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Ecclesiastes Outline

Introduction

- 1:1: Prologue
- 1:2-12:8: Body
 1. 1:2-2:26: The (Vain) Search for Fulfillment
 2. 3:1-9:9: Frustrations: Why There Is No Fulfillment
 3. 9:10-12:8: Wisdom: How to Live in an Unfulfilling World
- 12:9-14: Epilogue
- Things:
 - Looking as if there is nothing above.
 - About how empty the world is if the world is all there is.
 - Constantly reminding contentment with worldly goods, because your life is more than that. God is your good, and He is the one who then rewards you to enjoy the good things in life, rather than constantly being disappointed by the insufficiency of worldly goods. The book is about things “under the sun” i.e. physical things. It speaks as if there’s nothing beyond the sun (spiritual). When it comes to the conclusion it’s assumed you are living for what’s beyond the sun (God), and that’s the key of enjoying what’s under the sun.
 - Author unknown, but likely Solomon.

Narrator, orologue = two verses

1:1-2: Prologue

- 1: Author:
 - Preacher
 - Son of David
 - King in Jerusalem
- 2: Initial conclusion:
 - All is vanity
 - Compare this to final conclusion: ear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person (Eccles 12:13).
 - Because all under the sun is vain, they key is submitting to the creator beyond the sun; don’t live for / give your life to anything under the sun.

1:3-11: The Endless Pointless Cycle

- 3: What’s the point of hard labor?
 - Under the sun implies investing into earthly things.
 - What’s the point of working hard to build up earthly goods etc...?

- 4-7: Examples of endless vain cycles
 - Generations
 - Orbiting of the sun
 - Blowing of the wind
 - Flowing of rivers
- 8-11: The end result is vanity
 - 8: All things are wearisome
 - What we are doing is endless hard labor.
 - There is no satisfaction
 - We never feel like we have enough of the good things (that is wearisome).
 - The good things aren't good enough to make up for how wearisome life is.
 - 9-10: There is nothing new
 - This implies that there will be no positive change.
 - Don't anticipate something happening that is going to make the world suddenly a better place.
 - 11: Nothing is remembered
 - Things in the past haven't been remembered, neither will the the present or future be remembered.
 - This isn't something that will change.
 - If nothing is remembered, what's the point of it being done?

1:12-18: The Search for Fulfillment

- 12-15: The painful conclusion
 - Describing his search for wisdom:
 - The king of Israel set himself to explore wisdom concerning all done under heaven.
 - This isn't the pursuit of wisdom itself, but wisdom regarding particular facets of life he is seeking fulfillment in (wisdom of pleasures, accomplishments ...)
 - The conclusion of his search:
 - God has given man a grievous task to be afflicted with.
 - All is vanity.
 - The world is crooked and can't be straightened, it is lacking and can't be supplied.
- 16-18: The pain of wisdom
 - He increased in wisdom over all before him, but even than is striving after the wind.
 - Because more knowledge and wisdom just means you better understand painful conclusions like the one in verses 12-15.

* At least when you don't have wisdom you can hope that fulfillment is out there, just out of your reach. He being the king could do anything and everything. There was nothing out of his reach. He successfully and thoroughly explored every option, and came to the conclusion that there is no fulfillment at all from anything under the sun.

2:1-11: The Futility of Pleasure

- 1-2: The pursuit begins
 - He decides to pursue pleasure in search of fulfillment.
 - Conclusion: Futility
 - Laughter = madness

- Pleasure = doesn't accomplish anything
- 3-8: His pursuit of pleasure
 - 3: Wine
 - He sought to stimulate his body with wine.
 - This isn't about getting drunk and passing out (which obviously isn't fulfilling), because his wisdom was there to guide him.
 - This would be more about being a responsible connoisseur.
 - He tried to take hold of folly long enough for him to be able to figure out what good there is for man to do during his short stay on this earth (the wine was a stimulant to help his search?).
 - 4-6: Accomplishments
 - He worked on many building projects for the sake of accomplishment.
 - He made houses, vineyards, gardens, parks, planted all kinds of fruit trees, ponds to irrigate the trees.
 - All of this was done for himself.
 - 7-8: Possessions
 - Slaves
 - Flocks and herds
 - Large sums of money
 - Treasures
 - 8: Entertainment
 - Singers to entertain
 - Concubines to enjoy
- 9-11: The conclusion of his pursuit
 - Summary of his search
 - He became greater than all before.
 - His wisdom was accompanying him.
 - He had every pleasure he could possibly want.
 - The conclusion:
 - He considered everything he had done, acquired, and experienced.
 - It was all:
 - Vanity
 - Striving after wind
 - Of no profit

