

# ECCLESIASTES 9 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.



**<sup>1</sup> For all this I considered in my heart even to say, that right and wise men, and their deeds are in the power of God: and none can tell what awaits, will it be loved, or will it be hated?**

**<sup>2</sup> It is the same for all: there is one fate for the right and for the wrong; for the good and for the clean, and for the unclean; for the one who sacrifices, and for the one who does not sacrifice. As the good man is, so is the sinner; as one who vows, so is one who fears to vow.**

**<sup>3</sup> There is no evil like this under the sun, that there is one fate for all: yes, also the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil, and lunacy is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead.**

**<sup>4</sup> For whoever is joined with the living there is hope: surely a live dog is better than a dead lion.**

**<sup>5</sup> For the living know they will die: but the dead do not know anything, nor have they any longer a reward; for their memory is forgotten.**

**<sup>6</sup> Indeed their love, their hate, and their envy has now perished; and they no longer have they a share in all that is done under the sun.**

**<sup>7</sup> Go then, eat your bread with gladness, and drink your wine with a cheerful heart; for God already accepts your work.**

**<sup>8</sup> Let your clothes always be clean; and let joy flow freely down your head.**

**<sup>9</sup> Enjoy life with the wife whom you love all the fleeting days of your life, which he has given you under the sun: for this is your portion in your life of toil under the sun.**

**<sup>10</sup> Whatever you find appealing to do; do it with all your might; for there is no pursuit, no plan, no knowledge or wisdom, in the grave where you are going.**

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<sup>11</sup> I again looked, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, and the battle is not to the warrior, nor is bread to the wise, nor riches to the discerning, nor favor to men of ability; for time and chance overtakes them all.

<sup>12</sup> **For man does not know his time:** like fish caught in a treacherous net, and birds trapped in a snare; so the sons of men are ensnared in an evil time, when it falls suddenly on them.

<sup>13</sup> Also this I have seen is wisdom under the sun, and it impressed me:

<sup>14</sup> there was a small town, and few men in it; and a great king came against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it:

<sup>15</sup> but there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no one remembered that poor man.

<sup>16</sup> So I said, Wisdom is better than strength: but the wisdom of the poor man was despised, and his words were not heeded.

<sup>17</sup> **Wise words heard in quiet far excel shouts from a ringleader of fools.**

<sup>18</sup> **Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but a single error spoils good strategy.**

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