### Ecclesiastes

## Chapter 8

1‘Wisdom will make faces brighter,  
 While impudent faces are hated.  
  
 2‘Watch the mouth of a king  
 Because of the oath that God swore!  
 3Don’t depart from his face in a hurry,  
 And don’t go to him for wrong reasons;  
 For, he’ll do whatever he pleases,  
 4And then, who can ask of the king:  
  
 ‘Why did you make [that decision]?’  
  
 5‘Those who keep the Commandments don’t contemplate evil;  
 For, wise hearts discern right ways and right times.  
  
 6‘There’s a time and a ruling for all,  
 And the knowledge of men ranges widely.  
 7But, since no one knows what will happen,  
 Who can foretell what the future will hold?  
  
 8‘No man controls [his own] life,  
 Nor is he able to keep it in check.  
 None can avoid the day of their deaths,  
 And none can avoid days of war…  
 Nor can the irreverent avoid what they’re due.  
  
 9‘I’ve now seen it all…  
 I’ve given my heart to all under the sun…  
 And I’ve found that all men can do,  
 Is just bring to bad on themselves.  
  
 10‘I’ve seen the irreverent carried to tombs  
 From a place that’s Holy.  
 They were also praised in the city  
 For the things they’d done…  
 And this is also just folly.  
  
 11‘When no one opposes the wicked,  
 Men’s hearts feel safe in turning towards bad.  
 12And those who are guilty of sins,  
 Just go on living their lives.  
  
 ‘But, I know that good comes to those who fear God,  
 And before Him, the rest should feel fear.  
 13For, good doesn’t really come to the godless,  
 And what they do doesn’t lengthen their days.  
 So, they’re nothing but shadows [that pass],  
 Because they’ve shown no fear of God.  
  
 14‘There’s even more folly that’s done on the earth…  
 As when the righteous receive what the guilty deserve,  
 And the godless receive what the righteous deserve…  
 Yes, this is also just folly!  
  
 15‘So, although I may sing their praises in joy,  
 There’s nothing good that happens to men  
 Anywhere under the sun,  
 Other than eating, drinking, and pleasure…  
 Yes, that’s all there is to man’s efforts…  
 It’s what he’s been given by God  
 As [his portion] under the sun.  
  
 16‘So I turned my heart to learn wisdom  
 And to overlook what’s done on the earth.  
 For, both day and night, men sleep with [closed] eyes,  
 So they can’t see all that happens.  
  
 17‘Then I started to observe the actions of God,  
 Which men under the sun haven’t noticed.  
 For, despite all the efforts they put in their search,  
 They’ve been unable to find it.  
 And although the wise speak of knowledge,  
 They too are unable to find it.  
 But because I gave my heart to discernment;  
 These are the things that my heart came to see.’