



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

NINILCHIK

9/24/23, Ecclesiastes 7:2-4 “The House of Mourning”

Ecclesiastes 1-7:1

- 1, every generation like vanity or a breath (הֶבֶל) in the scheme of things
- 2, every pursuit in life is like grasping at breath exhaled; & all that is left is to glorify God & enjoy Him (2:24-26)
- 3, presents the whole of life with its individual parts, expressing our need to trust the sovereign God.
- 4, presents our God-ordained need of companionship and the integral connection between the 1st great commandment & also the 2nd
- 5:1-7, hearing from Christ & speaking to Christ must be founded upon **godly fear**
- 5:8-6:9, a Hebrew chiasmus (or chiasm)
- 6:10-12, a summary; a segue; an introduction
- 7:1a, טוב שֵׁם מְשָׁמֵן טוֹב (*tōv shām, mish-she-MEN tōv*)
- 7:1b, יוֹיִם הַמְּנִת מִיּוֹם הַיְלֻדוֹ (*v'-YŌM ham-MA-vet MIY-yōm hiv-val-DŌ*)

בֵּית-אֵבֶל (*bāyt Ā-vel*) “house of mourning” √2, 4
בֵּית מִשָּׂתָה (*bāyt mish-TE*) “house of feasting” √2
בֵּית שִׂמְחָה (*bāyt sim-CHAH*) “house of mirth” √4

I. Particular Insights from this Portion

A. better... house, √2

1. insights

- a. *house of mourning*, √2a; Jer 6:26
- Isa 53:3-4
- b. *house of feasting*, √2b; Psa 69:22

2. application

- a. *end of all mankind*, √2c; Ecc 3:11; Heb 9:27
- b. *the living will lay it to heart*, √2d; Deut 32:29
- Matt 5:4; Luke 10:21

B. *Sorrow is better than laughter*, v3

1. insights

a. *sorrow*, כַּעַס (*KHA-as*): grief, anger; *house of mourning* (7:2a)

b. *laughter*, שְׂחָק (*s'-cHĪQ*): mocking; *house of feasting* (7:2b)

2. application

a. *sorrow*, Zech 12:10; 2 Cor 7:10

b. *sadness of face*, כְּפִי-בָרַע (*khēy_b'-RĪ-a pa-NĒYM*)

- "Evil exposed is eternity embraced." (PJI, *cf.* Ecc 3:11)

C. *the heart of the wise... & of fools*, v4

1. *the wise*, חָכָם (*cha-KHAM*); Prov 9:10

2. *fools*, כְּסִיל (*kh'-SĒYL*): stupid, silly, fool, foolish; Prov 10:1

a. as opposed to נָבֵל (*na-VAL*): fool, wicked, vile person

- 1 Sam 25:25; Psa 14:1; 53:1

II. Practical Applications

A. Keep the cross & God's commandments in proper perspective, v2

B. Sorrow & repentance are graces to embrace, enjoy, & employ daily, v3

C. Wisdom abides eternally at the cross; silly mirth delights in the temporary shelter in "Your Best Life Now" v4