* I couldn't successfully do this test because I don't have the resources to do absolutely whatever I want. Others couldn't because they don't have the wisdom to indulge in pleasure with discretion so as to enjoy them rather than be overcome by them. However, this king could do everything, and he did it wisely. If there is any chance of fulfillment in pleasure he would have found it. But after reaching the far edges of pleasure looking back, he realizes there is no hope for fulfillment there. If I told you that there was no fulfillment in riches you wouldn't believe me because how could I know? But if Bill Gates told you there is no fulfillment in riches, you'd believe him.

2:12-17: The Futility of Wisdom

- 12: His pursuit of wisdom: he decides to pursue wisdom, madness, and folly.
- 13-16: His conclusion
 - Wisdom is greater than folly: wisdom gives you light of how to live this life.

- But wisdom is still futile:
 - The wise and the fool have the same ultimate fate.
 - The wise aren't remembered anymore than the fool.
 - They both die alike
 - There is no ultimate good for being extremely wise.
 - 17: The result of his pursuit of wisdom
 - He hated life because it's all worthless.
 - Knowing that everything is ultimately worthless makes everything you do grievous.
- * It's like you realize you don't have to do anything because nothing really matters, and yet you still have to keep working hard to survive and live, but you don't even know why or care anymore.

2:18-23: The Futility of Labor

- 18: His conclusion:
 - He hated all the fruit of his labor.
 - He despaired of all the fruit of his labor (20).
- 18-23: Reasons why labor is futile
 1. You have to leave the results of your labor to someone else and there is no guarantee that he will use them well.
 2. You work hard to give your hard earned accomplishments to someone who hasn't worked hard for them.
 3. The effort invested is more grievous than whatever joy received from your labor.

2:24-26: Final Conclusion #1

- 24: What man should do: eat, drink, and tell himself his labor is good.
 - Contentment with whatever earthly goods you may have.
 - Contentment in your labor
 1. Be willing to labor
 2. Don't think excessive labor brings joy
- 24-26: The necessity of God
 - Contentment is from the hand of God.
 - Only in God can we find fulfillment and thus contentment.
 - There is further discussion later of how God is the source of fulfillment and contentment.
 - There is no enjoyment without God.
 - God makes the good in His sight to have wisdom, knowledge, and joy.
 - By looking beyond the sun, you can see what this life is really about, and receive blessings from Him that help you actually enjoy this life.
 - The wisdom and knowledge He provides from fearing Him lead to joy.
 - The wicked work and labor to support give to the righteous.
 - With no God, there is no fulfillment.
 - All of life is vain work that you won't benefit from.

3:1-11: No Control Over Life Events

- 1-8: Every life event has an appointed time
 - There is an appointed time for everything in life, and you can't control that.
 - Things that happen in life
 - Birth and death
 - Planting and uprooting
 - Killing and healing
 - Tearing down and building up
 - Weeping and laughing
 - Mourning and dancing
 - Throwing stones and gathering stones
 - Embracing and shunning embracing
 - Searching and giving up as lost
 - Keeping and throwing away
 - Tearing apart and sewing together
 - Loving and hating
 - War and peace

* Different things happen in life and we react. We might be gathering or throwing stones, but it's all in response to events outside of our control that were destined to happen. We don't have any control in this life. At best we just respond to whatever happens.

- 9-11: Conclusion of having no control
 - 9: There is no profit for our labor
 - We can work hard, but if we can't even control the day of our death, what ultimate good is our labor? We can store up, but then die unexpectedly.
 - The lack of control we have over our life renders our labor potentially useless at any given moment.
 - 10-11: The desire for more
 - God has given us work to do here.
 - But he has also given us eternity in our hearts and the frustration of not knowing what's going to happen in our future for us to keep longing for more.

3:12-15: Final Conclusion #2

- 12-13: What man should do:
 - Rejoice and do good in one's lifetime.
 - Eat and drink and see good in your labor.
- 13-15: This is from God
 - God has worked for people to fear Him.
 - You can't add or take away to what God does.
 - All of life is a continuous cycle.

