

I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. I devoted myself to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under heaven...I thought to myself, "Look, I have grown and increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge."

(Ecclesiastes 1:12-16)

God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than any other man...Men of all nations came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom. (1 Kings 4:29-34)

“...I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind. For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief.”

(Ecclesiastes 1:17-18)

“I denied myself nothing my eyes
desired; I refused my heart no
pleasure.” (Ecclesiastes 2:10)

“In this world there are two great tragedies: One is not getting what you want, and the other is getting it.”

-- Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900)

“I thought in my heart, ‘Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good.’ But that also proved to be meaningless.” (Ecclesiastes 2:1)

“If you find honey, eat just enough -
too much of it, and you will vomit.”
(Proverbs 25:16)

“Any pleasure, however good, if not kept in balance, will distort reality and destroy appetite ... I am absolutely convinced that meaninglessness does not come from being weary of pain; meaninglessness comes from being weary of pleasure.”

-- Ravi Zacharias

King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth. (1 Kings 10:23)

I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired men and women singers, and a harem as well - the delights of the heart of man. I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me...

(Ecclesiastes 2:7-9)

Whoever loves money never has
money enough; whoever loves wealth
is never satisfied with his income.
This too is meaningless.

(Ecclesiastes 5:10)

I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit in them. I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. (Ecclesiastes 2:4-6)

...My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor. Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

(Ecclesiastes 2:10-11)

So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. I hated all the things I toiled for under the sun...

(Ecclesiastes 2:17-18)

...I saw that all labor and all achievement spring from man's envy of his neighbor. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

(Ecclesiastes 4:4)

“God has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men...” (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

“If in this life I find in me a hunger for something else that nothing in this earth can satisfy, perhaps it shows me that I’m made for another world.” -- C. S. Lewis

“Happiness is neither within nor without us – it is in God and only when God is in us is happiness within and without us...All of us have been created with a God shaped vacuum that only God can fill.”

Blaise Pascal (1623 – 1662)

“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter:

Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”

(Ecclesiastes 12:13)

“Remember your Creator in the days of your youth,” the teacher counsels, “before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, ‘I find no pleasure in them.’”

(Ecclesiastes 12:1)

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

(1 John 5:12)

Suppose that this is not where we are meant to be but that a better land is at hand? Suppose we don't belong here. We have somehow lost our way. Would not this make our present existence both strange and splendid? Strange, because it is not where our true destiny lies; splendid, because it points ahead to where that real hope might be found.

The beauty of the night skies or a glorious sunset are important pointers to the origins and the ultimate fulfillment of our heart's deepest desires. But if we mistake the signpost for what is signposted, we will attach our hopes and longings to lesser goals, which cannot finally quench our thirst for meaning. -- Alister McGrath

I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

-- Jesus Christ (John 6:35)