

Ecclesiastes 5:1-17
Implications: warnings and cautions
Understanding God's all-encompassing plan—3:1-5:20

- 1) God will judge our worship—5:1-7
 - a) Go to listen to God rather than to lecture God—5:1-3 ¹ *Guard your foot as you go to the house of God; and to approach to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil.* ² *Do not be rash with your mouth, and do not let your heart be impetuous to utter a word in the presence of God, because God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few.*
 - i) Why? ³ *For a dream comes through much effort, and a fool's voice through many words.*
 - b) Don't attempt to manipulate God with reckless promises—5:4-7 ⁴ *When you vow a vow to God, do not delay to complete it, for He has no pleasure in fools. Complete what you have vowed.* ⁵ *It is better that you do not vow than that you vow and not complete it.* ⁶ *Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, and do not say in the presence of the messenger that it was unintentional. Why should God be angry at your voice and destroy the work of your hands?* (cf. Deuteronomy 23:21-23)
 - i) Why? ⁷ *For in the abundance of dreams there are futilities, and in many words. Rather, fear God.* (cf. 12:13)
 - ii) Fearing God involves: trusting God (Psalm 115:11), experiencing God's forgiveness (Psalm 130:4), taking pleasure in God's Word (Psalm 112:1), obeying God's Word (Psalm 119:63), hating evil (Proverbs 8:13), and anticipating God's loyal love (Psalm 147:11).
- 2) Corrupt bureaucracy is better than anarchy—5:8-9
 - a) Corruption—⁸ *If you see the oppression of the destitute and the perversion of justice and righteousness in the province, do not be astonished at the matter; for the higher official is watched by a higher, and there are higher ones over them!*
 - b) Benefit—⁹ *The profit of the land is for all; the king for the tilled field.*
- 3) Possessions will never satisfy the soul—5:10-17
 - a) Wealth dawdles behind desire—5:8 ¹⁰ *The one who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with produce. This also is illusory.*
 - b) Wealth attracts parasites—5:11 ¹¹ *In the increase of good things, those who consume them increase; and what advantage to the owners but to see with his eyes?*
 - c) Wealth leads to insomnia—5:12 ¹² *The sleep of the workingman is pleasant, whether he eats little or much; but the fullness of the rich will not permit him to sleep.*
 - d) Wealth is not eternal—5:13-17 ¹³ *There is a great harm that I have seen under the sun: wealth kept by their owner to his harm.* ¹⁴ *But that wealth perished in a bad venture; although he fathered a son, there was nothing in his hand.* ¹⁵ *Just as he came from his mother's womb, naked will he turn to go as he came, and he will take nothing from his toil that he may carry away in his hand.* ¹⁶ *This also is a great harm: just as he came, so will he go. And what is the advantage to him who toils for the wind?* ¹⁷ *Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness, and he is greatly vexed, and sickness, and wrath.* (cf. Luke 12:13-21)