* God has fashioned futility so that it leads us back to Him.

3:16-17: Frustrations of Injustice

- 16: Injustice exists under the sun:
 - In the place of justice there is wickedness.
 - In the place of righteousness there is wickedness.
- 17: God will judge both the wicked and the righteous.
- * This is a good example of there being no fulfillment under the sun. Under this sun there is unpunished injustice which renders everything completely pointless and frustrating. However, beyond the sun there is justice from a God who judges at the right time. This provides fulfillment in spite of frustration under the sun.

3:18-22: Frustrations of Death

- 18-21: Death renders a man no better than a beast
 - God has proven to man that he is no better than a beast. How?
 - Because of death, man and beast are the same:
 - They both have same fate:
 - Man and beast die the same.
 - In this aspect, man has no advantage over the beast.
 - All go to the same place: dust.
 - There is no way to tell any difference in the death of a beast or a man.
- 22: **Final Conclusion #3:**
 - Man needs to be happy in his activities *now*.
 - Because he has no knowledge or power over what will happen later.

4:1-8: Frustrations of Material Gain

- 1-3: The existence of oppression:
 - The weak are oppressed and there is no one to comfort them.
 - Result:
 - It's better to be dead.
 - Even better to have never existed and never experience this world's evil.
- 4-6: The existence of rivalry:
 - All the labor and oppression to gain more is merely rivalry against a neighbor.
 - We end up consuming ourselves.
 - It's better to have some rest than lots of labor that produces nothing.
- 7-8: The futility of earthly gain:
 - Case study: A man was laboring endlessly even though he had no dependent. He didn't bother to stop and consider the purpose of laboring at the cost of his own personal pleasure.
 - This is a pain and grievous.

4:9-12: Wisdom Regarding Companionship

- Return of companionship is better
- They can lift up each other.
- They can keep each other warm together.
- They can resist the enemy together.

4:13-16: Frustrations of Popularity

- 13-14: The importance of receiving instruction
 - A poor lad who receives instruction > foolish old king who doesn't.
 - The one who receives instruction can overcome difficult obstacles and supplant the careless fool.
- 15-16: Popularity is fleeting
 - Case study:
 - The old foolish king quickly loses popularity to the wise lad who receives instruction.
 - Then a second lad comes along and takes his place.
 - Soon people won't be happy with him either.
 - The vanity of popularity:
 - There is constantly an endless flow of people gaining and losing popularity.
 - It is impossible to sustain popularity, so it is another unfulfilling vanity.

5:1-7: Wisdom Regarding Attitude Towards God

- 1-3: Caution before God
 - Warnings:
 - Guard steps
 - Draw near to listen rather than make sacrifice of fools
 - Don't be hasty in word / let your words be few
 - Don't be impulsive in thought
 - Reasons:
 - If you speak too much and make foolish sacrifice you don't know that you're doing evil.
 - God is the God of heaven and earth (every word counts)
 - For the dream comes through much effort and the voice of a fool through many words (???)
- 4-7: Don't make foolish vows
 - Advice:
 - Don't be late in paying a vow to God.
 - It is better to not vow than fail to pay a vow.
 - Don't cause yourself to be in sin because of foolish commitments.
 - Don't try to claim it was a mistake.
 - Reasons:
 - God takes no delight in fools.
 - An unfulfilled foolish vow will result in God being angry and destroying the works of your hands.
 - For in many dreams and in many words there is emptiness. Rather, fear God (???)

5:8-9: Frustrations of Government

- Oppression of poor due to political corruption is to be expected.
- This is because government leaders are in cahoots with one another.
- After all, a king who cultivates the field is an advantage to the land (???)

5:10-17: Frustrations of Material Gain

- 10-12: Futility of increase
 - Love of money is never satisfied.
 - Level of consumption increases with goods, so proportionately you are no richer.
 - Overconsumption only leads to more dissatisfaction.
- 13-17: Futility of accumulation
 - Possession hoarded on earth are lost.
 - After all our work, we can't end up with anything more than we started.
 - So excessive to accumulate only brings more dissatisfaction.

5:18-6:6: Final Conclusion #4

- 5:18-20: The explanation of the final conclusion
 - Goal: eat and drink and enjoy your labor for your few years on earth.
 - Means:
 - God is the one who provides this contentment as a reward / gift.
 - God provides riches as well as the ability eat them, rejoice in them, and rejoice.
 - Result: this person won't be concerned about his years, quick or fast, few or many, because he is okay enjoying the moment.
- 6:1-6: The vanity of not being able enjoy what you have
 - God can give someone everything they want, and yet not allow him to enjoy it.
 - This can be by earthly circumstances (war, sickness).
 - Or by sinfulness (greed, discontent)
 - This is vanity
 - A miscarriage is more fortunate than the one who lives many years and has 100 children but lives without satisfaction.
 - Though the miscarriage starts in futility and ends in obscurity, the one who lives many years with many children but no satisfaction ends up in the same place, but after great dissatisfaction and frustration (the earthly gain doesn't bring advantage over the unborn child).

6:7-12: Frustrations of Our Unchangeable Destiny

- 7-9: Our abilities and wisdom don't bring ultimate advantage
 - Hard work: hard work is better than being lazy, but it still doesn't bring satisfaction.
 - Wisdom: wisdom is better than foolishness, but it doesn't ultimately change much.
 - Riches: whether rich or poor, there's no ultimate advantage.

- What the eyes see is better than what the soul desires (???)
- 10-12: This is unchangeable
 - Everything has already been, and you can't argue against that (no hope for improvement).
 - Arguing is just futility.
 - What equips a single human to know (better than God) how to properly live this life? Much less how can he change it?

7:1-29: Wisdom Regarding Wisdom

- 1-6: Wise proverbs regarding “bad” things being better than “good” things
 - 1: Value of a good name and the day of death
 - 2-4: Mourning / sorrow > feasting / laughter
 - 5-6: Rebuke of wise > song / laughter of fools
- 7-14: More wise proverbs
 - 7: the evil of bribery and corruption
 - 8: Finishing > starting
 - 9: Danger of anger
 - 10: Don't be overly nostalgic
 - 11-12: Value of wisdom
 - 13: We can't change God's plan
 - 14: ???
- 15-22: The futility of righteousness
 - The vanity of righteousness:
 - There are the righteous who die young, and the wicked who prolong their lives.
 - Don't be excessively righteous thinking that you can control the outcome of your life in that way.
 - The value of wisdom:
 - Don't be excessively foolish either since that likely will bring misfortune.
 - It is good that you grasp one thing and also not let go of the other; for the one who fears God comes forth with both of them (???)
 - Wisdom is valuable.
 - More wisdom about righteousness:
 - No one is perfectly righteous.
 - So don't take criticism too hard.
 - Because you've done the same.
- 23-29: The futility of wisdom
 - Absolute wisdom is impossible to attain
 - He put forth effort to attain wisdom:
 - Tested all with wisdom
 - Determined to be wise
 - He directed his mind to know, investigate, and seek:
 - Wisdom
 - Explanation of madness and folly
 - Adds one thing to another to find an explanation
 - Wisdom escaped him:
 - It was far from him, remote, and exceedingly mysterious.
 - “Who can discover it?”

- Discoveries and conclusions:
 1. The sensual woman is worth than death.
 2. There are no wise people
 3. Man was made upright, but they seek out devices.

8:1-9: Wisdom Regarding Rulers (weaknesses)

- 1: The value of wisdom
 - The wise man is special.
 - His wisdom helps him to cope with the challenges he faces.
- 2-5: Wise behavior before the king
 - Obey the king / he has been established by God.
 - Don't be quick to leave him.
 - Don't take part in evil causes / the king will do whatever he wants.
 - Don't question him / he has all authority.
 - Obey his commands (the wise know how to do the right thing at the right time, e.g. obey the authority).
- 6-8: Our limited authority
 - There is a right way to do everything, but we are still troubled.
 - Our limited control:
 - Our ignorance:
 - We don't know what will happen.
 - No one can say what will happen.
 - We can't prevent death.
 - We can't escape what others (like what authorities) force us to do.
 - No method good or bad can help.
- 9: Summary description
 - These are the things that the author discovered when trying to understand the nature of those who have authority over others.
 - Those without authority are inescapably bound to their authorities whether they are good or bad.
 - The previous point was explained by discussing our limited authority as humans in general. The potentially unreasonable submission to more powerful people is just part of that.

