

# WISDOM FOR LIVING IN A BROKEN WORLD **Eccl. 8**

## **I May Not Know What the Future Holds—but I Know Who Holds the Future!**

Introduction:

– Bill Turner

1. **“It is better to get wisdom than gold. Gold is another’s, wisdom is our own; gold is for the body and time, wisdom is for the soul and eternity.” – Mathew Henry**
2. **God Wants us to Have Wisdom...**
  - a. Wisdom will give us a better life
  - b. Wisdom will help us to handle the storms of life...
  - c. Wisdom Helps us Handle the Uncertainties of Life > and the Injustices of Life
  - d. And it Will Help Us Be Able to Appreciate and Enjoy Life...

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## **I. WISDOM BRINGS PEACE (8:1)**

### **A. THE WICKED MAY PROSPER BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THEY'RE HAPPY**

1. **You'd Think Selfish People Would Be Happy People...**
  - a) Because They Get What they Want! — They look like they have it all...
2. **But underneath the facade they aren't happy**
  - a) And You Can See it in their Faces...
  - b) They have everything—but the one thing they want most... True Peace & Happiness

### **B. WISDOM MAKES YOUR FACE SHINE REMOVING THE HARSHNESS**

1. **After Moses spent 40 days with God on Mt. Sinai—His face was shining**
2. **But the shining faded from His Face the longer he was away from the Lord**
3. **It seems like the Stress and Problems of Life Take Away it's Glow and our Face Get's Hardened When We Focus on Us Rather than on God**

### **C. WISDOM FROM GOD GIVES US PEACE FROM GOD**

1. **Wisdom gives happiness... (Proverbs 3:13, 17-18)**
2. **This Blessing Can't Be Found in the things of the World—  
—Only From God (Numbers 6:25)**
3. **Notice the Difference Between Wisdom of World/Wisdom from Above  
[James 3:13–18 GRAPH]**
4. **The Peace that Surpasses Understanding (Philippians 4:6–7 > 4:8-9)**
5. **Peace From God—knowing that**
  - a) we are forgiven and saved by Grace
  - b) We are loved by our Father in Heaven
  - c) We are adopted by God and given an inheritance in Him
  - d) We can take all our anxieties to Him in prayer
  - e) and God is in Control

**However, we still have to deal with the frustrations of a broken world...**

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## II. WISDOM HELPS US UNDER PRESSURE (8:2-6 NLT)

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### A. WE NEED WISDOM IN THE PRESENCE OF POWER

1. **Being in the presence of power brings many challenges...**  
so Solomon is giving us wisdom to handle pressure situations
2. **DUTY: (v.2)** Do Your Duty... keep your commitments—even under pressure
3. **DISOBEDIENCE: (v.2)** Don't Disobey Orders, or avoid your responsibilities
4. **DESERTION: (v.3a)** Don't leave your post by quickly leaving the presence of the King
5. **DEFIANCE: (v.3b)** Don't join those who plot evil against the King/Ruler
6. **DISCERNMENT (v.5-6)** use patience, prayer, humility and understanding under pressure to make wise decisions

### B. DANIEL WAS WISE UNDER PRESSURE IN BABYLON

1. **Daniel was a captive of Judah serving a Babylonian King...**
  - a) There were times Daniel was called into the presence of the King to give counsel
  - b) Times when Daniel had to give bad news to the King
2. **But Daniel was Wise Under Pressure...**
  - a) He Did His Duty... He Did Not Desert His Post,
  - b) He Was Not Defiant against the King,
  - c) He Used Discernment, and only once did he defy the law by praying
3. **Nebuchadnezzar began to realize that Daniel had more wisdom than even his own advisers who were just telling him what he wanted to hear**

### C. DANIEL HAD THE WISDOM TO KNOW THAT GOD RULES THE NATIONS

1. **God ordained human government**
  - a) God causes nations and rulers to rise and to fall
  - b) God is in control! —
2. **If We Fear the Lord—We Do Not Need to Fear Man**

