



Ecclesiastes Study - Chapter 8:

1. Who is wise enough to sort out every sticky problem on their own? Only Wisdom herself can unfurl your brow, scrunched up as it is struggling with the problem. She will bring a smile to your face when the A ha! moment comes.
2. I the King urge you to pay attention to what you were instructed! Don't dare disregard God's Word sealed with His own oath.
3. Don't be in a rush to ditch God when He's talking to you. Don't go slinking back to the evil you KNOW you shouldn't do – Don't expect what pleases YOU to please God or think He doesn't care either way.
4. Who dares to question the King *after* he passes an edict? Will you stand up and demand "What were you thinking? You're out of your mind!"
5. No. To be truly wise means to follow instruction and thereby avoid evil pitfalls. All the time, in every situation, humble obedience will keep you out of trouble and sharpen your discernment.
6. Remember that everything, good and bad, has its time and demands wise discernment. Without it evil will pile up and bury you.
7. There's no telling what's going to happen next, what you'll do and who you'll become. Only the person you become will have the answer to those questions.
8. There is not an authority on earth that can hold back the Spirit from doing His work; no one on earth who has the power to send Death packing when it visits you. In the battle of Good vs. Evil you are not exempt and there's no escape if you surrender yourself to wickedness.
9. I took this thought to heart and it's sobering: During your time under the Sun *you* choose whether to do evil to others. It's all up to you - no one makes you do it.

10. I read the tombstones. There is no “Here lies a wicked one who turned away from holiness” message. The bones of the evil man just turn to dust and then he’s forgotten. A wasted life and a wasted legacy. It doesn’t get more futile than that.
11. Now if the Law doesn’t punish evil quickly, those who make a practice of it will go on their merry way pursuing more evil, assuming they’ll never pay the price.
12. No matter how many times an evildoer gets away with his crimes, living a long and healthy life, I’m still convinced those who fear God will make out far better.
13. The days of the wicked are no consolation. Living long in the shadows just prolongs the dread. The Day of Reckoning is surely coming. He *will* face God someday.
14. It is futile to think that everything will work out in this life. Surely you’ve seen how the wicked often get what the righteous deserved, and vice versa. Don’t expect it to all add up perfectly.
15. So what to do in the face of such injustice and inequity? Well, throw a party and celebrate good wherever you find it! God is still providing, you still have work you can do and you’re still *alive*. God gave you life – enjoy it while you can.
16. True that is! And it’s a truth that comforts. Wisdom is learning from experience what it really true and accepting it for what it is. The time is coming – and not so far off - where you’ll neither rise nor sleep expecting to rise again.
17. I began to understand how impossible it is to sort out what God is really up to. Work and hard as you want, travel as far as you’re willing to go, you’re just not going to figure it out. No matter how wise you think you are, you’ll just end up frustrating yourself in the pursuit.

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) Can we ever know enough?
- 2) In what situations do you struggle to give to God what belongs to Him?
- 3) What injustice are you experiencing? What does injustice do to your perspective?
- 4) In what ways have you tried to “exempt” yourself from battle?
- 5) Do you dread “The Day of Reckoning”? Why or why not?
- 6) In what ways has Truth comforted you?

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.

- Psalm 49:5-13
- Job 14:5
- Isaiah 26:10
- Job 5:9-14

Lessons the *author* should have learned:

- ~God is with us and that IS enough!
- ~ My circumstances cannot keep the Spirit from doing His work!