

A Study of the Wisdom Literature

OT Survey Lesson 299—Eccl. 7:1-8:1

Introduction: The preacher recommends in this book a life of faith under God that seeks to enjoy His gifts with fear and submission to His will. In this section, however, he shows how this faith must also learn to find the good in life's trials and temptations. Thus, in a general way, the preacher, in this section, discusses how wisdom responds to these circumstances.

Lesson aim: To show how to profit from life's trials and temptations.

Facing life's difficult circumstances—Eccl. 7:1-14

1. What did the preacher affirm about a good name? (v. 1) What else did he affirm was better? How do you think this would be true?
2. Why is it better to go to a house of mourning than a house of feasting? (v. 2)
3. Why is sorrow better than laughter? (v. 3) Consequently, the mind of the wise is where? (v. 4)
4. What did the preacher say is better in v. 5? What is the point of the explanation in v. 6?
5. What dangers attend wicked behavior like oppression and bribery? (v. 7)
6. What two things did the preacher say were "better" in facing life's trials? (v. 8)
7. What warning did he issue in v. 9? Why?
8. What sentiment do people often express in times of difficulty? (v. 10) Is it wise to speak thus?
9. Is there an advantage to wisdom? (v. 11) How can wisdom help us in life's trials? (v. 12)

10. What does the preacher urge his readers to consider? (v. 13) What course does he recommend in light of this? (v. 14)

Facing life's temptations—Eccl. 7:15-8:1

1. What injustice had the preacher seen in life? (v. 15) What two warnings did he issue? (v. 16-17)
2. What is the point of the proverb in v. 18? What did he affirm about wisdom? (v. 19)
3. What fact about all men is it important for the wise person to remember? (v. 20) This will enable him to do what? (v. 21-22)
4. To what did the preacher aspire? (v. 23) Yet, what had the preacher come to realize? (v. 24)
5. What did he purpose to do? (v. 25) What one certain discovery came from this investigation? (v. 26)
6. What additional observation did the preacher make? (v. 27-28)
7. In pondering life, what had the preacher discovered about man? (v. 29) Yet, what blessing did he see in attaining wisdom in life? (8:1)