

Does life have meaning?

5, The problem of life (Ecclesiastes 12v1-14)

Henry Craig

Introduction

3 sermons

Teacher and Narrator (1:1,2... & 12:9-14)

2 Poems

Beginning (1:4-11)

End (12:1-7) or (11-7 to 12:7)

Youth & Old Age (12:1-8)

Narrator's comments (12:9-12)

Narrator's Conclusion (12:11-14)

Two Essentials (12:13)

- fear God
- keep his commandments

One Inevitability (12:14)

God will bring every deed into judgment

1 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them"—² before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars grow dark, and the clouds return after the rain; ³ when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men stoop, when the grinders cease because they are few, and those looking through the windows grow dim; ⁴ when the doors to the street are closed and the sound of grinding fades; when men rise up at the sound of birds, but all their songs grow faint; ⁵ when men are afraid of heights and of dangers in the streets; when the almond tree blossoms and the grasshopper drags itself along and desire no longer is stirred. Then man goes to his eternal home and mourners go about the streets.

⁶ Remember him before the silver cord is severed, and the golden bowl is broken before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, and the wheel broken at the well,

⁷ and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

⁸ "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher.

"Everything is meaningless!"

⁹ Not only was the Teacher wise, but he also imparted knowledge to the people. He pondered and searched out and set in order many proverbs.¹⁰ The Teacher searched to find just the right words, and what he wrote was upright and true.

¹¹ The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails—given by one shepherd. ¹² Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them.

Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body.

¹³ Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.

¹⁴ For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Bible References: Eccl.1:1,2,9; 11:7-10; Mk.8:36; Jn.10:10; 1Jn.5:3; Heb.9:27; Mt.25:32,34,41; Mt.7:13,14