

Chapter 5

1. Why should we not marvel when we see oppression, and perversion of justice and righteousness? (vv. 8-9; 3:16; 4:1)
2. Why is it vanity to love riches and pursue the accumulation of wealth? (vv. 10-12; 2:1-11; 1Tim 6:10)
3. What do verses 13-17 tell us about putting faith and security in our wealth? (Mt 6:19-21)
4. What does the Koheleth again say is good and fitting for one to do? How can we accomplish this? (vv. 18-20; 2:24-26)

Chapter 6

1. What is the “evil” which is described in these verses? Why can this man not enjoy his wealth and honor? What would it take for him to find enjoyment? What is the significance of the statement about the stranger? (vv. 1-2; 2:21; 5:14)
2. How is a stillborn child better than one who cannot enjoy their prosperity? (vv. 3-6; 2:15-16; 3:20-21; 4:1-3; Ps 127:3-5)
3. What makes man’s labor a meaningless or futile endeavor under the sun? What can it not provide? (vv. 7; 4:7–8; 5:10–12, 17)
4. Is there any circumstance “under the sun” which frees us from this vanity? (i.e., wise or fool, rich or poor) (vv. 8; 2:12–17)
5. What advice does the Koheleth give for dealing with this futility? (v. 9)
6. Who knows everything about man? Who does the word “stronger” refer to? Why should we limit our words before God? (vv. 10-11; 3:11-14; 5:1-2; 8:17; 12:12)
7. What is man unable to determine about his life? (vv. 12; Job 8:9; 14:2; Ps 102:11; 109:23; 144:4)

Notes & Answers

Chapter 5

Ecclesiastes 5:8–9 (ESV)

⁸ If you see in a province the oppression of the poor and the violation of justice and righteousness, do not be amazed at the matter, for the high official is watched by a higher, and there are yet higher ones over them. ⁹ But this is gain for a land in every way: a king committed to cultivated fields.

1. Why should we not marvel when we see oppression, and perversion of justice and righteousness? (vv. 8-9; 3:16; 4:1)

This is the nature of life “under the sun.” Everybody is looking out for themselves, even the rulers.

Too often the struggle for power brings suffering for the underdog. On the whole he sees an advantage in a supreme ruler truly concerned for the welfare of the land. One hopes for a wise person at the head of the country or a business or an institution—one who has both ability and humility. ¹

Unfairness, oppression, and injustice constitute a large part of what makes life senseless. ²

Ecclesiastes 3:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness.

Ecclesiastes 4:1 (ESV)

¹ Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them.

¹ Wright, J. S. (1991). [Ecclesiastes](#). In F. E. Gaebelin (Ed.), *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (Vol. 5, p. 1169). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

² Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). [Faithlife Study Bible](#) (Ec 5:8). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

