

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 203 – A Common Evil Through Who Can Tell A Man What Is After Him (Ecclesiastes 6:1-12)

1. What common evil did Solomon say he has seen among men?

A man given riches, honor, etc., but not a stranger eating it rather than that man: *“(1) There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is common among men: (2) A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this is vanity, and it is an evil disease” (Ecclesiastes 6:1-2).*

- Let’s begin by realizing that if God has given a man something and then took it to give it to another, that man is to blame (**Deuteronomy 28:1-68** and **Deuteronomy 30:15-20**).
- **Ecclesiastes 5:13** had similar wording at the beginning of the verse.

2. What kind of end is there that is worse than an untimely birth [an aborted child or child that is premature and falls from the womb]?

A long life, with many children, yet a life not satisfied with good followed by no burial: *“(3) If a man beget an hundred children, and live many years, so that the days of his years be many, and his soul be not filled with good, and also that he have no burial; I say, that an untimely birth [Strong’s #5309] is better than he. (4) For he cometh in with vanity, and departeth in darkness, and his name shall be covered with darkness. (5) Moreover he hath not seen the sun, nor known any thing: this hath more rest than the other” (Ecclesiastes 6:3-5).*

- Long life and children are seen as a blessing (**Job 42:12-17**, **Psalms 127:3-5**, and **Proverbs 17:6**).
- A soul not full of goodness is a soul without God (**Psalms 34:10**, **Psalms 107:9**, and **Jeremiah 31:25**). Even with lacking physical blessings this is true (**Philippians 4:12-18**).
- The misery of Job, in his sinful talking (**Job 34:35**), is commentary here (**Job 3:1-13**).

3. What “one place” awaits everyone, even if one where to live two thousand years?

The verse says one place, which we should all realize is death [unless Christ comes first]: *“Yea, though he live a thousand years twice told, yet hath he seen no good: do not all go to one place” (Ecclesiastes 6:6)?*

- As discussed already, life without seeing any good is extraordinarily vain (**vs. 3-5**).
- Unless Christ comes first, which was not a concern in the Old Testament, death awaits all (**Job 30:23**, **Psalms 89:48**, **Ecclesiastes 3:20**, and **Hebrews 9:27**).

4. Can you work hard enough to fill your appetite?

No: *“All the labour of man is for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled” (Ecclesiastes 6:7).*

- Most often, the more we get the more we want (**Ecclesiastes 5:10-12** and **Luke 12:13-21**; cf. **Psalms 62:10**).

5. Answer this question: *“For what hath the wise more than the fool? what hath the poor, that knoweth to walk before the living”* (**Ecclesiastes 6:8**)?

- In this world, NOTHING (**Ecclesiastes 2:14-16**). Nothing physical lasts forever (**Psalms 39:6**, **Proverbs 23:5**, **Proverbs 27:24**, **Matthew 6:19-21**, and **I John 2:17**).

6. What good does the wandering of desire do for us?

Nothing: *“Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the desire: this is also vanity and vexation of spirit”* (**Ecclesiastes 6:9**).

- Keep your focus (**Luke 11:34** and **Colossians 3:1-4**), desire [Strong’s #5315] “lust after one’s own desires” isn’t good (**Ephesians 4:22**, **Titus 2:10-14**, **James 1:14-16**, and **I Peter 2:11**).

7. Can we change what has already past or fight against he that is mightier than us?

No: *“That which hath been is named already, and it is known that it is man: neither may he contend with him that is mightier than he”* (**Ecclesiastes 6:10**).

- The past is the past and cannot be changed (**Ecclesiastes 1:9-11** and **Ecclesiastes 3:15**).
- We cannot fight against God (**Job 33:13**, **Isaiah 45:9-12**, **Romans 9:20**, and **I Corinthians 10:22**).

8. Are there a few things that increase vanity?

No, there are MANY: *“Seeing there be many things that increase vanity, what is man the better”* (**Ecclesiastes 6:11**)?

- All such vanity, created by man, starts in the mind and goes from there (**Ephesians 4:17-19**).

9. What realities are stated in the last verse of chapter six?

“For who knoweth what is good for man in this life, all the days of his vain life which he spendeth as a shadow? for who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun” (**Ecclesiastes 6:12**)?

- Who knows what is good for man in this life (**Micah 6:8** and **Luke 10:38-42**).
- Life is as a shadow (**Psalms 102:11**, **Psalms 144:4**, and **James 4:14-16**).
- Who can tell man what will be after him under the sun (**Ecclesiastes 3:22** and **Ecclesiastes 10:14**)?