

UNDER THE SUN

Joy, Sorrow, Vanity, and What Really Matters in Life

Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. -Ecclesiastes 12:13

“Everything Really Is Vanity!”

Ecclesiastes 5:8-6:9

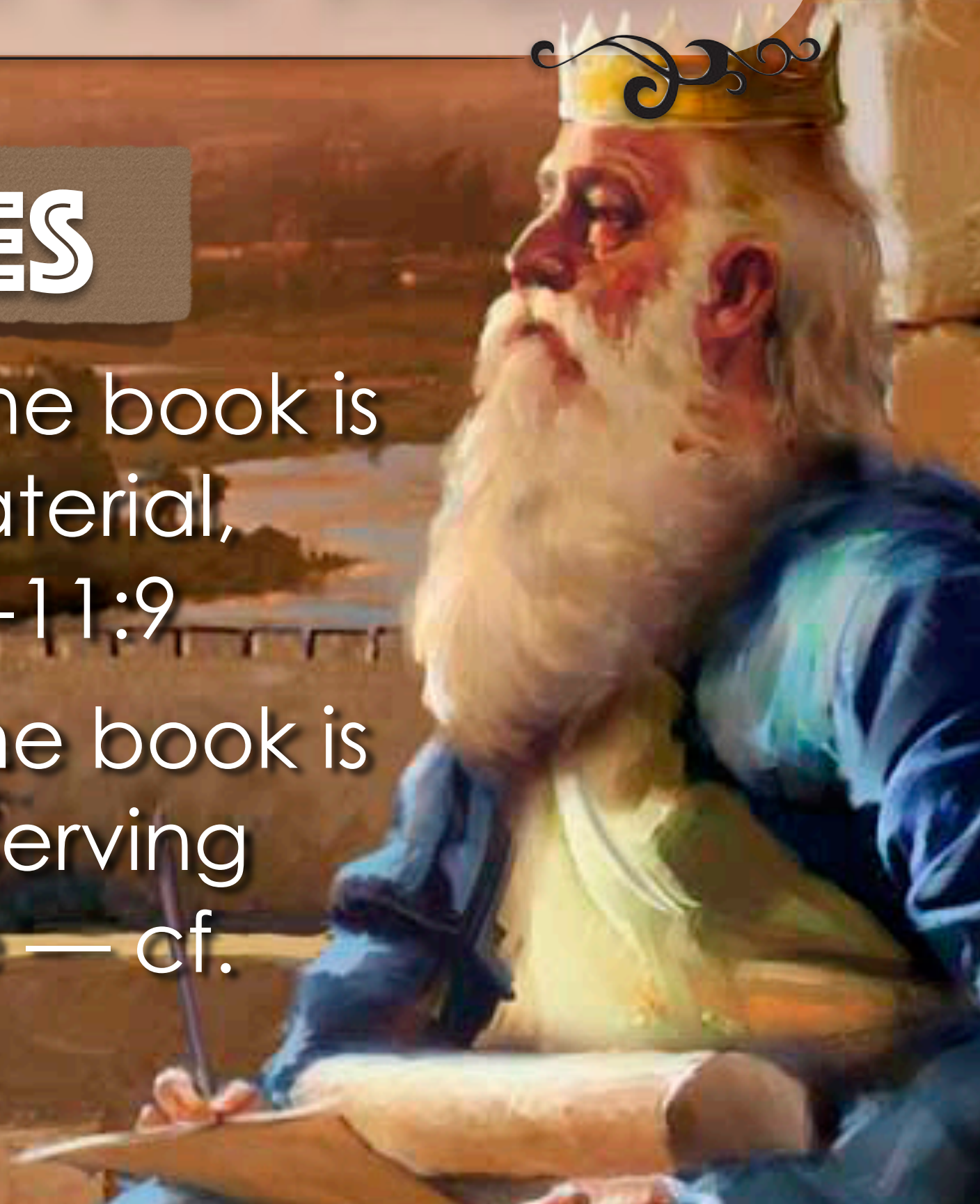
Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; Nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also *is* vanity.

