

# ECCLESIASTES 5 vs 1

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The Hebrew title of this book is Qoheleth – one who speaks at the assembly – the Speaker. Solomon is not specifically mentioned in this book written around 935 bc though all references point to him as author. Martin Luther seems to be the first to suggest Solomon might not have written the book; but that it was written sometime after the Babylonian exile.

The NASB outlines Ecclesiastes with the following divisions: The Author and the Thesis; The Thesis demonstrated; God's Design for Life; **The Futility of Life**; The Futility of Riches; Advice for Living, and Conclusion.



False worship,

**<sup>1</sup> Guard your step when you go to the house of God, and be ready to listen, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they do not know that they do evil.**

**<sup>2</sup> Never be careless when you speak, and do not let your heart hurry you to bring up a matter before God: for God is in heaven, and you are on earth: so let your words be few.**

**<sup>3</sup> For as many worries means a man will dream; so many words means that a fool is talking.**

**<sup>4</sup> When you make a vow to God, pay it without delay; for He takes no pleasure in fools: pay what you vow.**

**<sup>5</sup> Better you should not vow, than that you should vow and not pay.**

**<sup>6</sup> Never allow your mouth to cause your flesh to sin; never say to the messenger of God, I vowed that by mistake: why should God be angry at your voice, and destroy the work of your hands?**

**<sup>7</sup> For in many dreams and many words there are many a vain folly: so fear God.**

**<sup>8</sup> If you see the oppression of the poor, and the denial of justice and rightness in the region, do not be shocked at the matter: for one official watches over another, and there are higher officials over them** / there are reasons we have local, state and federal appellate courts; how many civil laws are in our justice system? The number is unknowable. There are 20,000 laws about owning a gun. Estimates say 40,000,000 lawsuits are filed annually. Fairness and social justice at best is a child's illusion. Paul says there is no one righteous, not even one, Romans 3; God alone is just and right Psalm 119:142.

**<sup>9</sup> After all, a king who cultivates the field – creating jobs, prospers the country.**

**<sup>10</sup> He who loves silver will never be satisfied with silver; and he who loves wealth will not increase: this is also vanity.**

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<sup>11</sup> When goods increase, those who consume them increase. So what is the advantage to the its owners, except to look on?

<sup>12</sup> The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much. But the full stomach of the portly rich does not allow him to sleep.

<sup>13</sup> There is a grievous evil which I have seen under the sun; wealth being hoarded to an owner's loss.

<sup>14</sup> When those riches perish through some unlucky venture: and he had fathered a son, then there was nothing to support him.

<sup>15</sup> As he came forth of his mother's womb, so will he return as he came. He will take nothing of his labor, which he can carry away in his hand.

<sup>16</sup> And this also is grievous evil – exactly as he came, so he will do: and what profit has he who toiled for the wind?

<sup>17</sup> Throughout his life he ate in darkness, with great sorrow, sickness and anger.

<sup>18</sup> Indeed what I have seen: it is good and fitting to eat, to drink and enjoy oneself in all one's toil under the sun during the few days of his life, which God gives him: for this is his reward.

<sup>19</sup> Every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and has also empowered him to eat of it, and to receive his reward, and rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of God.

<sup>20</sup> For he will not often consider the years of his life; because God keeps him occupied with the gladness of his heart.

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