### Ecclesiastes

## Chapter 7

1‘A good name is better than oil,  
 And the day that you die is much greater  
 Than the day you were born.  
  
 2‘So it’s better to go to a funeral  
 Than to spend time at a banquet…  
 For, that’s the end of all men,  
 And it’s good for all who are living  
 To take such good warnings to heart.  
  
 3‘Indignant rage is better than laughter;  
 For a face that’s been hurt creates a good heart.  
 4So the wise at heart are at funerals,  
 While the foolish heart [searches for] pleasure.  
  
 5‘It’s better to hear the scolding of the wise  
 Than to listen to the [praising] of fools.  
  
 6‘As the [crackling] of tinder under a pot,  
 Is the sound of the laughter of fools;  
 For, this is also just folly.  
  
 7‘Extortion makes wise people crazy;  
 For it destroys the greatest plans of their hearts.  
  
 8‘The way that a matter turns out  
 Is [more important] than how it began.  
  
 ‘It’s better [for a man] to forgive  
 Than to have a high-minded spirit.  
  
 9‘Don’t get angry too quickly;  
 For, rage rests in the bosoms of fools.  
  
 10‘Don’t ask why past days were better;  
 For in asking such things, there’s no wisdom.  
  
 11‘True wisdom brings plenty of good  
 To those who can still see the sun;  
 12For, wisdom is in the sun’s shadow,  
 And in the shadow of silver.  
  
 ‘The advantage of those who have wisdom  
 Is that those who’ve found it will live [longer] lives.  
  
 13‘Behold the actions of God;  
 For, who can add to the things that He brings?  
  
 14‘Enjoy the good life during good days,  
 For you know that bad days will come!  
  
 ‘Look! Harmonious words, God sent through this man,  
 So people will need nothing more!  
  
 15‘I’ve seen it all in my foolish days…  
 I’ve seen the righteous unjustly destroyed,  
 And the irreverent allowed to keep doing what’s bad.  
  
 16‘Don’t be too discerning or righteous,  
 So you won’t overwhelm all the others.  
 17Nor should you be disrespectful of them,  
 Lest you harden and die before it’s your time.  
  
 18‘It’s best to hang on to all that’s good  
 And not to get your hands dirty;  
 For, everything comes to those who fear God.  
  
 19‘Wisdom has much greater power  
 Than 10 mighty men in a city.  
  
 20‘There’s no man on earth who’s righteous…  
 There are none who are good and free from all sins.  
  
 21‘Don’t keep all the bad that’s said in your heart,  
 And don’t notice when you’re cursed by your servants.  
 22For, against you, they’ll say wicked things,  
 And often they’ll hurt you at heart…  
 Just as you’ve often cursed others.  
  
 23‘All of these things, I’ve tested as wisdom;  
 But, although I may say that I understand,  
 It has stayed too far from my grasp…  
 24It’s too high above me and too deep below;  
 So, who’s able to find it?  
  
 25‘To understand, I’ve searched my heart through…  
 I’ve looked it all over and sought what’s wise.  
 I’ve reasoned and seen how the godless are fools,  
 And of how they’re misled to do wrong.  
  
 26‘I find her more bitter than death…  
 The woman with snares and nets in her heart,  
 And who creates slaves with her hands.  
 Only those who are found to be good before God  
 Will be delivered from her,  
 While those who sin will be captured.’  
  
27The Great Congregator says:  
  
 ‘Look! This is what I’ve found,  
 I’ve counted and carefully searched…  
 28Seeking for such ones with my whole soul…  
 But, I was unable to find  
 A man in a thousand who’s [righteous],  
 And none at all among women!  
  
 29‘Yet, this is the one thing I’ve found:  
 God deals with the man who’s upright,  
 And He searches for ways to reward him.’  
  
 ‘But, who knows who truly is wise,  
 And who understands the meanings of proverbs?’