

Midweek Bible Study

Exposition of Ecclesiastes

When Man's Trouble is Heavy Upon Him

Ecc. 8:1-17

I. Transition (8:1)

- A. Who is like the wise man/Who knows the interpretation?
- B. Wisdom does have a positive effect: illumines him and causes his stern face to beam.

II. Wisdom in Dealing with Kings (8:2-9)

- A. Effective wisdom with the king (2-6)
 - 1. Wisdom obeys the king
Rom. 13:1-5; 1 Pet. 2:13-17
 - 2. Because of God's oath to Him (ESV)
because of your oath made before God (Ecc 8:2 CSB)
because you took an oath before God to be loyal to him (NET)
Cf. 5:2-6
 - 3. Don't be quick to abandon the king/take a stand in an evil cause
For he does what he pleases.
 - 4. The word of the king is supreme, and he has no/little human accountability.
 - 5. Keep the law and you won't get into trouble
Rom. 13:3
 - 6. The wise also know the proper time and procedure
 - 7. For there is a time and a way for everything/
Although man's trouble lies heavy on him
- B. Ineffectiveness of wisdom (7-9)
 - 1. We can't know the future
Who can tell him what it will be?
 - 2. No one has power over the wind
 - 3. No one has the power over the day of his death



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4. No one is discharged in the time of war
5. Wickedness will not deliver those who are given to it
6. Conclusion (9)

III. **Fear God regardless of the way things appear (10-13)**

- A. Forgotten or praised?
- B. No consequences (11)
- C. Fear God openly (12-13)
Even though a sinner might commit a hundred crimes and still live a long time, yet I know that it will go well with God-fearing people– for they stand in fear before him. (Ecc 8:12 NET)

IV. **Hebel and the Limits of Wisdom (14-17)**

- A. There is a *hebel* that is done/takes place on the earth
- B. I Commend Joy!
- C. The Incomprehensibility of God and His work (16-17)

