

## ECCLESIASTES CHAPTER 8

<sup>1</sup> Who knows the wise? And who knows the interpretation of a saying? A man's wisdom will lighten his countenance; but a man of shameless countenance will be hated.

<sup>2</sup> Observe the commandment of the king, and *that* because of the word of the oath of God. <sup>3</sup> Do not be hasty; you shall go forth out of his presence. Do not stand in an evil matter; for he will do whatsoever he shall please, <sup>4</sup> even as a king having power; and who will say to him, "What are you doing?" <sup>5</sup> He that keeps the commandment shall not know an evil thing; and the heart of the wise knows the time of judgment. <sup>6</sup> Because for every matter there is a time and judgment; for the knowledge of a man is great to him. <sup>7</sup> For there is no one that knows what is going to be; for who shall tell him how it shall be? <sup>8</sup> There is no man that has power over the spirit to retain the spirit; and there is no power in the day of death; and there is no discharge in the day of the battle; neither shall wickedness deliver those who are given to it.

<sup>9</sup> So I saw all this, and I applied my heart to every work that has been done under the sun; all the things in which man has power over man, to afflict him. <sup>10</sup> And then I saw the ungodly carried into the tombs, and *that* out of the holy place. And they departed, and were praised in the city, because they had done thus. This also is vanity. <sup>11</sup> Because there is no contradiction made on the part of those who are quick to do evil, therefore the heart of the children of men is fully determined in them to do evil. <sup>12</sup> He that has sinned has done evil from that time, and from long beforehand. Nevertheless I know, that it is well with them that fear God, that they may fear before Him. <sup>13</sup> But it shall not be well with the ungodly, and he shall not prolong his days, *which are but* a shadow; forasmuch as he does not fear before God.

<sup>14</sup> There is a vanity which is done upon the earth; that there are righteous persons to whom it happens according to the doing of the ungodly; and there are ungodly men, to whom it happens according to the doing of the just. This is also vanity. <sup>15</sup> Then I praised mirth, because there is no good for a man under the sun, but to eat, and drink, and be merry. And this shall attend him in his labor all the days of his life, which God has given him under the sun.

<sup>16</sup> On this I set my heart to know wisdom, and to perceive the trouble that was done upon the earth; even though one sees no sleep day or night. <sup>17</sup> And I beheld all the works of God, that a man shall not be able to discover the work which is done under the sun. Whatever things a man shall endeavor to seek, however a man may labor to seek it, yet he shall not find it. Moreover, *though* a wise man may speak of knowing it, he shall not be able to find it; for I applied all this to my heart, and my heart has seen all this.