

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 200 – Two Are Better Than One Through No Rejoicing For The King (Ecclesiastes 4:9-16)

1. Can two people work together and share in the reward?

Yes: *“Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour”* (Ecclesiastes 4:9).

- Two are better than one (**Genesis 2:18, Proverbs 27:17, and Mark 6:7**).
- Brethren working TOGETHER is a necessity (**II Corinthians 6:1, II Corinthians 8:17-23, Ephesians 4:16, I Thessalonians 5:11, and Hebrews 10:22-25**).
- When brethren work together they can both be rewarded (**I Corinthians 3:6-8**).

2. Is it good to be alone if you fall?

No: *“For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up”* (Ecclesiastes 4:10).

- Our brethren are helpful in times wherein we have physical problems (**I Samuel 23:16, Romans 15:25-27, II Corinthians 11:9, and Philippians 2:25**).
- Our brethren are most helpful when we have spiritual problems (**Matthew 18:15-17, Galatians 6:1-2, Hebrews 3:13, James 5:19-20, and Jude 22-23**).

3. What benefit could there be to traveling with a companion in times of cold weather?

Warmth: *“Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone”* (Ecclesiastes 4:11)?

- Body heat provides warmth (**I Kings 1:1-2**).

4. Is it harder for a predator to attack you if you have others with you?

Yes: *“And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken”* (Ecclesiastes 4:12).

- There is more safety in numbers (**Proverbs 11:14 and Luke 10:1-3**).

5. In what way is it better to be a poor child that has wisdom than being an old king?

If that old king will not be admonished: *“Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished”* (Ecclesiastes 4:13).

- Wisdom is the principal thing (**Proverbs 4:7, Ecclesiastes 9:16-18, and Ephesians 5:17**).
- The fact that you can be wise and poor at the same time PROVES that poverty is not always a sign of foolishness or sinfulness (cf. **Proverbs 19:1, Luke 6:20, James 2:5, and Revelation 2:8-10**). Some people are poor through foolishness (**Proverbs 21:25**).
- Anyone who refuses to be taught is a fool (**I Kings 22, Proverbs 8:33, Proverbs 15:10, Jeremiah 5:3, and Acts 7:51**).

6. Can someone who had been in bondage become a king?

Yes: *"For out of prison he cometh to reign; whereas also he that is born in his kingdom becometh poor"* (**Ecclesiastes 4:14**).

- **Psalms 113:7-8.**
- While not a king, Joseph certainly was taken from prison and put in high authority (**Genesis 41:33-44**; cf. **Psalms 45:16**).
- Jesus is the most obvious example of the greatest king becoming poor (**Philippians 2:5-11**; cf. **II Corinthians 8:9**).
- There is another principle involved, though the example of Jesus proves that this is not always the case, some are humbled for pride while others are lifted because of humility (**Proverbs 29:23**, **Matthew 23:12**, and **James 4:6-10**).

7. In the context of talking about the reign of kings, are kings always honored once the next generation is ready to reign?

No: *"(15) I considered all the living which walk under the sun, with the second child that shall stand up in his stead. (16) There is no end of all the people, even of all that have been before them: they also that come after shall not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and vexation of spirit"* (**Ecclesiastes 4:15-16**).

- This is perfectly illustrated at how quickly the older king David, once beloved (**I Samuel 18:16**), was quickly forgotten when Absalom wanted to steal the throne (**II Samuel 15:6-13**).