

Ecclesiastes 6:1-12 **Ponderings of Solomon – Vanity In Aspects Of Life**

Wealth Is Not the Goal of Life

¹ There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it *is* common among men:

² A man to whom Elohiym (God) has given riches and wealth and honor, so that he lacks nothing for himself of all he desires; yet Elohiym (God) does not give him power to eat of it, but a foreigner consumes it. This *is* vanity, and it *is* an evil affliction.

³ If a man begets a hundred *children* and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with goodness, or indeed he has no burial, I say *that* a stillborn child *is* better than he –

⁴ for it comes in vanity and departs in darkness, and its name is covered with darkness.

⁵ Though it has not seen the sun or known *anything*, this has more rest than that man,

⁶ even if he lives a thousand years twice – but has not seen goodness. Do not all go to one place?

⁷ All the labor of man is for his mouth, And yet the soul is not satisfied.

⁸ For what more has the wise man than the fool?

What does the poor man have, Who knows how to walk before the living?

⁹ Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of desire.

This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.

¹⁰ Whatever one is, he has been named already, For it is known that he is man; And he cannot contend with Him who is mightier than he.

¹¹ Since there are many things that increase vanity, How is man the better?

¹² For who knows what is good for man in life, all the days of his vain life which he passes like a shadow? Who can tell a man what will happen after him under the sun?

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Facts Revealed:

- ☆ There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it *is* common among men: A man to whom Elohiym (God) has given riches and wealth and honor, so that he lacks nothing for himself of all he desires; yet Elohiym (God) does not give him power to eat of it, but a foreigner consumes it. This *is* vanity, and it *is* an evil affliction. [Ecclesiastes 6:1-2]
 - ◇ Solomon found riches, wealth, & honor to be empty of satisfaction in his old age.
 - ◇ Therefore he called it vanity and an evil affliction.
- ☆ If a man begets a hundred *children* and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with goodness, or indeed he has no burial, I say *that* a stillborn child *is* better than he – for it comes in vanity and departs in darkness, and its name is covered with darkness.

Though it has not seen the sun or known *anything*, this has more rest than that man, even if he lives a thousand years twice – but has not seen goodness. Do not all go to one place? [Ecclesiastes 6:3-6]

 - ◇ Solomon concluded that It is enough to enjoy the fruit of your labor all the days of your life because it is the gift of Elohiym who gave it to you as a heritage to be gratefully received with rejoicing. [Ecclesiastes 5:18-20]
 - ◇ Therefore he perceived that no matter the years or the number of children a man has, to live a life without the satisfaction of enjoying the fruits of one's labors is so evil that a stillborn child is better since all die in the end.

Because the dead child did not suffer the trials of the other.
- ☆ All the labor of man is for his mouth, And yet the soul is not satisfied.

For what more has the wise man than the fool?
 What does the poor man have, Who knows how to walk before the living? [Ecclesiastes 6:7-8]

 - ◇ This is a dismal declaration and concept if that is all a man lives for.
- ☆ Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of desire.

This also is vanity and grasping for the wind. [Ecclesiastes 6:9]

 - ◇ This mindset it explains why Solomon saw everything as vanity and grasping for the wind.
- ☆ Whatever one is, he has been named already, For it is known that he is man; And he cannot contend with Him who is mightier than he. [Ecclesiastes 6:10]
 - ◇ This appears to be a statement of truth that it is foolish for a man to contend with One mightier than himself especially if it is a reference to a man contending with God.
- ☆ Since there are many things that increase vanity, How is man the better? [Ecclesiastes 6:11]
 - ◇ Solomon considers there is no benefit for man since he views it all to be vanity in the first place.
- ☆ For who knows what is good for man in life, all the days of his vain life which he passes like a shadow? Who can tell a man what will happen after him under the sun? [Ecclesiastes 6:12]
 - ◇ Viewing it all through the eyes of fallen flesh, Solomon has trouble seeing revelations from Yahweh in the scope of things around him.
 - ◇ Solomon fell from his close relationship with God in his old age before writing the book of Ecclesiastes so all he sees is vanity. [1 Kings 11:1-13]