



Ecclesiastes Study - Chapter 6:

1. Here's another evil I've seen under the sun while she beats down on the heads of men.
2. The man on whom God is constantly pouring out richness and riches and glory until he has nothing he could possibly lack finds his heart **still** yearning and ungrateful. So, God takes his portion from him and fills the stomach of the stranger instead. This kind of vanity is exposed for the evil sickness it is.
3. If God gives a man a hundred years to figure things out and even **then** is still not satisfied in his soul with the gifts God gave him; if the goodness of God is invisible to him; if the life he lives is as barren as the grave before him – then his mother would have been better off barren in the first place. Either way his life was a miscarriage.
4. To walk in vanity and stumble into eternal darkness, his name will fade to black with the rest of him.
5. If he'd never been – never seen the sun or anything at all – he'd have more rest than he ever did in the life he actually led.
6. Or imagine he lives a millennium twice over and still never understands what is good! What then? He's still dead from the get-go and as dead as the rest when his body finally fails.
7. No matter how long he toils, if it's only to feed his own mouth his soul will never be filled.
8. Be that as it may, is there really any advantage to the wise man over the fool? One blazes the trail to the grave and the other follows. Doesn't matter which.
9. Expecting satisfaction by chasing all the shiny things you see is vanity and brings nothing but a scorching wind – a burning hell within the soul.

10. What a riddle this is: Does a man live up to his name, or make a name for himself through what he does? Powerfully generous or supremely cruel; mightier or lesser than those who came before or those who come after – can anyone ever be greatEST? Would it even matter?

11. Suppose there are not adequate words to describe one's greatness so more need to be invented. Filling the dictionary with new adjectives, what would that yield? Simply more colorful ways to describe a supremely pompous person.

12. Who can ever say what was truly best for a man in his lifetime, much less for all men at all times? What can one generation tell the next that would be helpful? It seems futile to warn those to come in the far distant future of all the vanity in this world. They'll have their own struggles to sort through. They'll just have to figure it out for themselves.

Explain the Context

From your own reading provide a short answer to the following:

What is the theme of this chapter?	What is the author communicating?
What did the author miss?	What is God trying to say?

Take a moment to consider these questions:

- 1) How do I respond to injustice?
- 2) Is it worth trying to communicate the truth to the next generation?
- 3) Does every generation have to learn from their own mistakes?
- 4) What have I done with the gifts (talents) God has given me?
- 5) Am I willing to leave a legacy of generosity?
- 6) How am I generous with what I have?

Apply the Scripture

Write the verse that stood out to you while reading [in this translation or your favorite].

How does this verse challenge you? Does it reveal an attribute of God's character?

For further study:

Consider these scriptures for further study. Add any others you find.

- Luke 12:13-21
- Matthew 25:14-30 (parable of the talents)
- 1 Timothy 4:14
- Psalm 41:1
- Proverbs 22:9

Lessons the *author* should have learned:

- ~ Choose contentment over complaining.
- ~ Our legacy only matters when God gets the glory.