

# **Ecclesiastes 11 - Life is an Adventure; Live by Faith; Life is a Gift: Enjoy It!**

V. Conclusion regarding Solomon's search for the ultimate meaning in various sources  
(Eccl 8:16–12:7)

- (2) Where ultimate meaning is found (Eccl 11:1–12:7)
  - (A) Wise use of this present life: work diligently despite the unknowable future (11:1–6)
  - (B) The pleasantries of life should be enjoyed given the reality of death (11:7–8)
  - (C) The young should enjoy life remembering that God will judge them (11:9–10)

## **Ecclesiastes 11**

- (A) Wise use of this present life: work diligently despite the unknowable future (11:1–6)
  - 1 Cast your bread on the surface of the waters, for you will find it after many days.
  - 1 Cast your bread on the surface of the waters, for you will find it after many days.
  - 1 Spread your bread on the water— after a while you will find it.
  - 1 Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.
- 2 Divide your portion to seven, or even to eight, for you do not know what misfortune may occur on the earth.
  - 2 Divide your portion to seven, or even to eight, for you do not know what misfortune may occur on the earth.
  - 2 Apportion what you have into seven, or even eight parts, because you don't know what disaster might befall the land.
  - 2 Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.
- 3 If the clouds are full, they pour out rain on the earth; and whether a tree falls toward the south or toward the north, wherever the tree falls, there it lies.
  - 3 If the clouds are full, they pour out rain upon the earth; and whether a tree falls toward the south or toward the north, wherever the tree falls, there it lies.
  - 3 If the clouds are full of rain, they will pour out on the earth; if a tree falls toward the south or the north, wherever it falls, there it will lay.

3 If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.

4 One who watches the wind will not sow and one who looks at the clouds will not harvest.

4 He who watches the wind will not sow and he who looks at the clouds will not reap.

4 Whoever keeps staring at the wind won't sow; whoever daydreams won't reap.

4 He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.

5 Just as you do not know the path of the wind, and how bones *are formed* in the womb of the pregnant woman, so you do not know the activity of God who makes everything.

5 Just as you do not know the path of the wind and how bones *are formed* in the womb of the pregnant woman, so you do not know the activity of God who makes all things.

5 Just as you do not understand the way of the spirit in the womb of a pregnant mother, so also you do not know what God is doing in everything he makes.

5 As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.

6 Sow your seed in the morning and do not be idle in the evening, for you do not know whether one or the other will succeed, or whether both of them alike will be good.

6 Sow your seed in the morning and do not be idle in the evening, for you do not know whether morning or evening sowing will succeed, or whether both of them alike will be good.

6 Sow your seed in the morning, and don't stop working until evening, since you don't know which of your endeavors will do well, whether this one or that, or even if both will do equally well.

6 In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.

(B) The pleasantries of life should be enjoyed given the reality of death (11:7-8)

7 The light is pleasant, and *it is* good for the eyes to see the sun.

7 The light is pleasant, and *it is* good for the eyes to see the sun.

7 How sweet is the daylight, and how pleasant it is for someone's eyes to behold the sunshine!

7 Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun:

8 Indeed, if a person lives many years, let him rejoice in them all; but let him remember the days of darkness, for they will be many. Everything that is to come *will be* futility.

8 Indeed, if a man should live many years, let him rejoice in them all, and let him remember the days of darkness, for they will be many. Everything that is to come *will be* futility.

8 Even if a person lives many years, let him enjoy them all, recalling that there will be many days of darkness to come—all of which are pointless.

8 But if a man live many years, and rejoice in them all; yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many. All that cometh is vanity.

(C) The young should enjoy life remembering that God will judge them (11:9-10)

9 Rejoice, young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of young manhood. And follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes. Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things.

9 Rejoice, young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of young manhood. And follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes. Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things.

9 So enjoy yourself in your youth, young man, and be encouraged during your younger days. Live as you like, consistent with your world view, but keep in mind that God will bring you to account for everything.

9 Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.

10 So remove sorrow from your heart and keep pain away from your body, because childhood and the prime of life are fleeting.

10 So, remove grief and anger from your heart and put away pain from your body, because childhood and the prime of life are fleeting.

10 Banish sorrow from your heart, and evil from your body, since both childhood and the prime of life are pointless.

10 Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity.