

## PACKING WISDOM FOR DEPARTURE

*This study, **Packing Wisdom for Departure** is applicable for everyone, but especially directed to anyone approaching or perhaps having arrived at a chronological awareness, who feel the approaching vulnerability, inevitability of our departure, the ending of our life span here on earth. When a blend of physical, social, emotional issues tacitly convey the undeniable fact of death. No one escapes. The very second of a baby's new born cry heralds the reality of a near or most distant death; thus not to be born is not to die, but then alas, not to exist! So that's about it. Everyone lives his or her life immersed in this world. But as believers in our later years, we especially want to utilize our experience and knowledge of scripture to reflect divine wisdom back to us, and if followed within our hearts, will potentially lead to righteousness enhancing our chances for an eternity of salvation into Yeshua's Kingdom. Although attaining righteousness should be a lifelong priority, that goal becomes especially critical with time dwindling.*

*I have chosen three biblical references taken from Asaf's Psalm 73, David's Psalm 51 and Solomon's Ecclesiastes which when combined will hopefully awaken believers in our later years to "pack," that is utilize Asaf's, David's and Solomon's lives of acquired Godly wisdom (the combining of knowledge with experience) to initiate a successful decoupling from the human train's endless cars of alluring, carnal concerns. These verses offer advice which if followed will certainly find us on a moral plain, each one hopefully on the final segment of the straight and narrow path of righteousness leading to eternal life: Asaf telling us to not be jealous of wealthy, godless persons, God knows them and will deal with them; David telling us the necessity of renewing our flagging spirit, with Solomon telling us, a man who has done it all, that seeking wealth and every pleasure as paramount values of life signify nothing.*

### Asaf's Psalm 73

*By the time we have reached well beyond middle age, we should have mastered two dangerous dispositions: jealousy and envy. By now we have had considerable exposure to the wide range of income plateaus in the world. An unfortunate major percentage of the nearly seven plus billion toil away immersed in subsistence existence, living in virtual poverty. Yet our attention none the less often gravitates to media generated, high profile people, be they the sports and entertainment elite, the fantastically successful hedge fund entrepreneurs, or other internationally successful cyber CEOs whose glittering lives starkly contrast to our lives.*

*Although we shouldn't, a certain amount of resentment, a simmering envy, admit it, jealousy can seep into us. We notice these abundant, materially successful lives are ignoring God. In fact, their public arrogance, greed of ownership, their hubris fully unfurled in purposeful display. And complimenting such worldly positioning, these persona, their families are thriving: their children are beautiful, enrolled in the best schools. Life being lived to the fullest, beyond any fulfillment that 99 percent of the world could ever hope to attain. One can question, where is God in this? Why is he allowing these people to flourish in disobedience? The psalmist writing number 73 thousands of years ago, had similar thoughts crossing his mind as he*

*questions is own faith in situations where the ungodly flourish with no reprisals until upon reflection God gives him the answer of their certain demise.*

Psalm 73 by Asaf: Envious of the wicked

Ps 73:2-9, 11-14 I lost my balance, my feet nearly slipped, 3 when I grew envious of the arrogant and saw how the wicked prosper. 4 For when their death comes, it is painless; and meanwhile, their bodies are healthy; 5 they don't have ordinary people's troubles, they aren't plagued like others. 6 So for them, pride is a necklace; and violence clothes them like a robe. 7 Their eyes peep out through rolls of fat; evil thoughts overflow from their hearts. 8 They scoff and speak with malice, they loftily utter threats. 9 They set their mouths against heaven; their tongues swagger through the earth. 11 Then they ask, "How does God know? Does the Most High really have knowledge?" 12 Yes, this is what the wicked are like; those free of misfortune keep increasing their wealth. 13 It's all for nothing that I have kept my heart clean and washed my hands, staying free of guilt; 14 for all day long I am plagued; my punishment comes every morning.

Ps 73:16-18 When I tried to understand all of this, I found it too hard for me — 17 until I went into the sanctuaries of God and grasped what their destiny would be. 18 Indeed, you place them on a slippery slope and make them fall to their ruin.

