

# Ecclesiastes 6:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover he hath not seen the sun, nor known any thing: this hath more rest than the other.

## Analysis

**Moreover he hath not seen the sun, nor known any thing** (גַם־שְׁמֵשׁ לֹא־רָא וְלֹא, gam-shemesh lo-ra'ah velo yada)—the stillborn never experiences conscious life. Not seeing the sun means not experiencing earthly existence; not knowing anything means lacking consciousness entirely. **This hath more rest than the other** (נָחַת לֹא־מִזֵּה, nachat lazeh mizeh)—the Hebrew nachat denotes rest, quiet, or repose. The stillborn has 'more rest' than the wealthy person who lives long, accumulates much, but finds no satisfaction.

This paradoxical claim—unconscious non-existence provides more rest than conscious life—forces readers to confront what makes existence worthwhile. The answer emerges throughout Ecclesiastes: life gains meaning not from accumulation, longevity, or achievement, but from receiving each day as God's gift, enjoyed in His fear and obeying His commandments (2:24-26; 12:13). Without this theological framework, even maximal blessings prove worse than never existing.

## Historical Context

The concept of 'rest' held deep significance in Israelite theology. The Sabbath rest commemorated both creation (Exodus 20:11) and redemption (Deuteronomy 5:15). Promised Land was described as rest from enemies (Deuteronomy 12:9-10). The Preacher's claim that a stillborn has 'more rest' than a dissatisfied wealthy person subverts conventional wisdom—rest comes not from accumulation but from either non-existence or faithful enjoyment of God's gifts. Hebrews later develops this

theme: true rest comes through faith in Christ, not earthly achievement (Hebrews 4:1-11). The Puritans emphasized that rest is primarily spiritual—peace with God through Christ—not merely cessation of labor or accumulation of comfort.

## Related Passages

## James 2:17 – Faith and works

## **Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith**

## Study Questions

1. What does it mean that the unconscious stillborn has 'more rest' than the conscious but dissatisfied wealthy person?
2. How do you pursue rest—through accumulation and achievement, or through faithful enjoyment of God's gifts and trust in His providence?

## Interlinear Text

גַם	שָׁמֵשׁ	לֹא	בְּאָה	אַל	עַד	בְּמַתָּה
H1571	<b>the sun</b>	H3808	<b>Moreover he hath not seen</b>	H3808	<b>nor known</b>	<b>hath more rest</b>
	H8121		H7200		H3045	H5183

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