

Fallout From The Fall

(Ecclesiastes 7:23-8:17)

I. Unattainable Wisdom, 7:23-29

7:23, no one is born wise

- We should be more concerned about our shortcomings than with faults of others
- Job 38...

7:24-25, exceedingly deep

- Know, Search, Seek out wisdom . . .
 - Thorough search, from every angle
 - Even Solomon is severely limited

We don't know everything...

We know that disobeying God
is the greatest folly

– Dt.29:29 . . . Dn.2:22 . . . Ro.11:33-36

7:26, results of his search

- Stay away from bad women
 - Snares / Nets
 - She plans to entrap victims
 - Only the one who pleases God can hope to escape

7:27-28, putting one thing to another

“It all adds up”

- 28a: he found 1 in 1000 living godly life
 - Isa.53:6
- 28b: did not find a woman living in wisdom
 - None measured up [quantity ≠ quality]
 - Samson, David, Solomon
 - Not a slander of women. Pr.12:4; 14:1; 18:22; 19:14. Pr.8:1. Ec.9:9
 - Godly people were scarce; sin destroyed many. Jer.5:1-5

7:29, source of all problems in ch.7

Fallout from the fall

- God made man upright; man chose downward path

God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day – Ps.7:11

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned – Ro.5:12

I. Unattainable Wisdom, 7:23-29

II. Unrighteous Royalty, 8:1-9

1: wise man (like Solomon?)

- Makes his face shine
- Written all over his face

2: government is God's means of correcting disorders

- Obey. Ro.13:1-5

...all the leaders and the mighty men, and also all the sons of King David, submitted themselves to King Solomon – 1 Chr.29:24

- Why obey? Oath. 2 Chr.36:13

3: do not be hasty to go out...

- Attitude of disaffection or disloyalty
- Do not disobey Him; he has power...

3b: do not stand for an evil thing. Ac.5:29

- 3c: God's power supports ruler, though he pleases himself
- 4: king's word has power; do not resist or question it
 - Limited power; can't control weather...

5: obey king ... not punished

- Wise see God's providence; otherwise will suffer (13)
- Joab. 1 K.2:28-35
- Shimei. 1 K.2:36-46

21 My son, fear the Lord and the king;
Do not associate with those given to
change; 22 For their calamity will rise
suddenly, And who knows the ruin
those two can bring? – Prov.24

6: king cannot escape judgment

- Misery index (frustration over oppressions of leaders) fluctuates like a king's whim

7-8: man seeks certainty; finds only doubt and perplexity

- Battle we cannot escape: day of death...
Is.14
- Josh.23:14; 1 K.2:2, *going the way of all the earth...*

9: evil rulers, a painful reality

- Pharaoh, Gn.41-50 . . . Ex.1-2
- Ro.13:1-4, not a terror to good works . . .
Acts 12. 1 Pt.2:13-17
 - U.S. rulers defend violence
 - Bear sword in vain

“Churches must cease!”

(Ac.5:29)

I. Unattainable Wisdom, 7:23-29

II. Unrighteous Royalty, 8:1-9

III. Unanswered Questions, 8:10-17

10: I saw the wicked buried

- Lk.16:22 . . . Ps.73
 - Honored in death
 - Honored in life

11-13: judgment will come, right wrongs

11: judgment is not immediate

- Evil prosper; make it appear that . . .
 - God is weak or indifferent
 - Crime pays

[Time is the great reverser]

- Some judgments are immediate: 1 Sm.31; 1 K.22; 2 K.9; 2 Chr.21; 2 Chr.36; Jer.39
- Delay of punishment emboldens evil to do wrong: 2 Pt.3:4, 9

11-13: judgment will come, right wrongs

12: a confirmed, flagrant sinner lives long life, does evil 100 times; no punishment...

– 2 Pt.3:9, 15, God is patient with us.

- I know...God-fearers will receive reward in time...
- In meantime: nasty here and now...

Criminal sues city

Drunk driver kills

Ps.128 . . . 2 Tim.4:6-8

11-13: judgment will come, right wrongs

13: BUT, it will not be well with those who do not fear God

- **Death; glimpse of final Judgment (Ps.73)**
- “Fear” (three times, 12-13)
- “Shadow”: short-lived, insecure

My days are like a shadow that lengthens,
And I wither away like grass – Ps.102:11

14-15: a vanity (1:2)

14: good treated like wicked . . .

15: enjoy God's blessings; learn to love life

- Eat, drink, be merry ... ['under the sun'] (two times) ... though you don't know all the mysteries of life
- Make the best of what you have

Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking and rejoicing – 1 K.4:20

16-17: insomnia

16: too busy to sleep...

17: must be content not knowing everything

- Ec.7:13, even if we *could* figure out His word, we couldn't change it

Hard times

- **Hard on faith:** daily attacks. Why does God allow this?
- **Hard on spiritual growth:** what will happen to us?
 - Hb.11:....33-40
- **Hard on rule:** government overreach