

Remember!

Ecclesiastes 12



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The Plea

12:1 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, “I find no pleasure in them” —

11:8 However many years anyone may live, let them enjoy them all. But let them remember the days of darkness, for there will be many.

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The Picture

² before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars grow dark, and the clouds return after the rain; ³ when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men stoop, when the grinders cease because they are few, and those looking through the windows grow dim; ⁴ when the doors to the street are closed and the sound of grinding fades; when people rise up at the sound of birds,

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but all their songs grow faint; ⁵ when people are afraid of heights and of dangers in the streets; when the almond tree blossoms and the grasshopper drags itself along and desire no longer is stirred. Then people go to their eternal home and mourners go about the streets.

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⁶ Remember him—before the silver cord is severed, and the golden bowl is broken; before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, and the wheel broken at the well, ⁷ and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

⁸ “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Everything is meaningless!”

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⁹ Not only was the Teacher wise, but he also imparted knowledge to the people. He pondered and searched out and set in order many proverbs.

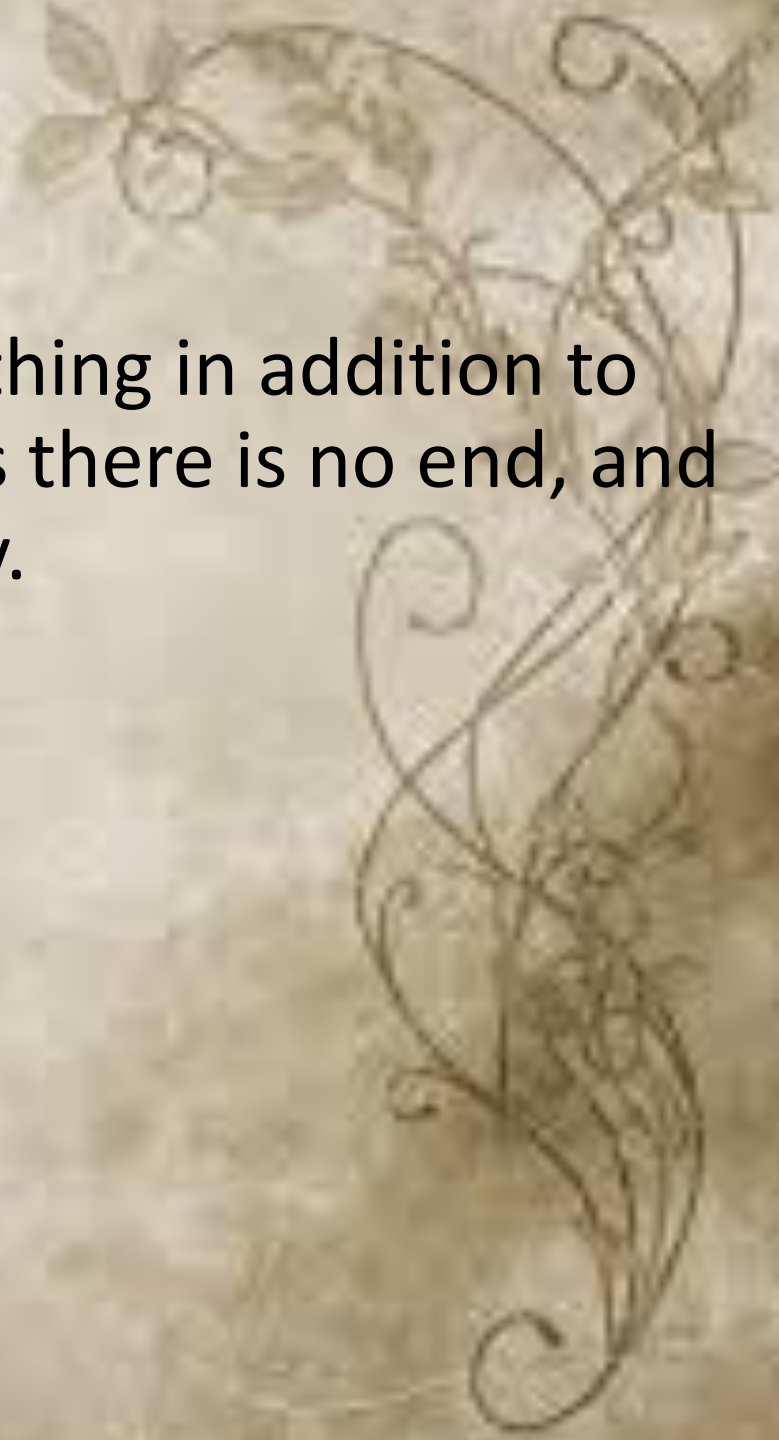
¹⁰ The Teacher searched to find just the right words, and what he wrote was upright and true.

