

A person's silhouette is shown in the foreground, looking up at a vast, colorful night sky. The sky is filled with stars and a vibrant aurora borealis that transitions from purple and blue at the top to yellow and green at the bottom. A large, dark diamond shape is superimposed on the sky, containing the text.

Chapters 5&6

# ECCLESIASTES

*the meaning of life*

# **Ecclesiastes 5**

**Part 1: Wisdom for Worship**

**Part 2: Wisdom for Wealth**

# Part 1: Wisdom for Worship

1 Guard your steps when you go to the house of God.

Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong.

2 Do not be quick with your mouth,  
do not be hasty in your heart to  
utter anything before God.

God is in heaven and you are on  
earth, so let your words be few.

3 A dream comes when there are  
many cares, and many words mark  
the speech of a fool.

4 When you make a vow to God,  
do not delay to fulfil it.

He has no pleasure in fools;  
fulfil your vow.

5 It is better not to make a vow  
than to make one and not fulfil it.

6 Do not let your mouth lead you  
into sin.

7 Much dreaming and many words  
are meaningless.

Therefore fear God.

# **Part 2: Wisdom for Wealth**

*“I have a fantastic relationship  
with money.  
I use it to buy my freedom.”*

Gianni Versace



10 Whoever loves money  
never has enough;

whoever loves wealth  
is never satisfied with their income.

This too is meaningless.

11 As goods increase,  
so do those who consume them.

And what benefit are they to the  
owners except to feast their eyes  
on them?

*“The love of money grows by what it feeds on.”* Derek Kidner



*“People worship idols - money, whatever. Their humanness gets reshaped around the idol - we become shaped by the idol we worship. That's one of the basic spiritual laws.”*

NT Wright

# Matthew 6

21 For where your treasure is,  
there your heart will be also.

24 'No one can serve two masters.  
Either you will hate the one and  
love the other, or you will be  
devoted to the one and despise the  
other. You cannot serve both God  
and Money.

12 The sleep of a labourer  
is sweet,  
whether they eat little or much



12 but as for the rich,  
their abundance  
permits them no sleep.



13 I have seen a grievous evil  
under the sun:  
wealth hoarded  
to the harm of its owners





*“If anything is worse than an addiction to money and wealth, it’s the emptiness it leaves.*

*Humanity, with eternity in our hearts, needs better nourishment than this”*

Derek Kidner

**BREAKING**

*Free*



# Breaking Free

a. Grasp the Bigger Picture

15 Everyone comes naked from  
their mother's womb,  
and as everyone comes,  
so they depart.

They take nothing from their toil  
that they can carry  
in their hands.

16 As everyone comes,  
so they depart,  
and what do they gain,  
since they toil for the wind?

17 All their days they eat in  
darkness,  
with great frustration,  
affliction and anger.

## Ecclesiastes 4

6 Better one handful with tranquillity  
than two handfuls with toil  
and chasing after the wind.

# Breaking Free

- a. Grasp the Bigger Picture
- b. Practice Gratitude



18 This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labour under the sun during the few days of life God has given them —for this is their lot.

19 Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God.

20 They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.

# Breaking Free

- a. Grasp the Bigger Picture
- b. Practice Gratitude
- c. Choose to Walk in Freedom

# Choose Trusting not Grasping

## Matthew 6

31 So do not worry, saying, “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or “What shall we wear?” 32

For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

# Choose Giving not Hoarding

## Matthew 19

16 Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, 'Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?'

...20 'All these I have kept,' the young man said. 'What do I still lack?'

21 Jesus answered, 'If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.'

22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

# Choose Godliness not Foolishness

1 Timothy 6. 9 Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

## 1 Timothy 6

6 godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.



## Ecclesiastes 4

6 Better one handful with tranquillity  
than two handfuls with toil  
and chasing after the wind.