

ECCLESIASTES CHAPTER 12

¹ And remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of evil come, and the years overtake *you* in which you shall say, "I have no pleasure in them." ² While the sun and light are not darkened, nor the moon and the stars; nor the clouds return after the rain; ³ in the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the mighty men shall become bent, and the grinding *women* cease because they have become few, and those looking out at the windows grow dim; ⁴ and they shall shut the doors in the marketplace, because of the weakness of the voice of her that grinds *at the mill*; and he shall rise up at the voice of the sparrow, and all the daughters of song shall be brought low; ⁵ and they shall look up, and fears *shall be* in the way, and the almond tree shall blossom, and the locust shall increase, and the caper shall be scattered, because man has gone to his eternal home, and the mourners have gone about the market. ⁶ *Remember Him* before the silver cord is *let go*, or the choice gold is broken, or the pitcher is broken at the fountain, or the wheel is run down to the cistern; ⁷ *before* the dust also return to the earth as it was, and the spirit return to God who gave it. ⁸ "Vanity of vanities," said the Preacher; "All is vanity."

⁹ And because the Preacher was wise above *others*, *so it was* that he taught men excellent knowledge, and the ear will trace out the parables. ¹⁰ The Preacher sought diligently to find out acceptable words, and a correct writing, *even* words of truth.

¹¹ The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails firmly fastened, which have been given from one shepherd by agreement. ¹² And moreover, my son, guard yourself by means of them; of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

¹³ **Hear the end of the matter, the sum: Fear God, and keep His commandments; for this is man's all.** ¹⁴ For God will bring every work into judgment, with everything that has been overlooked, whether good or evil.