

ECCLESIASTES 8 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.



¹ Who is like the wise man? and who knows the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom enlightens him, and causes even the roughest face to shine.

² I say, Obey the king's commandment, for you pledged your loyalty oath before God.

³ Be not in a hurry to leave him: never thwart him; for he does whatever pleases him.

⁴ Since the word of a king is supreme: who will dare ask him, What are you doing?

⁵ The one who keeps a royal command will know no trouble: for the heart of a wise man discerns both the proper time and just procedure.

⁶ For there is a proper time and procedure for every delight, when a man's trouble is great upon him.

⁷ For if no one knows what will happen: then who can tell him when it will happen?

⁸ There is no man who has power over the wind to restrain the wind with the wind; nor does he have power over the day of death: and there is no release in the time of war; and evil will not deliver those who practice it.

⁹ All this I have seen, and applied my mind to every deed that is done under the sun: wherein a man exercises rule over another to his hurt.

¹⁰ So then I have seen the wrong buried, those who had entered and exited the holy place, and they were soon forgotten in the city where they did thus: this also is vanity.

¹¹ Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, so the heart of the sons of men are fully set to do evil.

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¹² Although a sinner does evil a hundred times, and still prolongs his days, yet surely I know that it will be well with those who fear God, who openly fear Him:

¹³ but it will not be well with the wrongdoer, nor will he prolong his days like a shadow; because he does not openly fear God.

¹⁴ There is vanity done on the earth; that is, there are right men, to whom it happens according to the deeds of the wrong. On the other hand, there are wrong men, to whom it happens according to the deeds of the right: I say that this also is vanity.

¹⁵ So I commended pleasure, for there is nothing better for a man under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry: and this will stay with him in his toils all the days of his life, which God gives him under the sun.

¹⁶ When I applied my heart to know wisdom, and to see the task that is done on the earth: (even though one should never sleep day or night:)

¹⁷ and I beheld every work of God, and I concluded that man cannot discover the work that has been done under the sun. Even though a man should seek laboriously, yet he will not discover; and though a wise man should say, I know, yet he cannot discover.

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