¹¹ The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails—given by one shepherd.

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¹² Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them. Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body.

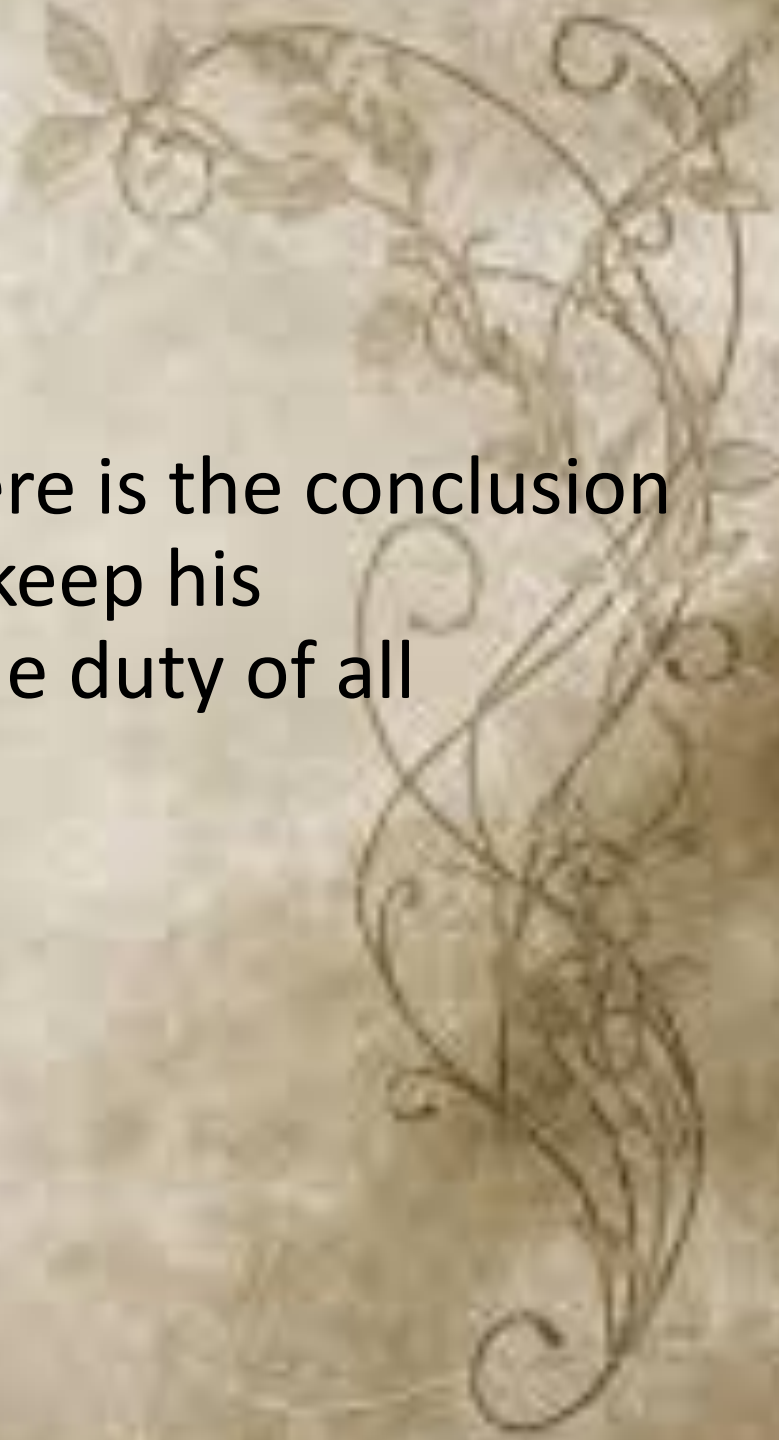


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The Punchline

¹³ Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.




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**'Twas grace that taught
my heart to fear, and
grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that
grace appear the hour I
first believed.**

A decorative graphic of musical notation, including a treble clef and several notes on a staff, is positioned at the bottom left of the text area.

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¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:
Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is
the whole *duty* of man. (AKJV, ASV)

