

Ecclesiastes V
The Violent Perverting of Judgment
Ecclesiastes 5:8

- I. THE OPRESSION OF THE POOR (Ecclesiastes 5:8a)
- a. Examples
- i. The Children of Israel (Exodus 1:14; 5:8)
 - ii. The exacting of usury on the people by their brethren (Nehemiah 5:1-13)
 1. The word *usury*;
 - a. Occurs 24 times in scripture, in 17 verses.
 - b. Occurs only 2 times in the New Testament.
 - c. History of word:
 - i. From the 12 century (c. 1300), from Medieval Latin *usuria*, from Latin *usura* “usury, interest”. Originally the practice of lending money at interest, later, at excessive rates of interest.
 - ii. Use in scripture:
 1. First usage – (Exodus 22:25)
 2. Extreme usury? – (Ezekiel 22:12)
 2. Forbidden by God (Exodus 22:25; Leviticus 25:36, 37; Deuteronomy 23:19)
 3. Allowed by God upon the stranger in the land (Deuteronomy 23:20)
 4. Used as example in scripture (Matthew 25:27; Luke 19:23)
 - iii. By the people of the land (Ezekiel 22:29)
 1. This action is being done by the people of God (Ezekiel 22:17-28)
 2. The people were supposed to be a witness of the goodness of God
 - a. Israel was supposed to be a witness to all that passed by. (Deuteronomy 7:6-8; 14:2; Isaiah 43:10)
 - b. The LORD planned to make them (Israel) a great nation, He promised Abraham as much (Genesis 12:1-3)

- c. Instead they would become a reproach and a mockery to the lands about them. (Ezekiel 22:4)
- II. THE PERVERTING OF JUDGMENT (Ecclesiastes 5:8b)
 - a. The Place of Judgment (Ecclesiastes 3:16)
 - i. Notice this is on earth
 - ii. Wickedness is there
 - 1. Wickedness by the kings (1 Kings 21:1-11)
 - 2. Wickedness by the elders (Isaiah 59:14)
 - b. Marvel Not (Ecclesiastes 5:8b)
 - i. Understand that man himself is full of wickedness and sin and he is the one that many times causes the perverting of good judgment in a land (Isaiah 10:1-4)
 - ii. Understand that the LORD is in full control of what happens (Isaiah 10:5-7; 46:5-13)
- III. REGARDED BY THE HIGHEST (Ecclesiastes 5:8c)
 - a. Regarded by the Righteous
 - i. Regarded by the Psalmist (Psalm 9:16-18; 10:1-4)
 - ii. Requested by the Psalmist (Psalm 9:19-20; 10:12-18)
 - b. Regarded by the LORD
 - i. The LORD does not forget the humble (Psalm 9:12)
 - ii. The LORD's protection over His people (Isaiah 37:14-36)
 - iii. The LORD's protection over His servant (Acts 12:7-10)