

# Ecclesiastes 6:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That which hath been is named already, and it is known that it is man: neither may he contend with him that is mightier than he.

## Analysis

**That which hath been is named already** (מִהַ־שֶּׁהָיָה כָּבֹד נִקְרָא שְׁמוֹ)—To 'name' something in Hebrew thought is to determine its nature and destiny. Everything that comes into existence was already predetermined by God. **And it is known that it is man** (wě-nōda' āšer-hū' ādām)—humanity's identity as mortal dust (ādām from ādāmâ, 'ground') is fixed.

**Neither may he contend with him that is mightier than he**—Job learned this lesson (Job 40:1-5). Man cannot argue with his Creator. Yet Romans 9:20 uses similar language: 'who art thou that repliest against God?' The difference: in Christ, we approach God not as adversaries but as adopted children (Rom 8:15).

## Historical Context

The concept of predetermined divine naming appears throughout ancient Near Eastern texts, where deities assigned names and fates. In Genesis 2:19-20, Adam names the animals, exercising delegated authority. Here, Solomon reverses the image: we are the named, not the namers.

## Related Passages

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does accepting your God-ordained identity as creature liberate you from futile self-assertion?
2. Where are you tempted to 'contend with' God's sovereign purposes in your life?

## Interlinear Text

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מֵה	שְׁהָ ה	כְּבָר	נִקְרָא	שֵׁם ו	וְנוֹדָע
H4100	H1961	already	That which hath been is named	H8034	and it is known
		H3528	H7121		H3045
אֲשֶׁר	ה וּא	אֲדָם	וְלֹא	יֻכַּל	לָדוֹן
H834	H1931	that it is man	H3808	neither may	he contend
		H120		H3201	H1777
	שְׁהַתִּיק י	מִמֶּנּוּ:			
	with him that is mightier	H4480			
	H8623				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 9:32** (Parallel theme): For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment.

**Job 40:2** (Parallel theme): Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? he that reproveth God, let him answer it.

**Job 33:13** (Parallel theme): Why dost thou strive against him? for he giveth not account of any of his matters.

**Jeremiah 49:19** (Parallel theme): Behold, he shall come up like a lion from the swelling of Jordan against the habitation of the strong: but I will suddenly make him run away from her: and who is a chosen man, that I may appoint over her? for

who is like me? and who will appoint me the time? and who is that shepherd that will stand before me?

**Ecclesiastes 3:15** (Parallel theme): That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.

**Psalms 39:6** (Parallel theme): Surely every man walketh in a vain shew: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them.

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