

Ecclesiastes 8

King James Version (KJV)

8 Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed. (but a man of shameless countenance will be hated – Septuagint translation)

²I counsel thee to keep the king's commandment, and that in regard of the oath of God. (Live peacefully, within the law of the land – if you live in a free country)

³Be not hasty to go out of his sight: stand not in an evil thing; for he doeth whatsoever pleaseth him. (The king was in charge; go against him and he can make your life miserable. Today: vote, don't rebel if something needs to be set right)

⁴Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou? (The king was in command of the land. Today, we have our constitution as the ruling document)

⁵Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment. (If changes need to be made, be patient, be smart and do it legally)

(Spiritually – obey God's commandments. All wisdom comes from God)

⁶Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man is great upon him. (misery = knowledge – Septuagint translation) (Man thinks that he knows more than he actually does)

⁷For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be? (Only God knows) (We can find out the seasons. Jesus said – Behold, I have foretold you all things) Mark-13:23

⁸There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it. (spirit = wind –in Hebrew; this is not the word for Spirit) (that war = the day of battle – Septuagint translation) (Wickedness will not deliver you from death any more than you can fight the wind)

⁹ All this have I seen, and applied my heart unto every work that is done under the sun: there is a time wherein one man ruleth over another to his own hurt. (Man can never be a totally just ruler over others, in the flesh. There are too many temptations that come with power)

¹⁰ And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done: this is also vanity. (The wicked rulers die – they are praised for the good they did; the evil that they did is forgotten–Septuagint translation)

¹¹ Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. (It takes too long to punish a murderer, because of appeals, so it has little effect on those that would try it. Immediate execution of murderers and rapists is a deterrent, regardless of what the liberals will tell you)

¹² Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: (fear=revere – those that love God will be well in the spirit. Death and judgment will catch up with those that do evil even if they live a long life)

¹³ But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God. (Flesh life is just as a shadow. Even a long life passes quickly. The evil will not have an eternal life with God)

¹⁴ There is a vanity which is done upon the earth; that there be just men, unto whom it happeneth according to the work of the wicked; again, there be wicked men, to whom it happeneth according to the work of the righteous: I said that this also is vanity. (Some people think the wicked get ahead in life. But they really don't... and vice versa for the righteous. The wicked may get ahead for a while, but eventually the evil they did catches up with them. There will be no eternity for them)

¹⁵ Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry: for that shall abide with him of his labour the days of his life, which God giveth him under the sun. (God wants the righteous to be happy in life. Work honestly and enjoy the fruits of your labor)

¹⁶ When I applied mine heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done upon the earth: (for also there is that neither day nor night seeth sleep with his eyes:) (business = travail, trouble – bad translation) (Causing trouble and committing crime will keep the evil person up at night – sleeplessness)

¹⁷ Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea farther; though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it. (Man can only find wisdom and true knowledge, in the works of God, with His help and not by himself)