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1

9:1-10 – Death is common to all

- 1 - The one thing the righteous and the wise know is that they are held in the hand of God. But that does not mean that life will go as planned. It is beyond our control.
- 2 – Death is beyond our control. We all, whether good or bad, share a common destiny.
- 3 – If that is true, why not live a life of licentiousness, because, finally, it doesn't matter. Or does it. All we can perceive is that which is "under the sun." What we cannot perceive is that which is not under the sun.

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2

9:1-10 – Death is common to all

- 4- 6 – So is life nothing but despair? No, Solomon is convinced that life is always worth living – that life is better than death. The wise know that life is not permanent, and thus make the most of the moments they have.
- 7-10 – Here is Solomon's formula for living with chevel: Enjoy your food and drink, don't live in sadness, surround yourself with those you love, and work at something you enjoy.
- Look at James 4:13-17

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3

9:11-12 – Translation

- 11- Another observation about this world – the swiftest runner does not always win the race, nor does the battle always go to the strong; even the wise can go hungry and the clever can be poor; and the scholar can live without acclaim. Only mortality and death happen to us all.
- 12 - You cannot know how you will die; death befalls without warning, as the net traps the fish and the snare downs the bird.

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4

9:11-12 - Paraphrase

- Just as a fish is taken in a net, just as a bird is caught in a snare, so are you trapped in the illusion of permanence.

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5

9:11-12 – Time and Chance

- We are not in control! Solomon comes back to this again and again because we have so much trouble applying this to our lives. There is no such thing as permanence.
- The quest for permanence and significance is like trying to fill a bucket with holes in the bottom. We can work very hard and give the illusion of significance, but, in the end, the bucket will be empty.
- We don't have to prove that we matter. We only have to do the things that matter.

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6

9:13-17 – The Fickleness of mankind

- Solomon tells the story of a wise man who saved his town by wisdom, not by power. But what he did is not mentioned or remembered.
- That's the way it is for those who live the path of wisdom, who shun power and prestige, who do not care if their name is remembered. They simply live their life, serving God in the time that He has given them.

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