Ps 73:21-22 When I had a sour attitude and felt stung by pained emotions, 22 I was too stupid to understand; I was like a brute beast with you.

Ps 73:25-26 Whom do I have in heaven but you? And with you I lack nothing on earth. 26 My mind and body may fail; but God is the Rock for my mind, and my portion forever.

*David in Psalm 51 writes, Steer me away from sinning, renew a right spirit within me*

*In later adulthood, many feel change is affecting our spiritual nature, but pinning it down is harder to define, because it is subtle, insidious, arising out of a combination of age wear on our minds, plus being assaulted by decades of an emerging mantra that seeks to replace God's tenets of morality. This mantra is soothing, trendy, a beguiling blend that seems compassionate, kind, humane embracing everyone who acts to condone it, as applicable in all conditions — after all Love is love!*

*As a believer mired in this moral sludge, trying to fight against one's own mindful spiritual tiredness, we must realize how crucial this time has become for us: we must petition God to enter, to renew our spirit, our focus, energize us, the new creation we still are that arose all those years ago from the laying on of hands capping the immersion of baptism. We need God's affirmation, His patient enduring love action to rescue us from our greatest danger, the apathy of self being held fast in the clutching grip of today's hedonistic-humanistic world, its values seeking to deaden or at least dilute our once pristine God-given faith.*

Ps 51:7-8 True, I was born guilty, was a sinner from the moment my mother conceived me. 8 Still, you want truth in the inner person; so make me know wisdom in my inmost heart.

Ps 51:12-14 Create in me a clean heart, God; renew in me a resolute spirit. 13 Don't thrust me away from your presence, don't take your *Ruach Kodesh* away from me. 14 Restore my joy in your salvation, and let a willing spirit uphold me.

*Solomon started his reign full of humility having gratefully received God's Holy Spirit. Solomon initially, genuinely requested wisdom to aid his youth to manage governing his realm. Such dedication impressed God. So not only was Solomon blessed with unprecedented wisdom but given fabulous wealth plus a prolonged time of peace. Yet incredibly, tragically lost all due to his dalliance with foreign women with pagan gods. These items never to pack!*

*In Ecclesiastes Solomon writes about the vanity of life; all its pursuits, pointless, meaningless, insights of a man who has done it all.*

*To review: In Psalm 73, we saw that packing wisdom with us includes eliminating jealousy and envy from our thoughts and actions in our reactions towards accumulating wealth while in David's Psalm 51 wisdom leads us to seek, renew and sharpen our spirit once initially, gratefully received from God, that priceless ingredient within us, reestablishing our relationship with God. In this third example, Solomon's life, presented in Ecclesiastes, concludes that living at any status level without an established relationship with God devalues life so that it becomes worthless, especially when human endeavors are compared to the reward-value awaiting believers having sustained a genuine trust/faith in God.*

*These early chapters in Ecclesiastes show the enormity of wealth and freedom given by God to Solomon to accomplish living large beyond any scope imaginable.*

Ecc 1:3-4 What does a person gain from all his labor at which he toils under the sun? 4 Generations come, generations go, but the earth remains forever.

Ecc 1:8-9 Everything is wearisome, more than one can express; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, the ear not filled up with hearing, 9 What has been is what will be, what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.

Ecc 2:2-11 "Come now, I will test myself with pleasure and enjoying good things"; but this too was pointless. 3 I searched my mind for how to gratify my body with wine and, with my mind still guiding me, with wisdom, how to pursue foolishness; my object was to find out what was the best thing for people to do during the short time they have under heaven to live. 4 I worked on a grand scale — I built myself palaces, planted myself vineyards, 5 and made myself gardens and parks; in them I planted all kinds of fruit trees. 6 I made myself pools in which to water the trees springing up in the forest. 7 I brought male and female slaves, and had my home-born slaves as well. I also had growing herds of cattle and flocks of sheep, more than anyone before me in Jerusalem. 8 I amassed silver and gold, the wealth of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, things that provide sensual delight, and a good many concubines. 9 So I grew great, surpassing all who preceded me in Jerusalem; my wisdom, too, stayed with me. 10 I denied my eyes nothing they wanted. I withheld no pleasure from myself; for I took pleasure in my work, and this was my reward for all my work. 11 Then I looked at all that my hands had

accomplished and at the work I had toiled at; and I saw that it was all meaningless and feeding on wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

