

# An Interpretation of Ecclesiastes 12: 1-7

Darren Sylvester takes a line by line look at the above piece of scripture and elucidates on its content

**"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth,"**

The lesson here conveyed: Think who made you and for what purpose you were made. Reflect, that a sentient being, you were moulded by the hand of God and to him made responsible for the proper use of the faculties with which you have been endowed, for the proper employment of the years, and the acceptance of the opportunities offered during the period of active, vigorous manhood.

**"while the evil day come not, nor the years draw nigh,  
when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them."**

The grievance of old age, the days of sorrow, the years of pain, when the natural decay of the faculties brings the "ills that flesh is heir to" and ushers in the years of mental and physical decrepitude, when there is no longer any pleasure in life.

**"while the sun, or the light, or the moon,  
or the stars, be not darkened,  
nor the clouds return after the rain."**

Imagery depicting declining life and increasing infirmities of age.

**"in the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble,  
and the strong men shall bow themselves"**

When the hands and arms that guard and protect "*the house*" suffer from old age, thereby no longer being erect. The "strong men" represent the legs.

**"and the grinders cease because they are few,  
and those that look out of the windows be darkened.  
and the doors shall be shut in the streets."**

The "*grinders*" refer to the teeth, now few in number; the "*windows*" depict the eyes which are now curtained by the shadow of declining years; the "*doors*" represent the ears, which lose their activities in old age.

**"when the sound of the grinders is low,  
and he shall rise up at the voice of the birds,  
and all the daughters of music shall be bought low."**

The "*sound of the grinders*" refers to the pressing of food upon the toothless gums; the "*voice of the birds*" indicates that man's sleep is interrupted by the sound of the birds/or man sleeps lightly and rises as the cock crows at dawn; the "*daughters of music*" illustrate the organs of speech.

**"also when they shall be afraid of that which is high,  
and fears shall be in the way,  
and the almond tree shall flourish,  
and the grasshopper shall be a burden,  
and desire shall fail."**

When one's declining years prevent the visiting of high places; the "*almond tree*" refers to grey hair in old age; the "*grasshopper shall be a burden*" indicates that, in infirmity, the slightest weight causes problems and cannot be sustained; consequently, any human desires decrease.

**"because man goeth to his long home,  
and the mourners go about the streets"**

That place, eternal in the heavens, not made with human hands; the "*mourners*" are those who sorrow/weep at his death.

**"or ever the silver cord be loosed,  
or the golden bowl be broken,  
or the pitcher be broken at the fountain,  
or the wheel broken at the cistern."**

The "*silver cord*" represents the spinal column; the "*golden bowl*" refers to the cranium (skull); golden and silver denote the preciousness of man's life; the "*pitcher*" illustrates the blood vessels (arteries, capillaries and veins) whereby blood moves through the body; the "*wheel*" signifies the heart.

**"then shall the dust return to the earth as it was:  
and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."**

Earthly life is nothing more; from the dust man arose in Genesis it is so that man will return; the spirit shall return to God if man has "fought the good fight" of faith.

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