### Ecclesiastes

## Chapter 9

1‘The deeds of the righteous and wise  
 Are in the hands of our God.  
 And with all of their loves and dislikes,  
 Man can’t really comprehend it…  
 2For, foolish are the ways of all men!  
  
 ‘There are things that happen to the righteous,  
 And things that happen to the godless…  
 And to either, can come good or evil.  
  
 ‘There are also the clean and unclean;  
 There are those who bring sacrifices,  
 And those who offer God nothing.  
 Yet, the same things [can happen to] both…  
 To the good as well as the sinners…  
 To those who choose to swear oaths,  
 And to those who fear to swear oaths.  
 3In all of this, there’s evil  
 In what’s done under the sun…  
 For the same things can happen to both.  
  
 ‘Indeed; men’s hearts are filled with what’s bad,  
 And it leads them to madness throughout their lives…  
 Then they go to the grave.  
  
 4‘But, for the living, there’s still hope,  
 Since a living dog is much greater  
 Than a mighty lion that has died.  
 5For the living know that they’ll die,  
 While the dead know nothing at all,  
 Nor do they have a wage,  
 Since the memory of them is forgotten.  
  
 6‘Their loves and dislikes are both gone,  
 And their zeal has already perished.  
 Then, throughout the age they’ll not be involved  
 In whatever is done under the sun.  
  
 7‘So, eat your bread in contentment,  
 And drink to your heart with fine wines…  
 And God will think well of your actions.  
  
 8‘May your clothes always be white,  
 And may there be plenty of oil for your head.  
  
 9‘Share what you have with the woman you’ve loved  
 All the days of your wasted life.  
 For it’s all that you’ll get under the sun,  
 Since the days of your life are a folly…  
 Yes, this is the sum of your life  
 For all of your efforts under the sun.  
  
 10‘So whatever your hands find to do,  
 Do it with all of your power!  
 For, there’s no doing, thinking, wisdom, or knowledge  
 In the place of the dead where you’re going.  
  
 11‘I turned and I saw that under the sun,  
 The race isn’t won by those quick on their feet,  
 Nor are battles all won by the mighty.  
 The wise aren’t always those who eat bread,  
 And the discerning aren’t always the rich;  
 Nor are those with knowledge shown favor.  
  
 ‘Yet, there’s a time and a meeting for all,  
 12And no one knows when this time will arrive.  
 As fish being caught in a net,  
 And as birds being trapped in a snare;  
 The sons of men will be swiftly caught  
 In a bad time that arrives all too quickly.  
  
 13‘I’ve beheld all this wisdom under sun,  
 And it rests heavily upon me.  
  
 14‘If a city is small with just a few men,  
 And a mighty king comes to attack,  
 Building high siege mounds around it;  
 15And if a wise man who’s poor can be found there,  
 And his wisdom results in saving that town;  
 All will forget that he’d been poor.  
  
 16‘So, this is what I can tell you:  
  
 ‘Wisdom is better than power.’  
  
 But the wisdom of the poor is treated with contempt,  
 And none pay attention to their words.  
 17Yet, the words of the wise who have nothing  
 Should be heeded over the words of the foolish  
 Who may have been given the power,  
 18Since wisdom is better than weapons of war,  
 And a single error can wipe out the good.’