

Ecclesiastes VII
The Strength of Wisdom
Ecclesiastes 7:11-19

- I. WISDOM IS GOOD (Ecclesiastes 7:11-12)
 - a. With an Inheritance
 - i. Without wisdom you're going to lose an inheritance
 - 1. The prodigal son (Luke 15:11-12)
 - 2. After "he had spent all" (Luke 15:14)
 - ii. With wisdom you can use said inheritance wisely
 - 1. Abraham was wise in that he followed the Lord (Hebrews 11:8)
 - 2. The wise man and the house upon the rock (Matthew 7:24-25)
 - b. There is Profit by It
 - i. Because of Abraham's wisdom and obedience he had a people come from him that would be the people of God (Genesis 15:1-7; 22:15-18)
 - ii. Because of the wise man's actions (placing his foundation on God) in Matthew 7 his house stood firm (Matthew 7:25)
 - c. It is a Defense
 - i. Wisdom better than riches
 - 1. Wisdom (Job 28:1-12, 23-28)
 - a. Where may it be found?
 - i. Gold and silver is found in a vein, in the earth (Job 28:1)
 - ii. Iron is taken out of the earth (Job 28:2)
 - iii. Wisdom is not in the deep (Job 28:14)
 - iv. It cannot be bought (Job 28:15)
 - v. God understands the way thereof (Job 28:23)
 - vi. The fear of the Lord that is wisdom (Job 28:28; Isaiah 33:6)
 - b. The Lord lays up sound wisdom for His people (Proverbs 2:7)
 - 2. Wisdom will outlast riches (Proverbs 18:10-11)
 - a. The rich man trusts in his strong city or high wall to save him, yet the wise man trusts in the high tower of the Lord for his defense.
 - b. It cannot be bought with money (Job 28:15)

- d. It Gives Life
 - i. It promised to give life to the children of Israel if they would listen to their God (Deuteronomy 30:15-20)
 - 1. Life vs. Death
 - 2. Good vs. Evil
 - ii. Moses admonished the children of Israel to listen to the words that he spoke to them (Deuteronomy 32:45-47)
 - 1. Because it was their life
 - 2. They might prolong their days in the land
- II. THE WISDOM OF GOD (Ecclesiastes 7:13)
 - a. What He Has Made (Job 37:14)
 - i. Elihu told Job to stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God
 - ii. Elihu asked Job if he knew how God made creation work (Job 37:10-13, 14-24)
 - b. What He Has Done
 - i. If we would number all things that God has done it would be hard to come to an exact (it would be great).
 - ii. The Psalmist said it well, “great things he hath for us” (Psalm 126:3)
 - iii. Job reminds us that who are we to question God’s ability or reason for what He does (Job 9:12), Nebuchadnezzar reiterates that very thing (Daniel 4:35)
 - iv. The nations are but “a drop of a bucket” in the sight of the LORD (Isaiah 40:13-17)
 - v. God declares the end from the beginning, and will do all that He has promised (Isaiah 46:10-11)
 - c. Who Can Straighten that Which God Hath Made Crooked?
 - i. Man
 - 1. No one can deliver out of the hand of God (Isaiah 43:13)
 - 2. No one can change that which God has decreed:
 - a. Cannot make on hair white or black (Matthew 5:36)
 - b. Cannot add one cubit to your stature (Matthew 6:27)
 - c. You will work in the sweat of your face (Genesis 3:19)
 - d. The husband is the head of the wife (Genesis 3:16; Ephesians 5:23)
 - 3. However, men are always trying to test God on these and other things.
 - ii. Only God (Isaiah 43:13) – “I will work, and who shall let it?”

