

A Divine Masterpiece

Ecc 12.1-7

- Today I want to look at a passage that is possibly the greatest masterpiece of creative literature ever written.
- It was written by the genius, wise mind of King Solomon - but of course he was just the 'penman'
 - God the Spirit is the true Author
- So what can this piece of writing possibly be about?
 - The answer may surprise you
 - It's about the DEATH of the body!
- But before we get into it (and I hope to help you to even memorise this passage)
- Why is there death?
 - Sometimes you hear of the owner of a large company disguising themselves and working on the 'shop floor'
 - and a manager who mistreats the workers does so to the owner without realising!
 - That manager is in big trouble, he's getting sacked.
 - The guilt is proportionate to who it is you sin against.
 - So you can understand that when some of the angels rebelled against God Himself, pure justice was meted out to them immediately.
 - But when Mankind did the same,
 - God didn't condemn everyone, there and then.
 - He delayed, and gave a promise of a way of salvation.
 - Why?
- The objection is regularly heard
 - **"Why would a God of love send anyone to hell",**
 - but it is telling that the converse question is seldom heard -
 - **"Why would a God of Justice allow anyone into heaven?"**
 - Why do we favour only the first question, other than the fact we are more prone to try to justify ourselves, and condemn God, than the other way round!?
- Some try to accuse God of wrongdoing
 - thinking maybe if He's not so good, then I'm not so bad;
 - or, at least, I don't have to worship Him because I'm better than Him;
 - or the God of the Bible can't be true.
 - All, or any, will do in order to gain the desired result:
 - Namely, a life without God in it, because / want to rule my life.

- But the very fact we live at all is a mercy from God.
And the existence of natural evils and death should warn us.

• So let's get to the passage-
It answers some crucial questions
WHAT, WHO, WHEN and WHY

What to do?- to remember

Who to remember?- thy Creator

When to do it?- now, in the days of thy youth

Why to do it?- because evil days come - aging, and death

- You're going to go before God
 - What will you say when you have to give an account for the things done in your brief time in the body?
 - Personally all I hope to say is one glorious Name- I'll have nothing else worthy to say.
 - I hope I can just speak His Name. There's real hope in that.
 - God promises salvation for those who trusted in Him in life.

GO THROUGH ILLUSTRATIONS- (see Ecc12.1-7 memorisation chart -

https://www.waytoshiloh.com/_files/ugd/ad4744_0297fc7bc1b44b80a656657047716905.pdf)



Ecclesiastes 12:1-7

Now, often Solomon's writing works on two levels - one natural and an underlying spiritual application.

So although the poetry works to describe the aging and death of the body, it also can describe **the death of the spiritual aspect of a person during life.**

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth,

(This is counsel for the young)

while the evil days come not,
(A warning that they will come)
nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;
(What will they be like? Long and pleasureless)
While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened,
(While the mind and memory aren't dulled)
(While the good influence of God, and Christ, and the Church, and it's ministers, fade because
of the ignorance of later life, or a life lived far from them)
nor the clouds return after the rain:
(New troubles come 'hot on the heels' of old ones, in a miserable succession)
(Doubts and afflictions of soul)
In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble,
(The body's joints, sinews, and bones grow old and shaky)
(All earthly things trusted in for strength will prove to provide a weak 'house')
and the strong men shall bow themselves,
(Old men stoop in weakness)
(Those who you thought strong, you realise aren't what you thought they were)
and the grinders cease because they are few,
(Teeth start to fall out)
(One can't 'feed' on the World's 'food', and especially upon the Word of God, if it is spurned)
and those that look out of the windows be darkened,
(Eyesight fails)
(Can't 'see' the truth anymore)
And the doors shall be shut in the streets,
(The old become shut in)
(One becomes 'shut in' spiritually, and stop attending church)
when the sound of the grinding is low,
(The working life is over, and Hearing fails)
(Can no longer 'hear' the truth)
and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird,
(Often older people don't sleep very well, and are awoken by the slightest noise)
(See below)
and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low;
(High and low pitch cannot be heard in older ears, therefore music cannot be enjoyed as much)
(Can't praise)
Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high,
(Old people are afraid of stairs, even a curb stone becomes a major obstacle)
(Afraid of the deep questions about 'high' things)
and fears shall be in the way,
(They become increasingly afraid of the outside world)
(Afraid of the 'Way'- the Gospel Way- that it might be true after all)
and the almond tree shall flourish,
(The early white blossom is like greying hair)
(Our 'dying' soul starts to show to all around)