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## III. WISDOM TO HANDLE THE UNCERTAINTIES OF LIFE (v.7-8)

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### A. WE CAN'T KNOW THE FUTURE (v.7 NLT)

1. **So How Can You Avoid What You Don't Know will Happen?**
2. **Sometimes we get tangled up worrying over things that may never happen**
3. **At least if we worry it's proof that we care, right?!**

### B. WHAT ABOUT WORRYING ABOUT THE DAY OF DEATH? (v.8)

1. **Isn't that something to worry about?**
2. **Jesus: *'Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?'***
3. **Worry is not the answer—wisdom is the answer...**

### **C. INSTEAD OF WORRY—GOD GIVES WISDOM**

1. ‘Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?’  
(Matthew 6:31–34 NIV)
  2. **Seek First the Kingdom of God and His righteousness,  
and God will Provide...**
  3. **That is the Wise Thing to Do—Because that Prepares you for eternity  
This is How Fear is Defeated by Faith**
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## **IV. WISDOM TO HANDLE THE INJUSTICES OF LIFE (v.9-14)**

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### **A. LIFE IS FULL OF INJUSTICES...**

1. **Some People Hurt Others... (v.9)**
  - a) They Spread lies, destroy careers, break up families, Vandalize, Steal
  - b) Identity Theft, Credit Card Theft, Fraud, they don't care
  - c) They Attack Others Rather than Face their Own Failures
2. **The Wicked are Even Praised and Honored after they die, (v.10)**
  - a) in the very city they committed their crimes!
  - b) Evil people honored and glorified by culture and media
  - c) **20,000 people attended the funeral of Bonnie (the woman of Bonnie and Clyde)**
  - d) **But they killed 13 people in cold blood—9 police officers and 4 ordinary people**
  - e) **but people weren't lined up to honor the innocent, they glorified the murderer**
3. **A Lack of Justice that lets criminals roam the streets (v.11)**
  - a) People are leaving Portland, Seattle and SF because they don't feel safe
4. **Good people treated as if they were wicked—  
and wicked treated as if they were good (v.14)**
  - a) —Welcome to America 2022

### **B. WISDOM HELPS US ENDURE THE INJUSTICES OF LIFE**

1. **It's Discouraging to See Evil People Get Away with Murder...**
  2. **Without Wisdom We Might Be Tempted to Despair...**
  3. **But Wisdom Knows the Big Picture! → (v.12-13)**
    - a) **There are People get away with murder—**
    - b) **but eventually their sins catch up to them (Psalm 37:1-11)**
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## **V. WISDOM TO APPRECIATE GOD'S GIFT OF LIFE (v.15-17)**

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### **A. WITHOUT WISDOM WE'RE TEMPTED TO LIVE A LIFE OF UNCERTAINTY**

1. **A Life of Worry, of Regret, of Anxiety, of Fear...**
2. **Worrying About the Future—Which No One Can Know!**
3. **This isn't the Life God Wants for His People!**

## **B. GOD GIVES US WISDOM TO APPRECIATE HIS GIFT OF LIFE! (v.15)**

1. To Enjoy the Gift of Life He Has Given You
2. This is one of the most startling lessons of Ecclesiastes!
3. You Don't Have To Just Endure Life—You Can Enjoy It...  
—Knowing it is a Gift From God!

## **C. GOD GIVES JOY TO HIS PEOPLE!**

1. God Gives Joy to Those Who Trust and Obey Him!
2. Even though We Don't Understand All the Mysteries of Life (v.16-17)
3. We Have the Faith to Know God is in Control—  
He Will Work All things for Good to those who love the Lord!

## **CONCLUSION:**

**I May Not Know What the Future Holds—but I Know Who Holds the Future!**

1. Our Father in Heaven Rules the Universe  
And He Will Make All Things Right! (Daniel 12:1–3)
2. Daniel still didn't understand, he wanted to know more about the future,  
but the secret things belong to God... (Dan. 12:8-10; 13)
3. We Must Have the Wisdom to Trust and Obey the Lord