

Ecclesiastes 12

Chapter 12 of 12 · 14 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Remember Your Creator in Your Youth

¹ Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

² While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain:

³ In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened,

⁴ And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low;

⁵ Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:

⁶ Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

⁷ Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

⁸ Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity.

The Conclusion of the Matter

⁹ And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs.

¹⁰ The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth.

¹¹ The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd.

¹² And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

¹⁴ For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

God — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

Judgment — מִשְׁפָּט (Mishpat)

Judgment, justice

The Hebrew **mishpat** (מִשְׁפָּט) means judgment or justice—God's righteous decisions and ordinances. God is the Judge of all the earth who 'shall do right' (Genesis 18:25), executing perfect justice.

Spirit — רוּחַ (Ruach)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Hebrew **ruach** (רוּחַ) 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.

Truth — אֱמֶת (Emet)

Truth, faithfulness

The Hebrew **emet** (אֱמֶת) means truth or faithfulness—reliability and conformity to reality. God is true (emet), utterly faithful to His word and character.

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 12:1 **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 11:8; Psalms 34:11; 90:10; Proverbs 8:17; 22:6; Lamentations 3:27; Luke 18:16; 2 Timothy 3:15. **Evil:** Ecclesiastes 11:10; 2 Samuel 19:35

Ecclesiastes 12:2 **Light:** Isaiah 5:30. **Parallel theme:** Genesis 27:1; 48:10; 1 Samuel 3:2; 4:15; 4:18; Psalms 42:7; 71:20; 77:16

Ecclesiastes 12:3 **Parallel theme:** Genesis 27:1; 48:10; 1 Samuel 3:2; Psalms 102:23; Zechariah 8:4

Ecclesiastes 12:4 **Parallel theme:** 2 Samuel 19:35; Jeremiah 25:10

Ecclesiastes 12:5 **Parallel theme:** Leviticus 19:32; Job 15:10; 17:13; 30:23; Psalms 71:18; Proverbs 16:31

Ecclesiastes 12:7

Parallel theme: Genesis 3:19; Job 20:11; Psalms 90:3; 146:4; Daniel 12:2. **Spirit:** Numbers 16:22; 27:16; Isaiah 57:16; Zechariah 12:1. **References God:** Genesis 2:7

Ecclesiastes 12:8 **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 1:2

Ecclesiastes 12:9 **Parallel theme:** 1 Kings 4:32

Ecclesiastes 12:10 **Word:** Colossians 1:5. **Parallel theme:** 1 Timothy 1:15

Ecclesiastes 12:11 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 80:1; Isaiah 22:23; 40:11; Ezekiel 34:23; John 10:14; Acts 2:37. **Word:** Jeremiah 23:29; Hebrews 4:12

Ecclesiastes 12:12

Parallel theme: Ecclesiastes 1:18; 1 Kings 4:32; John 5:39; 20:31; 21:25

Ecclesiastes 12:13 **References God:** Ecclesiastes 8:12; Deuteronomy 10:12; Micah 6:8; Revelation 19:5. **Word:** Deuteronomy 6:2. **Parallel theme:** Job 28:28; Psalms 145:19; Proverbs 1:7; 19:23; Luke 1:50

Ecclesiastes 12:14 **Judgment:** Ecclesiastes 3:17; 11:9; Psalms 96:13; Matthew 12:36; Romans 2:16; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 2 Corinthians 5:10. **Parallel theme:** Matthew 10:26. **Evil:** John 5:29

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