and the grasshopper shall be a burden,
 (Even the smallest things become hard)
 (The smallest spiritual subjects are uncomfortable)
 and desire shall fail:
 (Youthful passions and appetites drift out of reach)
 (No desire for spiritual things)
 because man goeth to his long home,
 (The grave- life is short, death is long)
 (The spirit is dead within)
 and the mourners go about the streets:
 (Funerals)
 (People might say "It's so sad, he's dead spiritually", attending our spiritual funeral as it were)
 Or ever the silver cord be loosed,
 (Spinal cord)
 (The hope of redemption unravels)
 or the golden bowl be broken,
 (Skull and brain)
 (The mind becomes closed spiritually)
 or the pitcher be broken at the fountain,
 (The urinary system)
 (The soul becomes thoroughly corrupted)
 or the wheel broken at the cistern.
 (The blood circulatory system)
 (One is guilty before God)
 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was:
 (The body decays)
 (One becomes an 'earthly' worldling)
 and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.
 (The spirit goes before God to be judged)
 (Now the 'dead' spirit is reserved for judgement. The hebrew is 'well' not cistern, and there is no ability to access "the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life")

- The young can live as if they'll always be young.
 - But the wise young man will consider that one day the things of youth, especially its pleasures, will all drift out of reach,
 - and so not to invest his trust in them,
 - but to trust in God, Who is an ever present help in time of need.
 - Don't be fooled into thinking that just because you can have some fun and games whilst you are young that all life will be like that.
 - The world will tell you not to worry, not to care
 "You're only young once"

"Live for today - the here and now"

"No regrets"

"This life is all you have"

"Trust yourself"

"Love yourself"

"Forget tomorrow"

These are Bad slogans to live by!

- Don't live as if the Curse never happened, when the evidence is all around, and within us, that it did.
- And don't live as if God doesn't exist, when the evidence is around, and within us, that He does.
- The Bible is very realistic, and it counsels you to remember God in your youth, because to go through the troubles of life (that will inevitably come) without Him, will be a disaster for you.
- They say, when you lose your health, that you can feel very foolish for thinking so much about the trivial things of life that now don't matter at all.
- All you want is to be without pain (something you took for granted before).
- I once asked someone who helps the elderly at the church what life is like for them -
 - she said there's a lot of loneliness and pain,
 - but there is a marked difference between those who are believers and those who aren't
 - There's the same trials, but a different way of dealing with them.
 - The believers seem upheld by God, and know deep peace and joy, even in pain.
- You may say, "but where is Christ in all this death of the body- didn't He conquer death?"
 - Well we've already seen Him in the "light", but I believe that this passage alludes to Him in at least 3 places in a very veiled way- just a hint.
 - Look, there's something strange about the part about the "voice of the bird"
- All through the passage the references are to - "Thou", "they", "man".
- But in that part it is "he" "he shall rise up"
- Who's that?
 - Why isn't it, they, or thou, or man, or woman?
- I believe it could be a mysterious reference to Christ, who rose from the dead early in the morning; - were the birds singing in the garden at the time? Probably:)

This whole passage is about the death of the body- it would be strange that the One who would conquer death isn't alluded to somewhere.

- In Song of Solomon 2.12 He uses this symbol again to call His beloved to salvation, saying - *"the time of the singing of birds is come,"*

- And there's something more.

A reference to His death- both dealing with our guilt by blood, and our corruption by washing of water - 1 John 5.6 *"This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ"*

John 19:34 *"But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water."*

- And in our passage -We have the broken pitcher, and wheel pump, right at the end.
- This is the bodily water and blood, and their circulatory system.
- His body was broken for all He died for, and thus for all who would subsequently put their trust in Him.

The answer to those two questions I mentioned earlier,

How can a Just God allow people to heaven?

Or a loving God save people from hell?

Is found in the middle +.

V

Mercy-----+-----True Justice

Peace-----+-----Righteousness

Look at Psalm [Psalm 85:10](#)

"Mercy and truth are met together;

righteousness and peace have kissed each other."

- Because Christ takes the punishment for His people, and the scales of justice are balanced.
- He takes the punishment for all who would believe in Him for that salvation of their soul
- so they may have mercy and peace with God.
- Don't try to justify yourself by condemning God.
- Condemn yourself, and let God justify you (that's the better way round).

Remember your Creator, before the evil days.