

Ecclesiastes 7:

(11) Try Reputation! — Eccl. 7

- 1. Seven better things — 7:1-8
 - 1. A good name than precious ointment -v. 1a
 - 2. The day of one's death than the day of one's birth -v. 1b
 - 3. To go to the house of mourning than the house of feasting -v. 2
 - 4. Sorrow than laughter -vv. 3-4
 - 5. To hear the rebuke of the wise than the song of fools — vv. 5-6
 - 6. The end of a thing than the beginning -v. 8a
 - 7. The patient in spirit than the proud in spirit -v. 8b
- 2. More proverbial sayings — 7:9-14
 - 1. Don't be hasty to be angry: "for anger resteth in the bosom of fools." — 7:9
 - 2. The "olden days" were not better than these! — 7:10
 - 3. Wisdom is good with an inheritance (wealth) — 7:11-12
 - 4. God brings His purpose (prosperity AND adversity) into our lives — 7:13-14
- 3. More proverbial sayings about the advantages and limitations of wisdom — 7:15-29
 - 1. A reversed situation — 7:15
 - 2. He counsels for moderation (cf. I Cor. 15:32) — 7:16-17
 - 3. The value of wisdom — 7:18-19
 - Fear God (Pr. 1:7; Eccl. 3:14; 5:7; etc.)
 - 4. "All have sinned" (Rom. 3:23) — 7:20
 - 5. Don't pay attention to everything said — 7:21-22
 - 6. Solomon's search — 7:23-25
 - 7. A righteous woman is a rare thing — 7:26-28
 - 8. God made man upright, but they have sought out many "inventions" (Schemes?) — 7:29

"Salting the Oats"

Ecclesiastes 7:1-8 - How can a life without God make these unusual comparisons?

Ecclesiastes 7:9-29 - What counsel is given here for one living without God?

• *Ecclesiastes 10:*

- 1. As dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to stink, just so, a little folly in him that is in reputation for wisdom and honor — 10:1-3
 - The fool demonstrates by his walk that he is a fool — 10:3
- 2. Wise words relating to unjust rulers— 10:4-7
 - 1. Don't leave in anger (revolt) — stay! — 10:4
 - 2. Result when unscrupulous men rule — 10:5-7
 - Servants ride (rule) while princes walk (serve) v. 5, 7
 - Folly given dignity, while rich (rulers) sit in a low place —v. 6
- 3. Unjust kings won't rule indefinitely — 10:8-10
 - 1. They put themselves in danger by their acts against others — 10:8
 - 2. Quarrying stones or splitting wood bring danger — 10:9
 - These things might be to benefit the people, but God judges them for their unjust rule.
 - 3. Sharpness and wisdom makes real success possible — 10:10
 - Wisdom is needed in —
 - (1) directing the axe — 10:10
 - (2) In speaking — 10:12-14
 - (3) In working — 10:15
- 4. Wisdom in dealing with words (for rulers) — 10:11-15
 - 1. A serpent and a babbler alike are dangerous — 10:11
 - 2. Contrasting the words of the righteous and those of the fool — 10:12-13
 - 3. A fool is full of words — 10:14-15
 - And, when a ruler is like that!! What a mess!!
 - And his labor wearies his people, he can't even find the way into the city — He's lost! — 10:15
- 5. Power in the hands of godless fools tends to debauchery — 10:16-19
- 6. Admonition to respect authority — 10:20
 - If we have been seeing words concerning rulers from 10:1-18, then he speaks of respect for those unworthy rulers. That respect must be even in private. See Rom. 13:1.
 - "A little bird told me," comes from this passage.

“Salting the Oats”

Ecclesiastes 10:1–15 - How is wisdom shown to be needed in this life that can be so vain?

Ecclesiastes 10:16–20 - What instruction is given here regarding authority in this vain life?

• Ecclesiastes 12:

- 1. He continues his exhortation to the young man — 12:1-7
 - 1. They are to remember their Creator — 12:1
 - The fact that all grow old and eventually die is the incentive to remember the Creator, “while the evil days [days of darkness -11:8] come not.” [Cf. II Sam 19:35.]
 - They are to give their *best* to their Creator.
 - 2. Solomon’s picture of old age — 12:2-5
 - It is like a gathering storm — 12:2
When we are young the sun, moon, and stars shine brightly, and the sun shines brightly following the rain. Things are bright and *alive*!
 - It is like an old house — 12:3-4
“keepers of the house” = the arms
“strong men” - the legs
“grinders cease” = teeth (“they are few”)
“those that look out of the windows” = weak eyes
“doors shall be shut in the streets” = ears he becomes hard of hearing
“he shall rise up at the voice of the bird” = he has trouble sleeping
“all the daughters of music shall be brought low” = cannot hear nor appreciate music
 - It is feebleness and fears — 12:5
 - Fear of heights
 - Fear in the way — walking, etc.
 - “almond tree” = white hair
 - “grasshopper shall be a burden,” maybe descriptive of the way he walks
 - “desire shall fail” = physical appetites wane
 - “long home” (cf. 11:8) = death
 - “mourners,” mourning his death
 - 3. A picture of death — 12:6
 - Remember thy Creator before this happens.
 - 4. Upon death (12:7)
 - “the dust” shall return to the earth (cf. Gen. 3:19b)
 - “the spirit shall return unto God who gave it” — His belief in immortality.
 - 5. Then, back to his theme. This begins Solomon’s closing thoughts — 12:8

“Salting the Oats”
Ecclesiastes 12:1 - Since life without god is vain what admonition is given here to youth?
Ecclesiastes 12:1–8 - Why does God give this admonition?
Ecclesiastes 12:2–5 - How does God describe old age in these verses?
Ecclesiastes 12:6–7 - How does God describe death in these verses?
Ecclesiastes 12:8 - How does God describe life without God in this verse?

“Salting the Oats”

-2. The Preacher exhorts them to heed what he wrote — 12:9-10

- He was qualified to write and teach the people.
- He was wise
- He “gave good heed”
- He “sought out”
- He “set in order many proverbs”
- He “sought to find out acceptable words”
- He wrote words which were upright, and true.

-3. The words of the wise — 12:11-12

1. They are goads, and as nails fastened — 12:11

- by the masters of assemblies
- given from one Shepherd, that is Christ

2. He calls them to be admonished by his words — 12:12a — *since* —

3. There are *many* books — and much study is a weariness of the flesh — 12:12b

- How true these words are — books multiply, and the study of those books is a wearying thing. By all means, then, be admonished by his writings, so he says.

-4. His conclusion — 12:13-14

1. What are we to do? — 12:13b

- “Fear God” — cf. 3:14; 5:7; 7:18; 8:12 — 12:13a
- “Keep His Commandments” — cf. 8:5 — 12:13b

2. Why are we to do it?

- It is the “whole duty of man” — 12:13c
- Because God will judge every work, with every secret thing, whether good or evil — 12:14

END OF
ECCLESIASTES

Ecclesiastes 12:9–12 - Why are we to listen to these conclusive words of Solomon?

Ecclesiastes 12:13–14 - What is the final conclusion of life?

Why is this conclusion so valid?