



WISDOM

Wisdom literature is intended to impart, well... wisdom. Books like Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon combine narrative, poetry, imagery, and parallel statements to convey wisdom for the various seasons and circumstances of life. To grow in godly wisdom, however, takes time, practice, and the willingness to wrestle with some of life's biggest issues.

Before you get started, ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand, believe, and obey his Word. Bible study, after all, is intended to help us see more clearly and savor more intensely our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

1 So remember your Creator in the days of your youth:

Before the days of adversity come,
and the years approach when you will say,
"I have no delight in them";

2 before the sun and the light are darkened,
and the moon and the stars,
and the clouds return after the rain;

3 on the day when the guardians of the house tremble,
and the strong men stoop,
the women who grind grain cease because they are few,
and the ones who watch through the windows see dimly,

4 the doors at the street are shut
while the sound of the mill fades;
when one rises at the sound of a bird,
and all the daughters of song grow faint.

5 Also, they are afraid of heights and dangers on the road;

the almond tree blossoms,
the grasshopper loses its spring,
and the caper berry has no effect;
for the mere mortal is headed to his eternal home,
and mourners will walk around in the street;
6 before the silver cord is snapped,
and the gold bowl is broken,
and the jar is shattered at the spring,
and the wheel is broken into the well;
7 and the dust returns to the earth as it once was,
and the spirit returns to God who gave it.
8“Absolute futility,” says the Teacher. “Everything is futile.”

9 In addition to the Teacher being a wise man, he constantly taught the people knowledge; he weighed, explored, and arranged many proverbs. 10 The Teacher sought to find delightful sayings and write words of truth accurately. 11 The sayings of the wise are like cattle prods, and those from masters of collections are like firmly embedded nails. The sayings are given by one Shepherd.

12 But beyond these, my son, be warned: there is no end to the making of many books, and much study wearies the body. 13 When all has been heard, the conclusion of the matter is this: fear God and keep his commands, because this is for all humanity. 14 For God will bring every act to judgment, including every hidden thing, whether good or evil. (CSB)

COMA QUESTIONS FOR ECCLESIASTES 12:1-14

Work your way through each section of COMA, allowing the questions to guide your journey through the text.

Context

- Are there any clues about the circumstances in which the passage was written?
- What has happened so far?

Observation

- Are there repetitions or multiple instances of similar ideas? Do these repetitions make a particular point, or point to the structure of the passage?

- What images or metaphors does the author use? What do they indicate about God or the other people in the text? What might they indicate about modern readers?
- What is the tone of the passage? What emotions is the author arousing?
- What is the main point or points?
- What surprises are there?

Meaning

- Are there specific instructions/commands given to the reader? Does this passage mention any consequences for not following God's commands?
- How does the author motivate the reader/audience, or make his appeal?
- What does the passage teach us about God, and his people, and life in his world?
- Does the passage point forward to Jesus? Is the gospel anticipated or foreshadowed in some way?

Application

- How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
- Is there some attitude you need to change?
- How does this passage call on you to change the way you live?

*The COMA study method and questions are produced by Matthias Media and Holy Trinity Church. They have been taken from ***One-to-One Bible Reading*** by David Helm. For more one-to-one Bible reading resources, or to purchase the book, please visit www.matthiasmedia.com.