



Ecclesiastes 12

- 1 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth,
before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, “I find no pleasure in them”—
- 2 before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars grow dark,
and the clouds return after the rain;
- 3 when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men stoop,
when the grinders cease because they are few, and those looking through the windows grow dim;
- 4 when the doors to the street are closed and the sound of grinding fades;
when men rise up at the sound of birds, but all their songs grow faint;
- 5 when men are afraid of heights and of dangers in the streets;
when the almond tree blossoms and the grasshopper drags himself along and desire no longer is stirred.
Then man goes to his eternal home and mourners go about the streets.
- 6 Remember him—before the silver cord is severed, or the golden bowl is broken;
before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, or the wheel broken at the well,
- 7 and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.
- 8 “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher.^a “Everything is meaningless!”

The Conclusion of the Matter

- 9 Not only was the Teacher wise, but also he imparted knowledge to the people. He pondered and searched out and set
in order many proverbs.
- 10 The Teacher searched to find just the right words, and what he wrote was upright and true.
- 11 The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails—given by one Shepherd.
- 12 Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them. Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies
the body.
- 13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter:
Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole [duty] of man.
- 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Footnotes:

- ^a 8 Or the leader of the assembly; also in verses 9 and 10