"The Words of The Preacher"

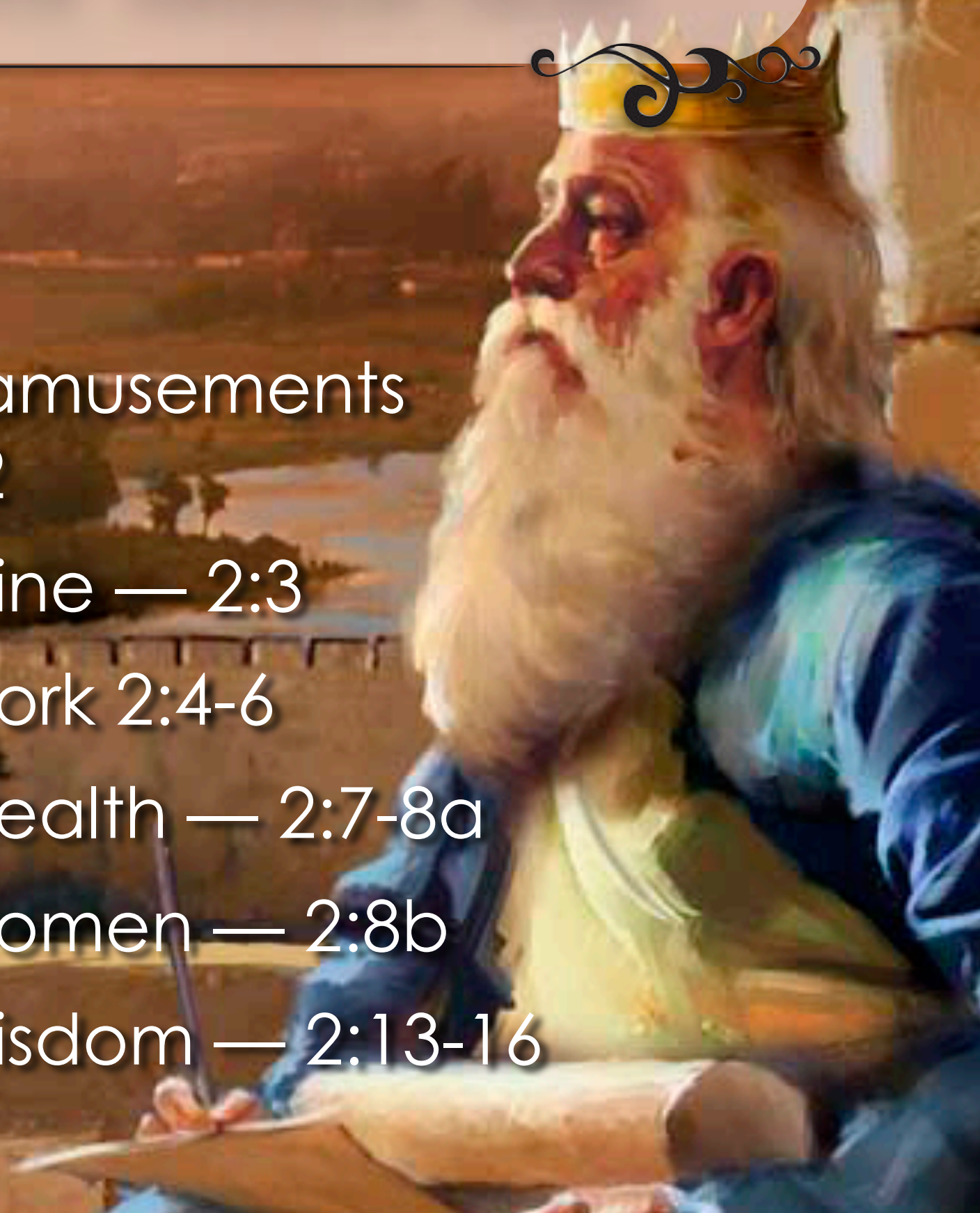
ECCLESIASTES

- The main focus of the book is the VANITY of of material, earthly things — 1:1-11:9
- The main point of the book is the importance of serving God throughout life — cf. 11:9-12:1, 13-14



