

10. Qualities of a Wise Leader

Solomon is no longer exploring and writing about the various experiences and pursuits of worldly living, which have left him unfulfilled and depressed. He now turns his attention to leadership and the qualities that leaders need to possess.

ECCLESIASTES 8:1-9:10

After several proverbs on true wisdom from above and that life produces strength, balance, and insight from that wisdom.

Intro - Solomon begins to discuss some of the blessings that come from living under the authority of God.

Solomon continues this thinking on the qualities of good leaders, mysteries that cannot be solved, and a proper philosophy of life.

I. Qualities of a Wise Leader - 8:1-9

Various kinds of leadership include:

Those who apply hard work and talent

Those promoted beyond their abilities

Those who are egotistical and intolerant of lesser talented people

Godly leaders have certain qualities:

1. A Clear Mind vs. 1a
2. A Cheerful Disposition vs. 1b
3. A Discreet Mouth vs. 2-4
4. Keen Judgment vs. 5-7
5. A Humble Spirit vs. 8-9

- God will judge leader who take unfair advantage

- Leaders who do take advantage only hurt themselves

II. Mysteries of Life - 8:10-17

Mysteries that are beyond Solomon's understanding.

1. Mystery of the triumph of the unjust vs. 10-13

Referring to religious hypocrites, they receive worldly praise, it appears they get away with it under the sun, and the lack of swift justice creates a repetitive cycle.

2. Mystery of unfair consequences vs. 14

Why do bad things happen to good people and vice versa? This has been a question for a very long time.

3. Mystery of untimely pleasure vs. 15

Difficult lives are not without the occasional unexpected and unearned pleasurable moments.

III. Developing a Life Philosophy - 9:1-10

Solomon's new life philosophy has 4 key truths and applications.

Truth #1: God is Sovereign vs. 1b

Whether good or bad, God is in control. Cultivating this life philosophy allows us to stand.

Truth #2: Death is Certain vs. 2-3a

This forces a proper perspective of life and time. It creates priorities and causes individuals to seek God.

Truth #3: The Heart is Evil vs. 3b

There can be no spiritual progress without the admission of sin and the need for redemption. Peace and joy are amplified by forgiveness and grace.

Truth #4: Where there is life, there is hope vs. 4-6

Recognize the reversal of thought when considering the vertical view. The living have advantage over the dead.

Application #1: Contentment vs. 7

It is great spiritual gain when you can be happy with what you have and share it with others.

Application #2: Purity / Spirituality vs. 8

White meant purity, and oil meant the Spirit in your life. Solomon speaks to being led by the Spirit.

Application #3: Faithfulness vs. 9

The man with a thousand wives admits the way to satisfaction and joy is with one woman for life.

Application #4: Zeal vs. 10

Once we have the proper vertical view, we can exult in our work, and passions, for life is short and we can enjoy today's blessings.