

# ETERNITY IN THE HEART



## *Ecclesiastes...The Search for a Christian Worldview*

### **UNCOMMON DESTINY** *Ecclesiastes 9-12* conclusion

*"Thus Solomon...coaxed, urged, argued, pressed, and begged us as wise men and women to get off the dead center of attempting to outguess God and His works. We must earnestly and diligently get into life's work. It is enough to know, as far as the process and results of our work are concerned, that God is also at work...that He has given us the knowledge of the broad spectrum of His plan." —Walter C. Kaiser, Jr*

#### **I. "THE SAME DESTINY" (Ecclesiastes 9)**

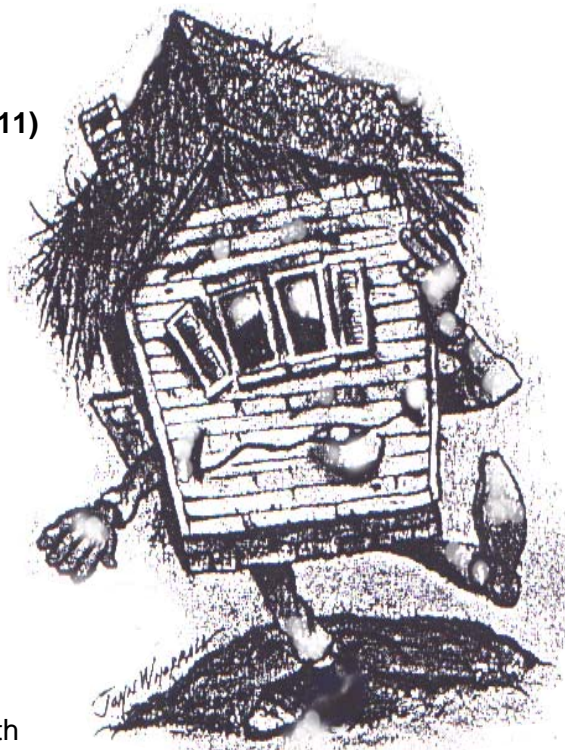
- A. Inevitabilities in the natural realm (vs. 1-6)
- B. Time, chance, and circumstances (vs. 7-12)
- C. Wisdom and weapons (vs. 13-18)

#### **II. PROVERBS FOR PRACTICAL PRACTICE (Ecclesiastes 10, 11)**

- A. Discerning wisdom and folly (Chapter 10)
- B. Discovering God in the cosmos (Chapter 11:1-7)
- C. Defining mental and spiritual attitudes (v. 8)

#### **III. "THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER" (Ecclesiastes 12)**

- A. **Rejoicing** (11:9-12:1) Intelligent happiness
- B. **Reflecting** (12:2-8) The seven signs of aging
  1. The dark night of the soul (v. 2)
  2. "This Old House" (vs. 3, 4)
  3. Fear of falling (v. 5a)
  4. Gray hair—"almond tree blossoms" (v. 5b)
  5. Slow motion—"the limping grasshopper" (v. 5c)
  6. No motion—"desire no longer stirred" (v. 5d)  
[note II Samuel 19:35]
  7. End of life (v. 5e)
- C. **Responding** (12:9-14)
  1. The measure of the good teacher (vs. 9, 10)
    - a. Knowledge and the communication of truth
  2. The motivation to teach truth and discernment (vs. 11, 12)
  3. The message of the text—the lessons of Ecclesiastes
    - a. Honor God—respect and worship in truth
    - b. Obey God—"Keep His commandments"
    - c. Fulfill responsibility of "whole duty" to God
    - d. Trust God's ultimate and perfect judgment



*"At last we are ready—if we ever intend to be—to look beyond earthly vanities to God, who made us for Himself...For our part, to remember Him is no perfunctory or purely mental act; it is to drop our pretence of self-sufficiency and commit ourselves to Him." —Derek Kidner*

#### FOR REFLECTION...

1. Why do you think that King Solomon stressed "the days of your youth" in verse 1?
2. Thinking through the whole text of Ecclesiastes, how do author Solomon's pessimistic views correlate with the conclusions of chapter 12?
3. In what ways do our worldviews impact our prospects of the brevity of life? Of God? Of personal purpose?