

Ecclesiastes 10

Chapter 10 of 12 · 20 Verses · Authorized King James Version

The Folly of Fools

¹ Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour.

² A wise man's heart is at his right hand; but a fool's heart at his left.

³ Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth him, and he saith to every one that he is a fool.

⁴ If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offences.

⁵ There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, as an error which proceedeth from the ruler:

⁶ Folly is set in great dignity, and the rich sit in low place.

⁷ I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth.

⁸ He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him.

⁹ Whoso removeth stones shall be hurt therewith; and he that cleaveth wood shall be endangered thereby.

¹⁰ If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct.

¹¹ Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment; and a babbler is no better.

¹² The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself.

- 13** The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness: and the end of his talk is mischievous madness.
- 14** A fool also is full of words: a man cannot tell what shall be; and what shall be after him, who can tell him?
- 15** The labour of the foolish wearieth every one of them, because he knoweth not how to go to the city.
- 16** Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child, and thy princes eat in the morning!
- 17** Blessed art thou, O land, when thy king is the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness!
- 18** By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.
- 19** A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things.
- 20** Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Spirit — רוח (Ruach)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Hebrew **ruach** (רוח) means spirit, wind, or breath—invisible but powerful. It describes both the Holy Spirit and the human spirit. God's Spirit gives life and empowers His people.

Word — דָּבָר (Davar)

Word, thing, matter

The Hebrew **davar** (דָּבָר) means word, thing, or matter—God's creative and authoritative speech. 'By the word of the LORD were the heavens made' (Psalm 33:6).

CROSS REFERENCES

Ecclesiastes 10:1 **Kingdom:** 2 Chronicles 19:2; Nehemiah 13:26. **Parallel theme:** Exodus 30:25

Ecclesiastes 10:2 **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 10:10; 10:14

Ecclesiastes 10:3 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 13:16; 18:2

Ecclesiastes 10:4 **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 8:3; Proverbs 25:15

Ecclesiastes 10:5 **Evil:** Ecclesiastes 5:13; 6:1; 9:3. **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 4:1; 4:7

Ecclesiastes 10:6 **Parallel theme:** Esther 3:1; Psalms 12:8; Proverbs 28:12; 29:2

Ecclesiastes 10:7 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 19:10. **Kingdom:** Esther 6:8; Proverbs 30:22

Ecclesiastes 10:8

Parallel theme: Judges 9:5; 2 Samuel 17:23; Esther 7:10; Proverbs 26:27; Amos 5:19; 9:3

Ecclesiastes 10:10 **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 10:15; 1 Kings 3:9; 1 Chronicles 12:32; Matthew 10:16; Romans 16:19; 1 Corinthians 14:20; Colossians 4:5; James 1:5

Ecclesiastes 10:11 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 8:17

Ecclesiastes 10:12 **Grace:** Proverbs 22:11; Luke 4:22; Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6.
Parallel theme: Proverbs 15:2

Ecclesiastes 10:13 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 29:9

Ecclesiastes 10:14 **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 3:22; 6:12; 8:7; Proverbs 15:2. **Word:** Ecclesiastes 5:3; Job 35:16; Proverbs 10:19

Ecclesiastes 10:15 **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 10:3; Psalms 107:4; 107:7; Isaiah 57:1

Ecclesiastes 10:16 **Parallel theme:** 2 Chronicles 13:7; Isaiah 3:12; Jeremiah 21:12

Ecclesiastes 10:18

Parallel theme: Proverbs 12:24; 14:1; 20:4; 21:25; 23:21; Hebrews 6:11

Ecclesiastes 10:19 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 104:15; 112:9; Isaiah 24:11; Matthew 19:21; Luke 12:19; 1 Peter 4:3

Ecclesiastes 10:20 **Parallel theme:** Luke 10:40; 19:40; Acts 23:5. **Curse:** Exodus 22:28. **Kingdom:** 2 Kings 6:12; Isaiah 8:21

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