8:10-9:1: Frustrations of Injustice

- 8:10-11: The wicked prosper (ESV)
 - The wicked are praised, and receive a proper burial in spite of their wickedness and hypocrisy.
 - Delayed justice encourages this evil behavior.
- 8:12-13: The reality
 - Though the wicked may prosper in *this* life because of their evil, in the end it will be better for those who fear the Lord.
 - There is a limit to how much the wicked can lengthen his life by evil.

- 8:14-15: The unfairness of life
 - Unfairness
 - Righteous people suffer bad things.
 - Bad people receive good things.
 - **Conclusion #5:**
 - All you can do is enjoy what you can.
 - This is what will help you face the toil of each day.
- 8:16-9:1: Frustrations of Not Understanding God's Ways
 - He sought to understand the task God has given man
 - God has made this life is frustrating in many ways.
 - He allows injustices and difficulties.
 - He worked hard to make sense of all of this.
 - The conclusion:
 - It's impossible to make sense of it all because we'll never know God's ways.
 - Even if you were to spend night and day, you can never discover the meaning of it all.
 - We need to trust God:
 - Wise and righteous men are in the hands of God.
 - We can't know what to expect, whether good or bad.
 - (We need to trust in God and accept these frustrations).

9:2-6: Frustrations of Death

- 2-3: All have the same fate: death
 - Everybody:
 - Righteous and wicked
 - The good
 - Clean and unclean
 - The one who sacrifices and the one who does not
 - Good man and the sinner
 - The one who swears and the one who does not
 - Has one fate: death
 - This is an evil of this world.
 - People are evil and insane and then just die.
- 4-6: The futility of death
 - Life is better than death
 - A live dog is better dead lion.
 - The living have hope.
 - The living know they will die.
 - The evils of death
 - The dead don't know anything.
 - Neither are they known (remembered).
 - They are completely gone (their love, hate, and zeal).
 - They will no longer experience this life.

9:7-9: Final Conclusion #6

- Enjoy what you can
 - Enjoy simple necessities

- Eat in happiness
- Drink wine with cheerfulness
- Enjoy some luxuries
 - White clothes
 - Anoint head with oil
- Enjoy short life with your woman
- This is the reward for toil and labor on earth.
 - Enjoying simple pleasures is the reward God gives us for our labor.
 - It's a reward from Him because we can only have this after we know God approves our works.
 - If pleasing God is our main goal, we can accomplish that and find fulfillment.
 - Then the remaining earthly pleasures can bring extra enjoyment, since we are no longer using them to find absolute fulfillment.

9:10-12: Wisdom Regarding How to Live Life

- 10: How to live life
 - Whatever you are going to do, go ahead and do it, and do it well.
 - Don't over plan and overthink to the point you fail to act because of the potential risk.
 - Because you can't do anything after you're dead anyways.
- 11-12: Chance and misfortune is inescapable
 - Chance:
 - Although being wise and strong helps your odds, the wisest and strongest don't always succeed.
 - Because time and chance is the ultimate determining factor.
 - Misfortune:
 - We don't know when misfortune will come, but it will come inevitably.
 - Thus, there is a limit of how much our own merit can truly help us.

9:13-10:15: Wisdom Is Better Than Foolishness

- 9:13-18: Case study
 - The story:
 - A poor wise man delivered his city from a great king with wisdom.
 - But nobody remembered their deliverer.
 - The conclusion:
 - The power of wisdom:
 - Quiet words of the wise are better than the loud shouting of rulers.
 - Wisdom is stronger than weaponry.
 - The limitations of wisdom:
 - Even if you're wise, you will be ignored because you're poor.
 - The wise can do some good, but one sinner can destroy even more.
- 10:1-3: Comparing wisdom and foolishness
 - Foolishness is weightier than wisdom.
 - Wisdom leads the wise to the right, and foolishness to the left.
 - A man's foolishness is extremely apparent.

- 10:4-6: Wisdoms and foolishness regarding rulers
 - Wisdom: If a ruler is angry with you, keep your composure.
 - Frustration of foolish leaders:
 - Error from foolish leaders is a great evil.
 - Many fools are in a position of authority.
 - And many wise (rich) and in humble places.
- 10:8-11: Wisdom provides greater success
 - Foolish work leads to self harm:
 - Examples:
 - Fall into the pit you dig.
 - Bitten by snake from wall.
 - Harmed by rocks you quarry.
 - Harmed by logs you split.
 - This provides no profit.
 - Wise work is more effective:
 - If you are wise enough to prepare, your affairs will turn out better.
 - Wisdom has the advantage of giving success.
- 10:12-15: Comparing the words of the wise and the words of fools
 - The words of the wise: are gracious.
 - The words of a fool:
 - They consume him; he suffers harm from his own foolish words.
 - The beginning is folly, the end is madness; there is no value in anything he says.
 - And yet he multiplies words; even when it's about something he doesn't know.
 - In spite of all he says, his foolishness renders him incapable of doing the simplest things.

