

Ecclesiastes 2

King James Version (KJV)

2 I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity. (mirth= joy, pleasure, happiness) (All the pleasures of this life amount to nothing in the end)

2I said of laughter, It is mad: and of mirth, What doeth it? (What does it all amount to?)

3I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life. (all the days = the few days – Moffat Bible translation) (He sought fulfillment in the flesh)

4I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards:

5I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits:

6I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees: (Solomon tried to make his own little paradise on Earth)

7I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me:

8I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts. (He had it all, under the sun – in this life)

9So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me. 1Kings-3:5-15, Romans-11:29 (Solomon wasn't bragging. He really was the richest and wisest in the world at that time, as a gift from God)

10And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour. (Solomon fell into the trap of trying to satisfy himself with the things of the world. The result was

that his life was not extended, because he didn't meet the conditions of 1Kings-3:14. He married hundreds of heathen women and brought idol worship and paganism into Israel)

(As the leaders do, so do the people. Solomon's idol worship resulted in the breakup of the 12 tribes into two separate nations, after his death)

¹¹ Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun. (There is no true fulfillment in the flesh. Seek spiritual fulfillment for true happiness)

(Being very rich and famous in this life can be an ego trap; if we don't look past it and do good spiritual works that will reward us in the next life)

¹² And I turned myself to behold wisdom, and madness, and folly: for what can the man do that cometh after the king? even that which hath been already done. (What can the man who succeeds the king do, that the king hasn't already done? Nothing new. There's nothing new under the sun)

¹³ Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness.

¹⁴ The wise man's eyes are in his head; but the fool walketh in darkness: and I myself perceived also that one event happeneth to them all. (The wise man uses the eyes in his head) (In the end, we all die... Look to spirituality for fulfillment)

¹⁵ Then said I in my heart, As it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth even to me; and why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart, that this also is vanity. (He realized that even his knowing that he is wiser than other men was ego - vanity)

¹⁶ For there is no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now is in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise man? as the fool. (We all die and are forgotten. Flesh is temporary. Don't put all of your efforts into this life. Concentrate on the spiritual one)

¹⁷ Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit. (He found no real pleasure in life; he appears to have become depressed)

¹⁸ Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me. (When you die, you leave all to other people) Revelation-14:13

¹⁹ And who knoweth whether he shall be a wise man or a fool? yet shall he have rule over all my labour wherein I have laboured, and wherein I have shewed myself wise under the sun. This is also vanity. (Whoever inherits your estate may be wise enough to enjoy the inheritance or a fool who will lose it all)

(Prophetically, his son Rehoboam turned out to be a fool who lost almost everything)

²⁰ Therefore I went about to cause my heart to despair of all the labour which I took under the sun. (He became depressed. That is always a mistake. Be happy with your accomplishment and be positive in knowing that the eternity awaits us)

²¹ For there is a man whose labour is in wisdom, and in knowledge, and in equity; yet to a man that hath not laboured therein shall he leave it for his portion. This also is vanity and a great evil. (evil= tumult – better translation)

²² For what hath man of all his labour, and of the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath laboured under the sun? (What do all our worldly labors amount to?)

²³ For all his days are sorrows, and his travail grief; yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night. This is also vanity. (The world cannot make you truly happy, if that's all you care about. Greedy people who chase money all their lives are miserable)

²⁴ There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God. (Don't be a miser. Enjoy and share what God gives you) (Living a Christian life in God's Word can give you peace of mind and happiness in knowing that paradise awaits us)

²⁵ For who can eat, or who else can hasten hereunto, more than I?

²⁶ For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit. (Live by God's Word and He will bless you. Live against God and you will have nothing but trouble and worry. The world will eat you up)