

ECCLESIASTES Chapter 12

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I. REMEMBER THY CREATOR, 12:1-8

A. The Charge:

1. What? **Remember now**
2. Who? **Thy Creator**
3. When? **In the days of thy youth** (11:9-10)

B. The reason for the charge: *old age and death are coming!*

1. "...while the evil days come not...: not "wicked days," but days of ill fortune.
 - a. The sun, light, moon, stars are darkened: the countenance loses its luster.
 - b. Clouds return, skies clear – a process of cloud, clear, rain: this illustrates that one affliction after another comes upon us in old age.
2. Note Solomon's figurative description of the aging process (both beautiful and graphic):
 - a. **KEEPERS OF THE HOUSE TREMBLE**: *arms, hands tremble.*
 - b. **STRONG MEN BOW THEMSELVES**: *legs and back become weak.*
 - c. **GRINDERS CEASE**: *teeth fall out.*
 - d. **WINDOWS DARKENED**: *eyes become dim.*
 - e. **DOOR SHUT IN STREET**: *ears become hard of hearing.*
 - f. **SOUND OF GRINDING IS LOW**: *eat soft food.*
 - g. **RISE AT VOICE OF BIRD**: *can't sleep well.*
 - h. **DAUGHTERS OF MUSCLES BROUGHT LOW**: *vocal chords can't produce.*
 - i. **AFRAID OF THAT WHICH IS HIGH**: *can't climb*
 - j. **FEARS IN THE WAY**: *fearful; apprehensive*
 - k. **ALMOND TREE FLOURISH**: *hair becomes white*
 - i. **GRASSHOPPER A BURDEN**: *diet fails (see Leviticus 11:22).*
 - l. **DESIRE SHALL FAIL**: *natural desires decrease.*
3. What comes at the end of the aging process? **DEATH**
 - a. "Man goeth to his long home": the grave
(short home = earth – see Job 14:1-2; 16:22; 17:13; Hebrews 9:27).
 - b. "Mourners go about the streets": funeral procession.
 - c. "Silver chord loosed...golden bowl broken...pitcher broken...wheel broken":
memory fails, spinal chord crumbles, that which is necessary to sustain life
has collapsed.

4. Thus: DEATH – verse 7

a. “*dust*” – see Genesis 2:7; 3:19

b. “*spirit*” – see Luke 23:46; Acts 7:59

c. The soul and body separate because that which bind them together – physical life – has ceased (see Ecclesiastes 3:21; James 2:26).

**We see from all this that God doesn't need man, but man desperately needs God!*

II. SOLOMON'S CONCLUSION TO THE BOOK, 12:9-14

A. “The preacher” was wise (1 Kings 3:12).

1. Solomon, given wisdom by God, sought to instruct the people.

2. He sought acceptable words of truth.

a. These words were as goads and nails.

b. His warning to his hearer (“my son”): many books...much study

B. The conclusion:

1. FEAR GOD (reverence).

2. KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS (obedience).

3. THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN (literally, “the whole of man” – what man is all about).

C. The reason for the conclusion: *JUDGMENT IS COMING!*

SUMMARY: What can we learn from Ecclesiastes?

1. Good things of life are from God and ought to be enjoyed (2:24; 3:12; 5:18; 9:10).

2. Yet things of this life are not our ultimate goal, for they are temporary and fleeting (“vanity” – 2:3-11, 18; 6:6).

3. Death is coming for all and the judgment (2:14; 3:2, 20-21; 6:6; 9:3, 5; 12:1-7, 14).

4. We must reverence and obey God to prepare for life to come (3:14, 17; 5:7; 7:18; 8:12; 11:9; 12:13).

5. God is ultimately in control (12:14).