III. WISDOM IN PROSPERITY AND ADVERSITY (Ecclesiastes 7:14)

a. The Joyfulness of Prosperity (Ecclesiastes 7:14a)

i. Consider the word *joyful*

1. *Joyful* = formed by *joy* + *ful* (*full*). Suffix use of *full*. Word forming element meaning “full of, characterized by.” *Joy* = from c.1200, “feeling of pleasure and delight; c.1300, “source of pleasure or happiness.
2. We see from the above that to be *joyful* is to be full of joy. What then fills us with joy?

ii. Full of joy

1. The goodness of God (1 Kings 8:66)
2. Favour and strengthened for work (Ezra 6:22)
3. Personal pride (Esther 5:9)
4. Love the name of the Lord (Psalm 5:11)
5. Soul joyful because of the LORD’s salvation (Psalm 35:9)
6. Praise the Lord with joyful lips (Psalm 63:5-6)
7. Joyful noise (Psalm 66:1; 81:1; 95:1, 2; 98:4, 6; 100:1)
8. Rejoicing in the name of the Lord (Psalm 89:15-16)
9. Creation rejoices in the Lord (Psalm 96:11-12; 98:4, 8; Isaiah 49:13)
10. Israel to rejoice in their King (Psalm 149:2)
11. Paul thought it joyful to be in tribulations (2 Corinthians 7:4)
 - a. This is not too unlike James (James 1:2)
 - b. James knew that trials and temptations brought patience , which in turn taught wisdom (James 1:5)

iii. Good days to enjoy (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4)

1. It is God that gives us good to enjoy (1 Timothy 6:17)
2. The brethren labouring (fellowship) together (Philippians 1:27; 2:1-2)

b. The Consideration of Adversity (Ecclesiastes 7:14a)

- i. To understand the goodness of God (Deuteronomy 8:3)
- ii. To learn the statutes of God (Psalm 119:71)
- iii. To understand the lovingkindness of the Lord (Psalm 107:43)

c. The Reason for them Both

- i. For our learning (Romans 15:4)
- ii. To understand both the goodness and guiding hand of our heavenly Father (1 Corinthians 11:32; Hebrews 12:10-11)

- IV. THE CONTRAST OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED (Ecclesiastes 7:15-17)**
 - a. Just Men Will Perish (Ecclesiastes 7:15a)
 - i. Jesus (Luke 23:32-34, 44-49)
 - ii. Stephen (Acts 6:7-15; 7:1-2, 54-60)
 - b. Wicked Men Will Live (Ecclesiastes 7:15b; 8:11)
 - i. Job believed this (Job 21:7)
 - ii. Asaph thought this (Psalm 73:3-5; 17-19)
 - 1. Haman (Esther 7:10)
 - 2. Ahab (1 Kings 16:33; 21:25; 22:34-37)
 - c. Be Not too Righteous or Wise (Ecclesiastes 7:16)
 - i. Self-Righteousness (Romans 10:1-3)
 - 1. Pharisees (always right) (John 9:41)
 - 2. Sadducees
 - ii. Self-Humble
 - 1. Thinking you're humble
 - 2. Probably not
 - iii. Our moderation should be known to all men (Philippians 4:5)
 - d. Be Not too Wicked or Foolish (Ecclesiastes 7:17)
 - i. This does not mean it is okay to be a little wicked
 - ii. This is wickedness like the evil men seen in scripture
 - 1. Ahab (1 Kings 16:33)
 - 2. Pharaoh (Exodus 5:2)
 - 3. Balaam (2 Peter 2:15)
- V. THE POWER OF WISDOM (Ecclesiastes 7:18-19)**
 - a. It will Prolong Your Life [Take Hold] (Ecclesiastes 7:12; Proverbs 9:11)
 - i. Honouring of father and mother (Deuteronomy 5:16)
 - ii. Hezekiah extended his life (2 Kings 20:1-6)
 - iii. Days of youth shortened (Psalm 89:45)
 - iv. Keeping of the commandments and law (Proverbs 3:1-2)
 - v. Children to live long on the earth (Ephesians 6:1-3)
 - vi. Man had an appointed time (Job 14:14; Hebrews 9:27)
 - 1. Note: This would mean that someone, or something has decided a time for death.
 - 2. David saw that it was God who controlled death (Psalm 68:20)
 - 3. Christ is said to have the keys of hell and death (Revelation 1:18)
 - b. Fearing God Will Decide Your Outcome (Ecclesiastes 7:18-19)
 - i. Wisdom will give you strength (Ecclesiastes 2:13)
 - ii. More than the strong man (Proverbs 16:32)