

Ecclesiastes 10:1-20 **Sayings of Solomon based on His Observations**

Wisdom and Folly

¹ Dead flies putrefy* the perfumer's ointment, And cause it to give off a foul odor;
So *does* a little folly to one respected for wisdom *and* honor.

² A wise man's heart *is* at his right hand, But a fool's heart at his left.

³ Even when a fool walks along the way, He lacks wisdom, And he shows everyone *that* he *is* a fool.

⁴ If the spirit of the ruler rises against you, Do not leave your post; For conciliation pacifies great offenses.

⁵ There is an evil I have seen under the sun, As an error proceeding from the ruler:

⁶ Folly is set in great dignity, While the rich sit in a lowly place.

⁷ I have seen servants on horses, While princes walk on the ground like servants.

⁸ He who digs a pit will fall into it, And whoever breaks through a wall will be bitten by a serpent.

⁹ He who quarries stones may be hurt by them, *And* he who splits wood may be endangered by it.

¹⁰ If the ax is dull, And one does not sharpen the edge, Then he must use more strength; But wisdom brings success.

¹¹ A serpent may bite when *it is* not charmed; The babbler is no different.

¹² The words of a wise man's mouth *are* gracious, But the lips of a fool shall swallow him up;

¹³ The words of his mouth begin with foolishness, And the end of his talk *is* raving madness.

¹⁴ A fool also multiplies words.

No man knows what is to be; Who can tell him what will be after him?

¹⁵ The labor of fools wearies them, For they do not even know how to go to the city!

¹⁶ Woe to you, O land, when your king *is* a child, And your princes feast in the morning!

17 Blessed *are* you, O land, when your king *is* the son of nobles, And your princes feast at the proper time – For strength and not for drunkenness!

18 Because of laziness the building decays, And through idleness of hands the house leaks.

19 A feast is made for laughter, And wine makes merry; But money answers everything.

20 Do not curse the king, even in your thought;
Do not curse the rich, even in your bedroom;
For a bird of the air may carry your voice, And a bird in flight may tell the matter.

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Facts Revealed:

✧ Sayings of Solomon requiring no commentary.