

Troubles, Trials, Tribulations

(Ecclesiastes 6:1-7:6)

I. Profit Without Power, 6:1-6

Setting

- A common evil:
 - man has riches, wealth, honor... (2)
 - 100 children, long life, filled with good (3)
 - even if he lives 2000 years! (6)
- YET . . .
 - no power to eat (2)
 - no burial (3)
 - darkness (4)
 - worse off than miscarriage (6)

1-2: God gives riches, honor...

- Don't judge book by cover.
- Prosperity is not always good...
- No power to enjoy them (5:19-20)...
 - Some have only money
 - Some are blessed; don't know it
 - Wealth does not guarantee joy
- More money ...wants ...isolation ...work

1-2: God gives riches, honor...

- Jacob, Gn.37 / 47:9
- Saul, king, yet...
- David, misery...misery
- Job, greatest loss...
- RYR, walked away...
- Lottery winners
- Howard Hughes

No matter how
rich, powerful,
famous...
no guarantee
“under the sun”

3: beget 100 children, long life...

- No enjoyment, comfort, or decent burial (Jer.22:19)
- Some leave unnoticed, unlamented, unfulfilled... (Jg.8:30...)

4-6: Job 3

- Horrible tragedy, but free from suffering
- Unhappy rich man lives, but does not enjoy life
 - Better never to have lived...
 - Live 1000 years twice...
 - Ph.4:4, 6, 11-13, true joy...

“It’s not the years in the life
but the life in the years”

I. Profit Without Power, 6:1-6

II. Mouth Is Master, 6:7-9

7-9: do not sin with your mouth

7: all toil...for his mouth.

– Work to eat...to work...to eat...never satisfied. Pr.16:26. Ph.3:...7-8.

8: wise: what reward for all his troubles?
2:14-16, 19.

9: dreaming about nice things is meaningless
– Arriving is better than traveling

I. Profit Without Power, 6:1-6

II. Mouth Is Master, 6:7-9

III. What's The Use? 6:10-12

10-12: multitude of dreams

10: 'What's new?' – Nothing! 1:9, 15

11: many things [words]: 'the more the words, the more the futility'

12: without absolute values, no one knows what is really 'good' here or hereafter.

- U.S., 2020

I. Profit Without Power, 6:1-6

II. Mouth Is Master, 6:7-9

III. What's The Use? 6:10-12

IV. Matter Of Life And Death,
7:1-6

1a: *better* – good name...

- Mk.14:9
- Brand names...
- “Judas” – Mt.10:4
 - “Judah” (Mt.2:6)
 - “Jude” 1

1b: *day of death better than birth*

- Grief and pain are more beneficial for us than mirth and laughter of the rich.
- Death teaches life lessons . . .
- Ps.90:12; Mt.5:4

**The sorrow of death, 2:17-23*

- Terrible thought for rich; futility...
- Lk.6:21, 25...
- Gn.23:1...
- Jn.16:20-23

**The school of death, 7:2-5*

2: joy in delivery room, sorrow in funeral home.

- End of all men: fights pride, promotes sympathy.
- Living take it to heart: my day is coming.

3: visit to funeral home can purify heart,
remind of purpose of life

To learn is to suffer; to suffer is to learn

Aristeides (c. AD 125)

4: like goes to like

- Wise: to funeral home.
- Fools: to party...
- What about eternity?

“Men have been helped to live by remembering that they must die”

5: not pleasant to hear warnings of death, but it is beneficial.

- Song of fools seldom benefits

“It’s better to be criticized
by a wise person than to be
praised by a fool”

6: crackling of thorns

- Crackling nettles under kettles
- Fool's laughter is noisy, but without profit