

Ecclesiastes 9

King James Version (KJV)

9 For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God: no man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them. (They don't know what is coming in the future) (We are in God's hands whether we like it or not)

²All things come alike to all: there is one event to the righteous, and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean; to him that sacrificeth, and to him that sacrificeth not: as is the good, so is the sinner; and he that sweareth, as he that feareth an oath. (We all die in the end and return to God for judgment)

³This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead. (Whatever we build up for ourselves in the flesh life will be lost to us when we die)

⁴For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion. (As long as we live, there is hope for salvation, if we repent and get right with God) (A living dog <one of the lowest forms of life> is better off than a dead lion <one of the top predators in the food chain>, because he still lives)

⁵For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. (This refers to the flesh body only; not the spiritual body that returns to God)

⁶Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun. (A flesh body decomposes back to the minerals of the earth that made it up. There is no resurrection of the flesh. Once dead, it's gone forever)

⁷Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works. (If you are in God's good graces, relax and enjoy your life and the fruits of your labors)

⁸Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment. (Take care of yourself for a long healthy life)

⁹ Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun. (Enjoy your spouse and the family that God gives you. They make life much more pleasant)

¹⁰ Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest. (Whatever you choose to do in this life, do it the best you can)

¹¹ I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all. (God provides for all of us. Good things and bad things come to all of us at different periods during our life)

¹² For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them. (The evil ones of the world lay traps for us all)

¹³ This wisdom have I seen also under the sun, and it seemed great unto me: (Divine intervention is a miracle to us when it happens)

¹⁴ There was a little city, and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it:

¹⁵ Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered that same poor man. (But God remembered him. God is the one that gave the man his wisdom)

¹⁶ Then said I, Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard. (He is not heard by other men. They judge him because he is poor, so they dismiss his wisdom)

¹⁷ The words of wise men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools. (If people use good judgment, they can understand the words of wisdom. Fools who panic and follow bad advice are worthless)

¹⁸ Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good. (Avoid war and conflict if it is possible, but don't give into evil. It can destroy much good)