

Review

1. To be humble...to receive rebukes and learn from them
2. To guard against sinful acts such as oppression and taking a bribe
3. To be patient in spirit rather than being proud and angry

Comparing the former days and the present

“Do not say, “Why were the former days better than these?” For you do not inquire wisely concerning this.” Ecc 7:10

1. Solomon gave a warning not to inquire unwisely
 - a) This was a word of warning
 - b) Some don't think through well enough before inquiring
2. People speak of how the past is better than the present
 - a) Some are stuck in the past
 - b) They prefer what was in the past
3. A better outlook on life

The place of wisdom with regard to financial matters

“Wisdom is good with an inheritance, and profitable to those who see the sun.” Ecc 7:11

1. Solomon addressed some financial concerns
2. The gift of an inheritance
 - a) Given by a benefactor...eg...parents, relatives
 - b) Usually after the demise of the benefactor
3. Managing an inheritance
 - a) Takes wisdom to know how to manage the inheritance
 - b) Applying sound wisdom, the inheritance is made to last
4. When there is no wisdom
 - a) If there is no wisdom, the inheritance will not last

b) It will be quickly wasted

5. Wisdom and money can be a strong defence

“For wisdom is a defence as money is a defence, but the excellence of knowledge is that wisdom gives life to those who have it.” Eccl 7:12

a) Wisdom and money can be good defence

b) Through the vagaries of life

c) A good defence

i) Makes us prepared

ii) To deal with the problems

d) Excellence of knowledge will give us wisdom

e) Our lives would be that much more blessed as a result

Lessons learned

1. The challenge is not to be stuck in the past but to live in the present

2. The challenge is to have financial prudence in the management of our funds