

Ecclesiastes 12:1-7
Live a Godward life before Sunset
Reminder of our imminent death and meeting God—11:7-12:7
Removing Discouragements to God's Plan—8:16-12:14

Introduction: This is one long sentence in Hebrew. Judgment before God is the context (cf. 11:9; 12:14)

- 1) Let reflections of God decisively impact your actions—12:1 ¹ *And remember your Creator^{pl} (plural of intensity) in the days of your youth,* (cf. 3:11; 7:13-14, 29; 11:5)
- 2) The timing of the obedience of the young person—12:1b-7
 - a) Before unpleasant days—**before** ...
 - i) Our miserable days—*the difficult days come,* (cf. 11:8)
 - ii) The end of our days—*and the years draw near when you say, “I have no pleasure in them”;*
 - b) Before old age—² **before** ...
 - i) Loss of vision—*the sun and the light, the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain;*
 - ii) Loss of strength in arms and hands—³ *in the day when the watchmen of the house tremble,*
 - iii) Loss of strength in legs—*and strong men stoop over,*
 - iv) Loss of teeth—*and the grinders cease because they are few,*
 - v) Loss of vision—*and those who look through the windows grow dim;*
 - vi) Loss of hearing—⁴ *and the doors on the street are shut when the sound of the grinding mill is low,*
 - vii) Lack of sound sleep—*and one rises at the sound of a bird,*
 - viii) Loss of vocal ability—*and all the daughters of song are brought low.*
 - ix) Loss of courage—⁵ *Moreover they are afraid of heights and of terrors on the road;*
 - x) White hair—*and the almond tree blossoms,*
 - xi) Loss of strength—*and the grasshopper drags itself along,*
 - xii) Loss of sexual desire—*and the caperberry is ineffective,*
 - xiii) Why? Because of our eventual death
 - (1) *because man goes to his eternal [olam] home [beth],* (the Jews still refer to a cemetery as *Beth Olam*)
 - (2) *and the mourners go about the street;*
 - c) Before death—⁶ **before** ...
 - i) Death is irreversible
 - (1) Loss of valuable life—*the silver cord is removed, or the golden bowl is crushed,*
 - (2) Loss of abilities to do the basic necessities of life—*or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel at the cistern is crushed;*
 - ii) Return
 - (1) Physical body—⁷ *and the dust returns to the earth as it was* (cf. Genesis 2:7a; 3:19)
 - (2) Spirit—*and the spirit returns to the God who gave it.* (cf. 3:19; Genesis 2:7b; 6:17; 7:22; Luke 23:46; Acts 7:59)