

Ecclesiastes

Chapters 1, 2

Everything is temporary and passing.
What's the use of all our toil?

Our life is over in a few days.
What's the use of all our toil?

The same fate awaits both wise person and fool.
Death is always just around the corner.

Dear God, please help me understand the meaning of life.
Help me understand that
there is life in heaven after life on earth

Chapter 3

There's a time and a season for everything:

A time for giving birth, a time for dying.

A time for tears and mourning,
a time for laughter and dancing.

A time for embracing, a time to refrain from embracing.

A time for keeping silent, a time for speaking.

Dear Lord, please help me to do the right thing
at the right time!

Chapters 4, 5

So many things we do are motivated by jealousy.

Two people working together can succeed.

One person alone is easily defeated.

It is better to be content with what you have,
than to be greedy for wealth.

Lord, please help me not to be greedy

Chapters 6, 7

Even if a person studies wisdom, what use is it?

Wise person and fool both must die.

Yet wisdom gives protection and strength.

And wisdom reminds us that all of us make mistakes.

Therefore we should be slow to condemn others.

Lord, may the memory of my own mistakes
make me slow to judge other people

Chapters 8, 9

I see injustice in the world:
good people are treated badly;
bad people are treated well.

I do know, however,
that good people are in the special care of God.

We must try to be happy as much as we can.
We must try to make the most of our lives.

Spend your life with the woman you love.
Whatever work you have to do, do it well.

Lord, please help me to be optimistic and cheerful

Chapters 10, 11

Foolish people are lazy, and careless in speech.
Wise people are diligent, and careful in speech.

Young people, rejoice in your youth. Young people,
remember your Creator in the days of your youth.

Let everyone remember: our life is short.
Don't waste your life. Live life well.

Our days pass quickly and old age is soon at the doorstep.
Old age: when to go uphill is difficult
and even walking is not easy.

In all we do, let us love and honor the Lord our God.
At the end of our lives on earth, it is to God we will have
to give an account of the way we have lived.

Lord, make us know the shortness of our life
so that we may have more wisdom in living our lives