

# ECCLESIASTES

**ECC 11:7-12:8 | EARLY DAYS, EVIL DAYS, AND THE DAY**

Each of our lives are like a day. There is the dark before daybreak; which could be paralleled to when we were conceived but before seeing the light of day. Then there is our birth, like the break of dawn. The morning hours are like our youth and teenage years when we are growing in stature and knowledge.

Then the sun is then at its highest point, which is like the prime of our life, the peak of our strength. Afterwards, there is late afternoon, which is our later adult years. Evening is paralleled to the declining years of our lives when our mind and our bodies are manifesting clear issues.

In the twilight of the day, our strength is gone, our bodies are failing, we struggle to sleep, and like an old grasshopper, we drag our bodies around. Then comes nightfall and we die.

Solomon parallels our lives like a 24 hour day – with the exhortation to enjoy the youth, strength, and the prime or “choice” time of our lives. He does this reminding us that we are going to die, our bodies are going to fail, and that we are going to give an account to the Lord.

As we near the end of Ecclesiastes, Solomon is giving us wisdom in this life that prepares us for the next – even if you are young. Let’s dig deep to see how we can enjoy the fleeting life God has given us so that we can be prepared to give an account when our final day arrives.

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- 1. ECC 11:7-12:8.** Any thoughts, questions, or comments about the sermon or text this morning? What stood out to you the most?
- 2. ECC 11:7-10.** How does this part of Ecclesiastes parallel, build upon, and even amplify, Ecclesiastes 3:21 and Ecclesiastes 9:4-10?
- 3. ECC 11:9-10.** What are some things that keep you, or have kept you, from enjoying your youth? What advice would you give to someone to help them enjoy their youth and rejoice in it?
- 4. ECC 12:1-8; 2 COR 4:16.** Solomon tells us to rejoice in our youth and enjoy life before all these things happen to us. Yet, we know that we can still have genuine joy in the midst of physical decline. How is this possible?
- 5. ECC 12:1-8.** What are some “indignities” that you have experienced as you have aged? What is God’s purpose in your life when you experience these?
- 6. PRAYER.** How can we pray for each other so that we enjoy the strength of our youth, the prime of our lives, and honor the Lord before the sun sets on our life?