

# Ecclesiastes 12

The Conclusion:  
Fear and Obey God

## Ecclesiastes: An Overview

- The Problem (1:1-11)
- The Quest (1:12- 3:13)
- Objections (3:14- 7:29)
- Practical Advice (8:1- 11:10)
- Conclusion (12:1-14)

John Currid

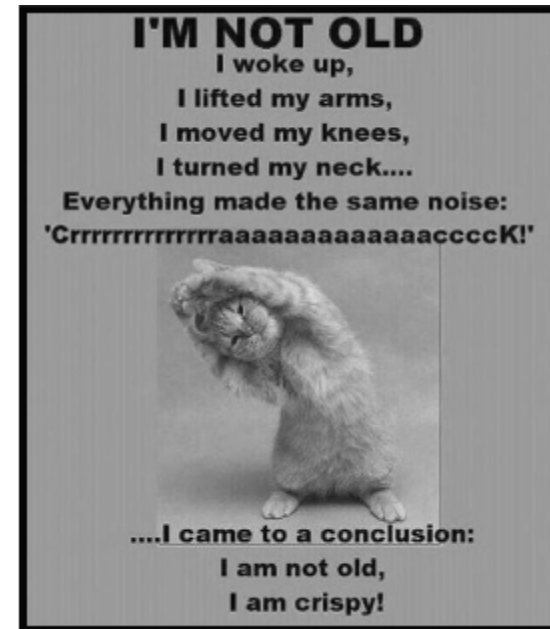
## Ecclesiastes: K. Davis's Outline

- I. Can I find meaning in life?
- II. How can I find meaning in life?
- III. In light of this, what can I do?
  - § Keep God in mind while you're still young enough to make your life count and have meaning.

## You know you're older when

- Your knees buckle and your belt won't.
- Your back goes out more than you do.
- You sink your teeth into a steak, and they stay there.
- You stop searching for the meaning of life to focus on searching for your car keys.

You know you're  
getting older  
when your  
childhood toys  
are now



**“Funny thing about getting older, your eyesight starts getting weaker but your ability to see through people gets much better.”**

## Ecclesiastes 12 Overview

- Admonition: Live to please your Creator while you're young—before you face old age and death (12:1-7).
- Restatement of Theme: Life without God (under the sun) is meaningless, empty, vain (12:8).
- Conclusion: Fear and Obey God (12:9-14)

## The Aging Process—OT People

1. Sarah—went through menopause (Gen. 18:11).
2. Abraham—“breathed his last and died in a ripe old age, an old man and satisfied with life” (Gen. 25:8).
3. Isaac—couldn’t see in old age (Gen. 27:1-2).
4. Jacob—sick, bedridden, blind (Gen. 48:1-2, 10)

## The Aging Process—OT People

5. Eli—blind (1 Sam. 3:2; 4:15)
6. David—couldn’t keep warm; bedridden (1 Kings 1:1-4)
7. Asa— “wholly devoted to the LORD all his days”; in old age “was diseased in his feet” (1 Kings 15:14, 23)
8. Elisha—developed a fatal illness and was bedridden (2 Kings 13:14).

## Decline Typical of Aging

- Sun, light, moon, stars darkened; clouds return after rain
- Dimming eyesight; fading capacities—physical, mental, emotional
- Keepers, watchmen, guardians
- Hands and arms that tremble with weakness
- Mighty (strong) men stoop
- Weak back and/or legs

## Decline Typical of Aging

- Grinding ones
- Teeth—few
- Those who look through windows
- Eyes that are failing
- Shut doors
- Hearing failing
- Rising at the sound of the bird
- Difficulty sleeping; light sleeper
- Soft singing
- Weaker voice
- Fear of heights & dangers on the road
- Weaker body breaks more easily & doesn’t mend quickly



The almond tree blossoms.

Grasshopper drags himself along.



Limited mobility?



Caperberry (desire, appetite) fails

### Finality of Death

- Silver cord snaps
- Golden bowl breaks
- Pitcher shattered
- Wheel crushed
- Spine?
- Head?
- Heart?
- Other internal organs?



## Cistern Dated to First Temple Period Found in Jerusalem



## Ecclesiastes 1:1-2

- The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.
- “Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher, “Vanity of vanities! All is vanity.”

## 2 Samuel 7:20

“Again what more can David say to You? For You know Your servant, O Lord GOD!”

## 2 Samuel 22:51

“He is a tower of deliverance to His king, And shows lovingkindness to His anointed, To David and his descendants forever.”

Solomon—truthful, not proud (v.9)

1. He was wise.
2. He used his wisdom to help his people.
3. He “pondered” (weighed, carefully evaluated).
4. He “searched out” (was thorough & diligent).
5. He “arranged” (with skill and order).
6. His focus was “many proverbs.”

A poem begins in delight and ends  
in wisdom.

Robert Frost

## The Power of Words (verses 10-11)

- Delightful words hold one's attention.
- Accurate words communicate truth.
- These two are a powerful combination.
- They motivate people to do right.
- They penetrate and stick in people's minds.
- Biblical truth is from God.

## Hebrew: *Hevel* (*Hebel*)



## Fear God and keep His commandments.

- Fearing God is the beginning of wisdom (Prov. 9:10).
- Obeying God shows that we know and love Him (1 John 2:3; John 14:15).
- Those who don't know God don't fear and obey Him—even though they should. They will face His judgment in a way that believers will not.

### **Romans 8:1**

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

### **Jude 1:24**

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, . . . be glory, majesty, dominion and authority.

### **Hebrews 2:14-15**

Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.



*TO LIVE IS  
**CHRIST**  
AND TO DIE IS  
GAIN*



*PHILIPPIANS 1:21*