

Our Thoughts Ecclesiastes 12 Part 1

Unlike previous teachings, led by one person, this teaching is based on the input of all the Fellowship attendees.

Using one Biblical chapter, the Fellowship will dissect and analyze the chapter, hopefully providing new insights to all that are present.



of tonight's teaching, to receive the greatest understanding of this teaching, please view the Zoom video for tonight.

Each verse will be analyzed while being displayed in both the King James Version (KJV) and the Jewish Study Bible Version (JSB).

However, each Fellowship member is free to use their own version of the Bible in making their analysis.



Ecclesiastes

לוניג'ת

is one of the Ketuvim ("Writings") of the Bible

Ecclesiastes is a philosophical and theological reflection on the meaning of life, attributed to "the Teacher" (Qoheleth), traditionally understood as King Solomon.

Through a series of observations, the Teacher examines the limits of wisdom, pleasure, wealth, and work, concluding that all are ultimately transient and unsatisfying when pursued "under the sun" (i.e., without a divine perspective).

Key themes include:

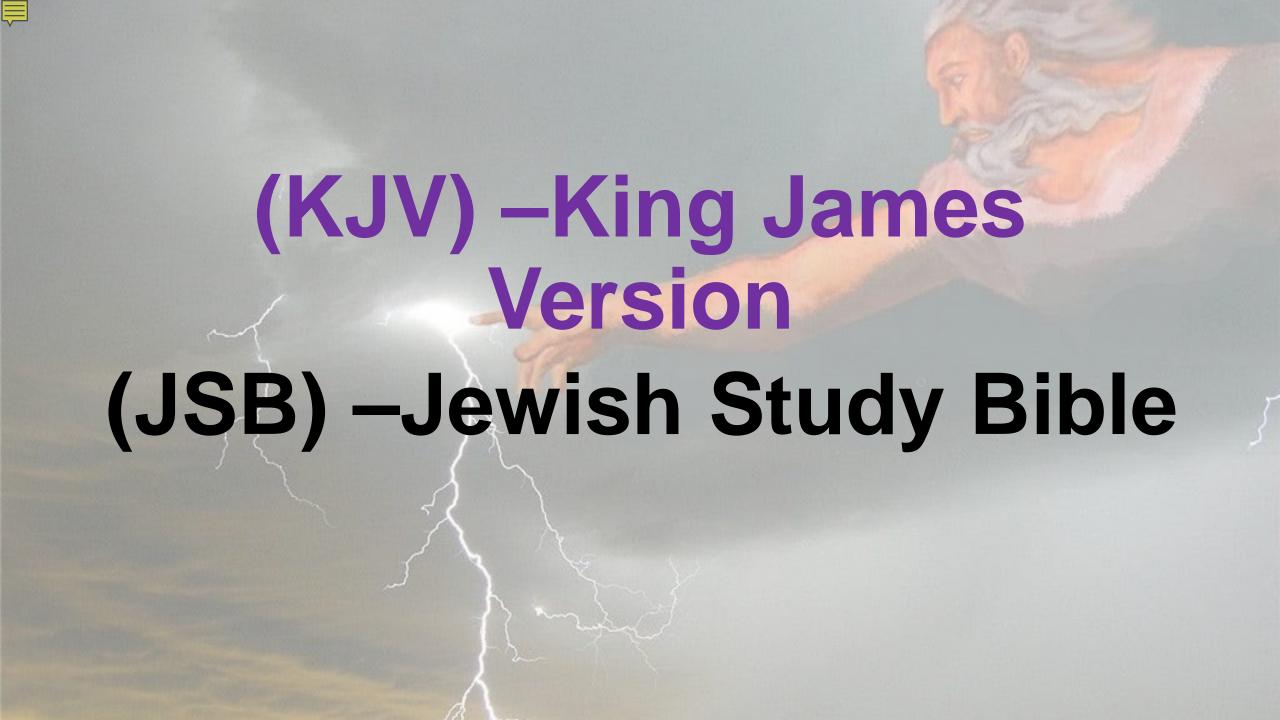
- Futility of Earthly Pursuits: Lasting meaning is not found in human achievements
 - Time and Seasons: Life operates in cycles, with "a time for everything"
 - Enjoyment as a Gift: Finding joy in simple pleasures
 - Fear of God: Fear God and keep his commandments

In summary, Ecclesiastes is a profound meditation on life's transience and the search for meaning.

Ecclesiastes 12 is the final chapter of the Book of Ecclesiastes

Earlier chapters highlight the futility of chasing worldly gains, this chapter offers a positive directive, shifting focus from despair to purpose through God.

Ecclesiastes 12 is significant for its poetic meditation on mortality, its call to fear God as the source of meaning, and its resolution of the book's existential themes. It invites readers to live wisely and faithfully, mindful of both life's brevity and God's eternal judgment.



Ecclesiastes 12

And now, you become the teacher:

¹ Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them". (KJV)

¹ So appreciate your vigor in the days of your youth, before those days of sorrow come and those years arrive of which you will say, "I have no pleasure in them". (JSB)

- ² While the sun and the light, The moon and the stars, Are not darkened, And the clouds do not return after the rain; (KJV)
- ² Before sun and light and moon and stars grow dark, and the clouds come back again after the rain: (JSB)

- ³ In the day when the keepers of the house tremble, And the strong men bow down; When the grinders cease because they are few, And those that look through the windows grow dim; (KJV)
- ³ When the guards of the house become shaky, And the men of valor are bent, And the maids that grind, grown few, are idle, And the ladies that peer through the windows grow dim, (JSB)

⁴ When the doors are shut in the streets, And the sound of grinding is low; When one rises up at the sound of a bird, And all the daughters of music are brought low. (KJV)

⁴ And the doors to the street are shut with the noise of the hand mill growing fainter, And the song of the bird growing feebler, And all the strains of music dying down (JSB)

- ⁵ Also they are afraid of height, And of terrors in the way; When the almond tree blossoms, The grasshopper is a burden, And desire fails. For man goes to his eternal home, And the mourners go about the streets. (KJV)
- ⁵ When one is afraid of heights And there is terror on the road. For the almond tree may blossom, The grasshopper be burdened, And the caper bush may bud again but man sets out for his eternal abode, With mourners all around in the street (JSB)

⁶ Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed, Or the golden bowl is broken, Or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, Or the wheel broken at the well.

(KJV)

⁶ Before the silver cord snaps and the golden bowl crashes, The jar is shattered at the spring, And the jug is smashed at the cistern (JSB)

⁷ Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it. (KJV)

⁷ And the dust returns to the ground as it was, And the lifebreath returns to God who bestowed it.

(JSB)

⁸ "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher, "All *is* vanity." (KJV)

⁸ Utter futility-said Koheleth.
All is futile! (JSB)

- ⁹ And moreover, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out and set in order many proverbs. (KJV)
- ⁹ A further word: Because Koheleth was a sage, he continued to instruct the people. He listened to and tested the soundness of many maxims. (JSB)

In two weeks we will complete "Our Thoughts" on Ecclesiastes Chapter 12