10:16-20: Wisdom Regarding Rulers

- 16-17: The importance of a ruler's character
 - A land is cursed when their king is a child who parties with his friends in the morning.
 - A land is blessed when their king is noble a eats at the right time for the purpose of strength and not partying.
- 18-19: Why good leaders are necessary
 - Laziness leads to greater problems in the future.
 - It's hard to find good leaders because most people live just to party for their own personal benefit.
- 20: Don't curse a ruler
 - No matter where you say it, it will be found out.
 - Kings have power and resources to find out.

11:1-6: Wisdom Regarding Risk & Reward

- 1-6: Take action and invest
 - 1-2: Take action and invest
 - Cast bread; take a risk so that you will reap a reward.

- Divide portion; but be wise in the way you take a risk because there is inevitable misfortune.
- 3-4: Why?
 - There will be eventual reward:
 - There will be rain.
 - Even though you don't know where the tree falls, it will still fall.
 - There is no reward for waiting:
 - The one who keeps waiting for certain perfect conditions will never reap because he'll never sow.
 - Go ahead and do it, and there will be good results among the misfortune.
- 5-6: Uncertainty is inevitable, therefore risk is inevitable
 - There will always be things we don't know. We'll never know what's going to happen.
 - So we just need to do what we need to do and let the cards fall where they may.

11:7-10: Wisdom Regarding Enjoying Good Times

- 7-8: Summary: enjoy good times while you can
 - Good times:
 - It is good for man to experience good times (light).
 - So while you are in good times, rejoice in them.
 - Bad times are many and inevitable:
 - However don't forget past bad times
 - Or that there will be future bad times.
 - Conclusion: whether good or bad, all things will come to an end
- 9-10: Enjoy the good times of youth
 - Youth is a time to be enjoyed
 - Live with the intention to enjoy them
 - They will pass quickly.
 - So do what brings you happiness
 - Remember God's judgment
 - We aren't to seek personal pleasure to our spiritual detriment.
 - But rather seek to rejoice in earthly pleasures because we are faithful to God.

12:1-8: Frustration of Old Age

- 1-2: Summary: Evil days are coming
 - Remember the Lord in your youth.
 - Before the dark days of old age begin.
- 3-5: Description of old age
 - Watchmen tremble - hands
 - Mighty men stooping - bad posture
 - Grinding ones idle - teeth
 - Dim windows - eyes
 - Sound of grinding mill is low - ears
 - Arise at sound of bird - trouble sleeping
 - Sing softly - voice
 - Fear if high places - increased danger of falling
 - Terrors on the road - inability to protect self

- Almond tree blossoms - grey hair
- Grasshopper drags itself - shuffling movement
- Caperberry (sexual stimulant) is ineffective - impotence
- 6-7: Description of death
 - Loss of life:
 - Silver cord broken
 - Golden bowl crushed
 - Pitcher by the well is shattered
 - Wheel at cistern is crushed
 - The aftermath:
 - Body returns to dust and returns to the earth.
 - Spirit returns to God.
- 8: Conclusion: all is vanity

12:9-14: Epilogue

- 9-10: About the author
 - Who he was: a wise man.
 - What He did:
 - Taught knowledge.
 - Arranged many proverbs.
 - His goal:
 - Find delightful words.
 - Write words of truth.
- 11-12: About wisdom
 - Commending wisdom:
 - This wisdom comes from the Shepherd.
 - Wise words keep people from going astray.
 - People who have mastered this wisdom are very stable.
 - Warning about wisdom:
 - Beyond God's wisdom, the excessive search for greater wisdom isn't ultimately beneficial.
 - The search for wisdom is limitless.
 - And the benefits are limited.
- 13-14: **Final conclusion #7:**
 - Every person needs to fear God and keep His commandments.
 - Because He will judge every act, whether good or evil.