

Ecclesiastes 7:1-29 **Wisdom In Straight & Contrasting Short Statements**

The Value of Practical Wisdom

¹ A good name *is* better than precious ointment,
And the day of death than the day of one's birth;

² Better to go to the house of mourning Than to go to the house of feasting, For that *is*
the end of all men; And the living will take *it* to heart.

³ Sorrow *is* better than laughter, For by a sad countenance the heart is made better.

⁴ The heart of the wise *is* in the house of mourning,
But the heart of fools *is* in the house of mirth.

⁵ *It is* better to hear the rebuke of the wise
Than for a man to hear the song of fools.

⁶ For like the crackling of thorns under a pot, So *is* the laughter of the fool.
This also is vanity.

⁷ Surely oppression destroys a wise *man's* reason, And a bribe debases the heart.

⁸ The end of a thing *is* better than its beginning;

The patient in spirit *is* better than the proud in spirit.

⁹ Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, For anger rests in the bosom of fools.

¹⁰ Do not say, "Why were the former days better than these?" For you do not inquire
wisely concerning this.

¹¹ Wisdom *is* good with an inheritance, And profitable to those who see the sun.

¹² For wisdom *is* a defense *as* money *is* a defense,
But the excellence of knowledge *is that* wisdom gives life to those who have it.

¹³ Consider the work of Elohiym (God); For who can make straight what He has made
crooked?

¹⁴ In the day of prosperity be joyful, But in the day of adversity consider:
Surely Elohiym (God) has appointed the one as well as the other, So that man can find
out nothing *that will come* after him.

¹⁵ I have seen everything in my days of vanity: There is a just *man* who perishes in his

righteousness,

And there is a wicked *man* who prolongs *life* in his wickedness.

¹⁶ Do not be overly righteous, Nor be overly wise: Why should you destroy yourself?

¹⁷ Do not be overly wicked, Nor be foolish: Why should you die before your time?

¹⁸ *It is* good that you grasp this, And also not remove your hand from the other;
For he who fears Elohiym (God) will escape them all.

¹⁹ Wisdom strengthens the wise More than ten rulers of the city.

²⁰ For *there is* not a just man on earth who does good And does not sin.

²¹ Also do not take to heart everything people say, Lest you hear your servant cursing you.

²² For many times, also, your own heart has known That even you have cursed others.

²³ All this I have proved by wisdom. I said, "I will be wise"; But it *was* far from me.

²⁴ As for that which is far off and exceedingly deep, Who can find it out?

²⁵ I applied my heart to know, To search and seek out wisdom and the reason *of things*,
To know the wickedness of folly, Even of foolishness *and* madness.

²⁶ And I find more bitter than death The woman whose heart *is* snares and nets, Whose hands *are* fetters.
He who pleases Elohiym (God) shall escape from her, But the sinner shall be trapped by her.

²⁷ "Here is what I have found," says the Preacher, "*Adding* one thing to the other to find out the reason,

²⁸ Which my soul still seeks but I cannot find: One man among a thousand I have found,
But a woman among all these I have not found.

²⁹ Truly, this only I have found: That Elohiym (God) made man upright,
But they have sought out many schemes."

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Facts Revealed:

☆ ¹ A good name *is* better than precious ointment,
And the day of death than the day of one's birth;

² Better to go to the house of mourning Than to go to the house of feasting, For that *is*
the end of all men; And the living will take *it* to heart.

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¹¹ Wisdom *is* good with an inheritance, And profitable to those who see the sun.

¹² For wisdom *is* a defense *as* money *is* a defense,
But the excellence of knowledge *is that* wisdom gives life to those who have it.

¹³ Consider the work of Elohiym (God); For who can make straight what He has made crooked? [[Ecclesiastes 7:1-13](#)]

✧ The sayings above are short self evident statements of Solomon requiring no commentary.

✧ In the day of prosperity be joyful, But in the day of adversity consider:
Surely Elohiym (God) has appointed the one as well as the other, So that man can find out nothing *that will come* after him. [[Ecclesiastes 7:14](#)]

✧ Elohiym has appointed the time of prosperity and the time of adversity.

✧ With the eye of flesh, man cannot know what will be after him.

✧ However Solomon overlooked the fact that Yahweh has revealed what will come upon man after death for both the righteous and the wicked to encourage us to seek the reward of the righteous by believing faith and obedience to His commandments.

✧ David the father of Solomon wrote of them in the Psalms and other teachings as well as the word of prophets of Israel beginning with Moses.

✧ We may not know what our children will do but we certainly know what Yahweh will do.

✧ I have seen everything in my days of vanity: There is a just *man* who perishes in his righteousness,

And there is a wicked *man* who prolongs *life* in his wickedness.

Do not be overly righteous, Nor be overly wise: Why should you destroy yourself?

Do not be overly wicked, Nor be foolish: Why should you die before your time?

It is good that you grasp this, And also not remove your hand from the other;

For he who fears Elohiym (God) will escape them all. [[Ecclesiastes 7:15-18](#)]

- ✧ Solomon struggled with his perception that sometimes righteous persons die too soon while wicked persons gain an extended life in their wickedness.
- ✧ He concluded that it is not good to go to extreme in either righteousness or wickedness.
- ✧ And that whoever fears Elohiym will escape them all.
- ☆ Wisdom strengthens the wise More than ten rulers of the city.

For *there is* not a just man on earth who does good And does not sin.

Also do not take to heart everything people say, Lest you hear your servant cursing you.

For many times, also, your own heart has known That even you have cursed others.

[Ecclesiastes 7:19-22]

- ✧ Wise words of Truth.
- ☆ All this I have proved by wisdom. I said, "I will be wise"; But it *was* far from me. As for that which is far off and exceedingly deep, Who can find it out?

I applied my heart to know, To search and seek out wisdom and the reason *of things*, To know the wickedness of folly, Even of foolishness *and* madness.

And I find more bitter than death The woman whose heart *is* snares and nets, Whose hands *are* fetters.

He who pleases Elohiym (God) shall escape from her, But the sinner shall be trapped by her. [Ecclesiastes 7:23-26]

- ✧ Solomon's search for wisdom had its limitations which caused him despair and to say, "Who can find it out?."
- ✧ His search led him to search out the wickedness of folly, foolishness and madness.
- ✧ He found the attractiveness of the woman to be snares, nets, and fetters. The one who pleases Elohiym will escape her allure, while the sinner will be trapped by her.
- ☆ "Here is what I have found," says the Preacher, "*Adding* one thing to the other to find out the reason, Which my soul still seeks but I cannot find: One man among a thousand I have found, But a woman among all these I have not found. Truly, this only I have found: That Elohiym (God) made man upright, But they have sought out many schemes." [Ecclesiastes 7:27-29]
- ✧ Solomon found his search for wisdom led him to realize that he still lacked much and was unsatisfying.
- ✧ He found wisdom in one man out of a thousand.
- ✧ He found none in all the women he encountered.
- ✧ He realized that Elohiym had made everyone upright, but they were prone to turn aside to their own schemes.