

## Ecclesiastes 1:12-18 **Search For Wisdom Brings Much Sorrow**

### *The Grief of Wisdom*

<sup>12</sup> I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

<sup>13</sup> And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; this burdensome task Elohiym (God) has given to the sons of man, by which they may be exercised.

<sup>14</sup> I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all *is* vanity and grasping for the wind.

<sup>15</sup> *What is* crooked cannot be made straight, And what is lacking cannot be numbered.

<sup>16</sup> I communed with my heart, saying, "Look, I have attained greatness, and have gained more wisdom than all who were before me in Jerusalem. My heart has understood great wisdom and knowledge."

<sup>17</sup> And I set my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is grasping for the wind.

<sup>18</sup> For in much wisdom *is* much grief, And he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

NKJV

#### Facts Revealed:

- ✧ I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.
  - And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; this burdensome task Elohiym (God) has given to the sons of man, by which they may be exercised. [\[Ecclesiastes 1:12-13\]](#)
  - ✧ Solomon described the extent of his search for wisdom.
  - ✧ He concluded that it was a burdensome task.
  - ✧ Elohiym has given all that is done under heaven to man to train and test him.
- ✧ I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all *is* vanity and grasping for the wind.
  - What is* crooked cannot be made straight, And what is lacking cannot be numbered. [\[Ecclesiastes 1:14-15\]](#)
  - ✧ Solomon considered all that is done by man as futile and grasping for empty satisfaction and the impossible.
  - ✧ He illustrated the concept by saying that what is crooked cannot be straightened and what is missing cannot be counted.
- ✧ I communed with my heart, saying, "Look, I have attained greatness, and have gained more wisdom than all who were before me in Jerusalem. My heart has understood great wisdom and knowledge." [\[Ecclesiastes 1:16\]](#)

- ✧ Solomon acknowledged his great accomplishments were far above all who had been kings in Jerusalem before him, which agrees with what God had promised. [[2 Chronicles 1:7-12](#)]
- ✧ And I set my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is grasping for the wind.  
For in much wisdom *is* much grief, And he who increases knowledge increases sorrow. [[Ecclesiastes 1:17-18](#)]
- ✧ Solomon chose to try everything including madness and folly to see by personal experience the results of it all.
- ✧ Thus in all experiences he kept his awareness and search for wisdom uppermost in his mind.
- ✧ He found it all to be futile and grasping for empty satisfaction.
- ✧ He concluded that with gaining much wisdom also brought much grief.
- ✧ Also gaining much knowledge brings much sorrow.