

# **A Study of the Wisdom Literature**

## **OT Survey Lesson 301—Eccl. 9:11-10:20**

**Introduction:** The preacher's observations about life now turn toward wisdom and folly. In this section we are able to see both the benefits of wisdom and the problems caused when it is lacking.

**Lesson aim:** To see the practical benefits of wisdom in life

### **Some observations about wisdom under the sun**

1. What observation did the preacher make that indicates that success in all of life's endeavors is not guaranteed? (v. 11)
2. What does the preacher say may occur at any time? (v. 12)
3. What story did the preacher relate in order to teach a lesson about wisdom? (v. 13-15) What do you think is the point of this story?
4. What practical observations about wisdom did this cause the preacher to make? (v. 16-18) What is the main idea of each one?
5. What does the preacher affirm about "a little foolishness"?

### **Some observations about folly under the sun**

1. How does the preacher contrast the wise vs. the foolish? (v. 2)
2. What point is the preacher stressing about the fool in v. 3?
3. How might one allay the anger of a foolish ruler? (v. 4)
4. What observation does the preacher make about where wisdom and folly appear? (v. 5-7) What do you think is the point of these observations?
5. How did the preacher show the evil consequences of those who are intent upon doing evil? (v. 8) Is the person who avoids evil actions no longer vulnerable to misfortune? (v. 9)

6. How did the preacher indicate wisdom could be beneficial? (v. 10) How did he show that the failure to use one's skills properly may lead to hurtful consequences? (v. 11)
7. How does wisdom and folly affect speech? (v. 12) What is the ultimate end of foolish speech? (v. 13) Yet what does the fool do? (v. 14) For all his self-confidence what does the fool not know? (v. 14)
8. How does the toil of a fool affect him? (v. 15)
9. How does the preacher describe the effects of a ruler who does not have the wisdom of age and experience? (v. 16) In contrast, how does he describe a good ruler? (v. 17)
10. How does folly affect the individual? (v. 18) What three things seem to dominate the thinking of those who lack the perspective of wisdom? (v. 19)
11. What final word of advice is given to the wise man who lives under the influence of others? (v. 20)