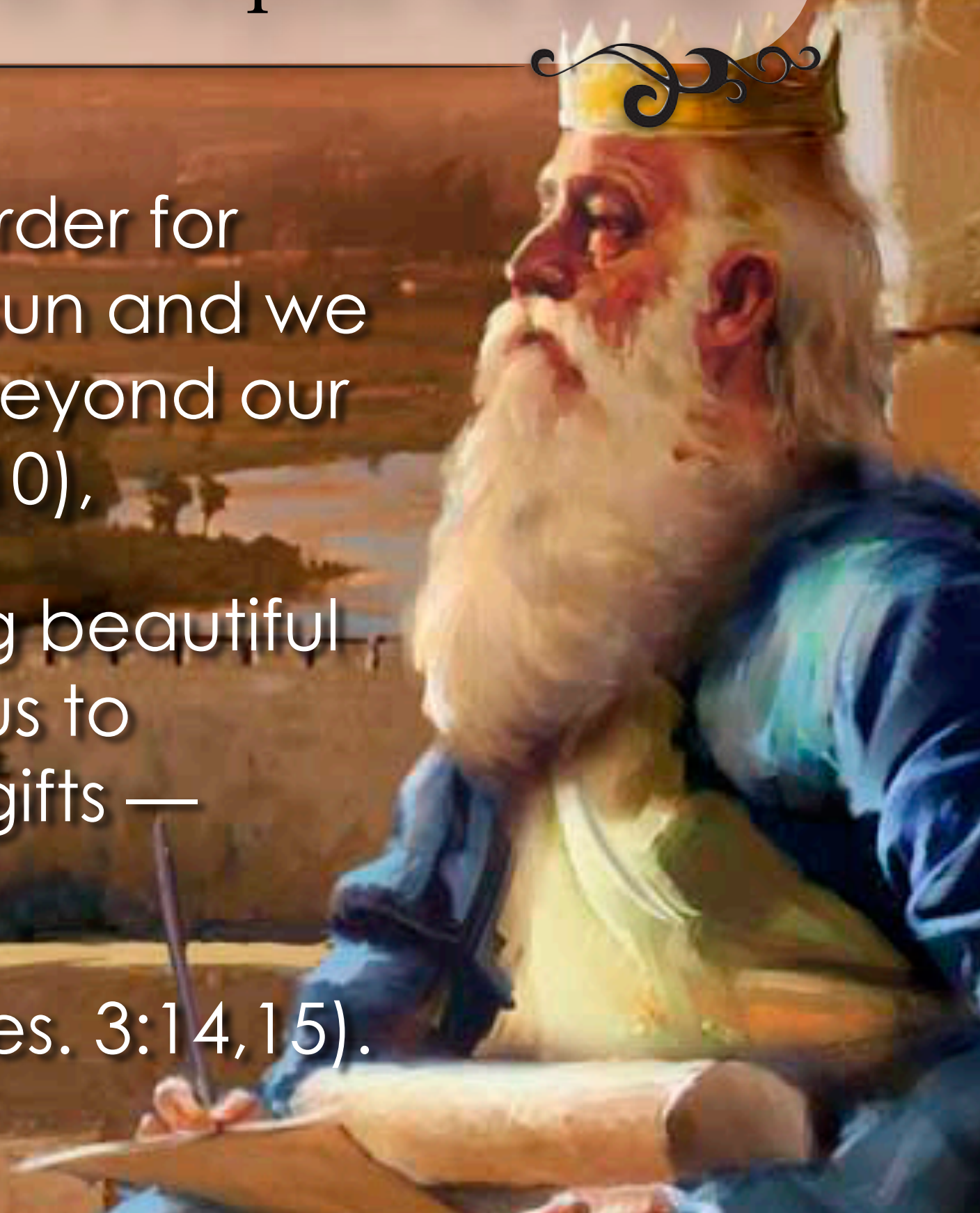
“The Quest for satisfaction”

- ❖ Cannot be found in “amusements and delights?” — 2:1,2
- ❖ Cannot be found in wine — 2:3
- ❖ Cannot be found in work 2:4-6
- ❖ Cannot be found in wealth — 2:7-8a
- ❖ Cannot be found in women — 2:8b
- ❖ Cannot be found in wisdom — 2:13-16



