God) is all powerful
 - i. Preach the word (2 Timothy 4:2)

- ii. As sharp as a two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12)
 - b. The King Does What He Wants (Ecclesiastes 8:3-4)
 - i. Whatever Pleases Him (Ecclesiastes 8:3b)
 - ii. No One Questions Him (Ecclesiastes 8:4b)
 - 1. All of the inhabitants of the earth are as nothing (Daniel 4:35)
 - 2. Who can hinder God? (Job 9:12)

- IV. KEEPING THE COMMANDMENT OF THE KING (Ecclesiastes 8:5)
 - a. Will Deliver Thee from Evil
 - i. All Things are for good and to the glory of God (Romans 8:28)
 - ii. From every evil work (2 Timothy 4:18)
 - 1. Note: This does not mean that we will not face persecution, troubles, hardships for Christ, and the work of God. (2 Timothy 4:16-17)
 - 2. The Lord promises to be with us, and to never forsake us (Romans 8:31-38)
 - b. The Wise Man's Heart will Discern All Things
 - i. Discern
 - 1. In scripture over and over again the definition that is seen is that of judgment, to judge between two or more things, or situations.
 - 2. Occurrences in scripture
 - a. Isaac, between Jacob and Esau (Genesis 27:23)
 - b. To judge between good and bad (2 Samuel 19:35)
 - c. The request of Solomon for discernment (1 Kings 3:9)
 - d. Judging between clean and unclean (Ezekiel 44:23)
 - e. Discerning between righteous and wicked (Malachi 3:18)
 - f. Discerning the weather and the times of prophecy (Matthew 16:3)
 - g. Spiritual discernment (1 Corinthians 2:14-15)
 - h. The word of God is a judge of the heart (Hebrews 4:12)
 - i. A discerner of good and evil (Hebrews 5:14)
 - ii. Of time and judgment
 - 1. Man himself knows not when his end shall be (Ecclesiastes 9:11-12)
 - 2. A righteous man can discern the times in which he lives (2 Timothy 3:1-8)
 - 3. Christ told his audience to judge righteous judgment (John 7:24)