

**Ecclesiastes VIII*****Life, Death, and the Getting of Wisdom*****Ecclesiastes 9:1-18**

- I. LIFE AND DEATH (Ecclesiastes 9:1-12)
  - a. The Righteous and the Wise (Ecclesiastes 9:1)
    - i. Are in the hands of God
    - ii. Their works are in the hands of God
      1. The steps of a good man (Psalm 37:23)
      2. Hannah testified of God's keeping the steps of his saints (1 Samuel 2:9)
      3. God remembers his saints and rewards them for their faithfulness (Psalm 37:5-6)
  - b. One Event to All (Ecclesiastes 9:2-6)
    - i. To the wicked
      1. To the unclean
      2. To him that sacrificeth not
      3. The sinner
      4. He that sweareth
    - ii. To the good
      1. To the clean
      2. To him that sacrificeth
      3. The good
      4. He that feareth an oath
    - iii. The event (Ecclesiastes 9:3) NOTICE: "Under the sun" (6 times in this chapter)
      1. Both the wicked and the good have one event that happens to them both
        - a. Death &
        - b. The grave
      2. Both the wicked and the good man
        - a. Live
        - b. Have their families
        - c. Then go to the grave
      3. The hearts of the sons of men are fully set on evil, and full of madness while they live, then they die. (Ecclesiastes 9:3)
      4. They all go to one place ("Under the sun") (Ecclesiastes 3:20; Ecclesiastes 12:7)

- iv. The opportunity of the living (Ecclesiastes 9:4-5)
  - 1. There is “hope” for the living (Ecclesiastes 9:4a) (Job 14:7-9; Job 27:8)
    - a. Hope to do more
    - b. Hope to love and live
    - c. Hope to please the Lord (Isaiah 38:18)
    - d. Hope to make a difference
  - 2. The knowledge of the living (Ecclesiastes 9:4b-5)
- v. The fate of death (Ecclesiastes 9:5-6)
  - 1. Their opportunities perished
  - 2. No more chances to please the Lord or make a difference here on earth (“under the sun”).
- vi. The opportunities presented (Ecclesiastes 9:6-10)
  - 1. The opportunities (Ecclesiastes 9:6-8)
  - 2. God “hath” given “under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 9:9)
    - a. The wife of thy youth (Proverbs 5:18)
    - b. The “portion in thy (this) life” (v. 9)
    - c. This “vain” life
  - 3. Take the opportunities and “do it with thy might” (Ecclesiastes 9:10)
    - a. For there is no work in the grave (1 Chronicles 28:20; John 9:4; cp. Acts 20:25-31)
    - b. Give your best to the Lord (Numbers 13:30; 1 Corinthians 9:24, 26; John 4:34)
    - c. Redeeming the time, for the days are evil (Ephesians 5:16)
    - d. Doing it unto the Lord (Colossians 3:23)
    - e. We will all give an account of ourselves to the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:10)
- vii. The race is not to the strongest or the best (Ecclesiastes 9:11)
  - 1. “Under the sun”
  - 2. Time and chance happens to them all
  - 3. Scripture tells us that protection and strength comes from the Lord
    - a. The horse is prepared but is not the source of protection (Psalm 33:17-18; Proverbs 21:31)
    - b. In fact, the Lord warned the Children of Israel through Isaiah about going to Egypt (the world) for help (Isaiah 31:1)
    - c. The Lord does not take pleasure in carnal strength (Psalm 147:10)
    - d. The Lord is the protection for the believer (Psalm 3:3, 8)

- viii. All have one end (Ecclesiastes 9:12)
  - 1. “Man knoweth not his time”
    - a. Death comes unexpectedly (James 4:14)
    - b. Just as a fish is caught in an evil (“bad”) net
    - c. As a bird is caught in a snare
  - 2. Man’s life is short
    - a. Cut down like grass (Job 14:1-3)
    - b. As a vapour (James 4:14)
    - c. As a handbreath (Psalm 39:5)
  - 3. No profit without Christ
    - a. If he would gain the whole world (Mark 8:36-37)
    - b. The fruits of becoming a child of God (Romans 6:21-22)
    - c. The example of Moses (Hebrews 11:24-26)

II. THE GETTING OF WISDOM (Ecclesiastes 9:13-18)

- a. That Which Was Found Under the Sun (Ecclesiastes 9:13-15)
  - i. That which seemed great unto Solomon
    - 1. That wisdom was found in this poor wise man
    - 2. How this poor wise man was treated
  - ii. Where wisdom can be found
    - 1. Wisdom does not care about rank in society
    - 2. Wisdom is not a respecter of wealth
    - 3. Wisdom can be found at different stages of life
    - 4. Wisdom can be found in young and old
  - iii. Where godly wisdom may be found
    - 1. An appeal to get wisdom (Proverbs 4:7)
    - 2. Better than riches (Ecclesiastes 7:12; Proverbs 16:16)
    - 3. True godly wisdom (Job 28:12-28)
- b. That Which Is Despised (Ecclesiastes 9:16-18)
  - i. The fool has no heart for wisdom (Proverbs 17:16)
  - ii. Wisdom is not contingent upon physical strength (Ecclesiastes 9:16, 18; Proverbs 2:11; Proverbs 21:22)