

# Ecclesiastes 9:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.

## Analysis

**Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished** (גַם־אֶהָבָתֶם)—death terminates all earthly passions and pursuits. The threefold repetition of gam (גַם, also/even) emphasizes comprehensiveness: love (ahavah, אהבה), hatred (sin'ah, שׁנָאָה), and envy (qin'ah, קִנְאָה) all vanish. The Hebrew avad (אָבָד, perished) means to be destroyed or lost—the emotional investments and rivalries that consumed the living cease at death.

**Neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun** (וְלֹא־יָלְכוּ אֵין־לָהֶם עוֹד לְעוֹלָם בְּכָל אֲשֶׁר נָעֲשָׂה תְּחִתַּת הַשְׁמֶשׁ)—the dead have no cheleq (כֶּלֶק, portion/share) in earthly affairs. This isn't annihilationism but recognition that death severs connection to temporal existence. The Preacher's point is urgent: invest emotions and energy wisely while alive, for death ends earthly opportunity. Jesus taught a parallel truth: "work while it is day; the night comes when no one can work" (John 9:4). The judgment seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10) will evaluate earthly deeds—what we loved, hated, and pursued matters eternally, though death ends earthly participation.

## Historical Context

Ancient Israel's understanding of Sheol emphasized separation from earthly life. The psalmist lamented that in Sheol "there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom" (Ecclesiastes 9:10)—the shadowy realm lacked the vibrant existence

of the living. This wasn't hopelessness but realism about death's finality "under the sun." Archaeological evidence shows ancient Israelites buried the dead with minimal grave goods compared to Egyptians—reflecting less developed beliefs about afterlife activity. The verse speaks phenomenologically from earthly observation: the dead don't participate in current events, businesses, politics, or relationships. Paul later revealed that believers absent from the body are present with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8), but even this blessed state involves separation from earthly affairs until resurrection reunites soul and body. The Reformers emphasized that while believers' souls enjoy conscious fellowship with Christ, full redemption awaits bodily resurrection at the eschaton.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. What passions—whether loves, hatreds, or envies—are consuming your emotional energy, and will they matter when death ends your earthly portion?
2. How does the reality that death terminates earthly participation motivate you to invest in eternal kingdom work while alive?

## Interlinear Text

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גַּם	אֶתְבָּת	גַּם	שְׁנָאת	גַּם	קִנְאָת	גַּם	כִּכְרָת
H1571	<b>Also their love</b>	H1571	<b>and their hatred</b>	H1571	<b>and their envy</b>	H1571	<b>is now</b>
H160		H8135		H7068		H3528	
אֶבֶדֶת	וְנִלְקַחַת	אֵין	לְעוֹלָם	לְעוֹלָם	עִדָּה	לְעוֹלָם	לְעוֹלָם
H6	<b>perished</b>	H2506	<b>neither have they any more a portion</b>	H369	H1992	H5750	<b>for ever</b>
							H5769
בְּכָל	בְּעֵשֶׂת	בְּחֵת	בְּשָׁמֶן				
H3605	H834	H6213	H8478				
<b>in any thing that is done</b>			<b>under the sun</b>				
			H8121				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 2:20** (Parallel theme): Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.

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