*Then Solomon gives his value conclusion concerning all this excess in verse 11: Then I looked at all that my hands has accomplished and the work I had toiled at; and I saw that it was meaningless and feeding on wind, and that there was nothing to be gained under the sun. And in Ecc 2:21-23 Here is a man whose work is done with wisdom, knowledge and skill; yet he has to leave it to someone who has put no work into it. 22 For what does a person get from all his efforts and ambitions permeating the work he does under the sun? 23 His whole life is one of pain, and his work is full of stress; even at night his mind gets no rest. This too is pointless.*

*In the midst of Ecclesiastes, it is worth noting that Solomon deviates a bit, stressing that not everything in this life is relegated to, “nothing to be gained under the sun.” Quite the contrary! Here is a gem of advice Solomon gives us: that we should essentially “pack” into every remaining day of our lives: simply to enjoy with family and friends food and wine in our homes, another words God’s blessings bestowed on us, given to each of us should be enjoyed! The following verses expand upon this advice.*

Ecc 2:24, 26: So there is nothing better for a man to do than eat, drink and let himself enjoy the good that results from his work. I also realized that this is from God’s hand. 26 For the man who is good from (God’s) viewpoint he gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy; but to the sinner he gives the task of collecting and accumulating things to leave to him who is good from God’s viewpoint.

Ecc 3:13-14 Still, the fact that everyone can eat and drink and enjoy the good that results from all his work, is a gift of God. 14 I know that whatever God does will last forever; there is nothing to add or subtract from it; and God has done it so that people will fear him.

Ecc 3:22 So I concluded that there is nothing better for a person to do than take joy in his activities, that this is his allotted portion: for who can enable him to see what will happen after him?

Ecc 8:15: So I recommend enjoyment – a person can do nothing better under the sun then eat drink and enjoy himself; this is what should accompany him as he does his work for as long as God gives him to live under the sun.

Ecc 5:9, 10, 12-14: 9 The lover of money never has enough money; the lover of luxury never has enough income. This too is pointless. 10 When the quantity of goods increases, so does the number of parasites consuming them; so the only advantage to the owner is that he gets to watch them do it. 12 Here is a gross evil which I have seen under the sun: the owner of wealth hoards it to his own hurt. 13 Due to some misfortune, the wealth turns to loss; and then if he has fathered a son, he has nothing to leave him. 14 Just as he came from his mother’s womb, so he will go back naked as he came, and for his efforts he will take nothing. *Love of money, definitely discarded from our packing!*

*Such a sad ending to a self-evident truth that each of us will leave hopefully abandoned, never packed, left hung in some empty closet. For one thing is certain: Packed or not packed. . . all will end.*

Ecc 9:3B-6: 3B Truly, the human mind is full of evil; and as long as people exist, folly is in their hearts; after which they go to be with the dead. 4 For as long as a person is linked with the living, there is hope — better to be a living dog than a dead lion! 5 For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing; there is no longer any reward for them, because all memory of them is lost. 6 What they loved, what they hated and what they envied all disappeared long ago, and they no longer have a share in anything done under the sun.

Verse to ponder:

Ecc 12:13 Here is the final conclusion, now that you have heard everything: fear God keep his commandments for this is what being human is about. 14 For God will bring to judgment everything we do, including every secret, whether good or bad.

King James version used; for Ecc 12:1-8, 13, 14 The Complete Jewish Bible.

*Action of Belief Ministry*  
[ActionofBeliefMinistry@gmail.com](mailto:ActionofBeliefMinistry@gmail.com)  
Our Website:  
[ActionofBeliefMinistry.org](http://ActionofBeliefMinistry.org)