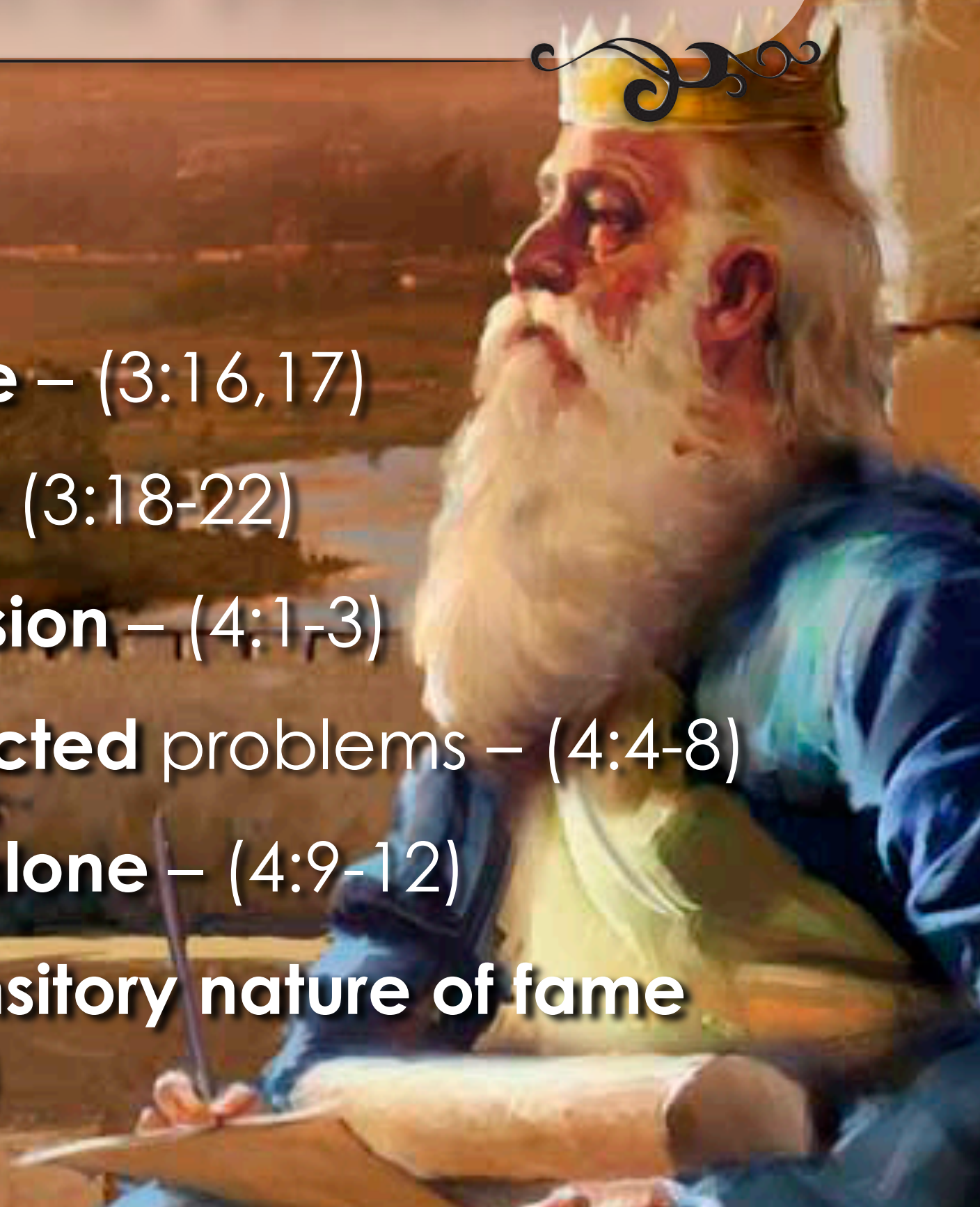
“To Understand The Purpose of It All”

- There is a purpose & order for everything under the sun and we are subject to things beyond our control— (Eccles. 3:1-10),
- God makes everything beautiful in its season, & wants us to moderately enjoy His gifts — (Eccles. 3:11,12).
- God is in control (Eccles. 3:14,15).



“The Problem of Problems”

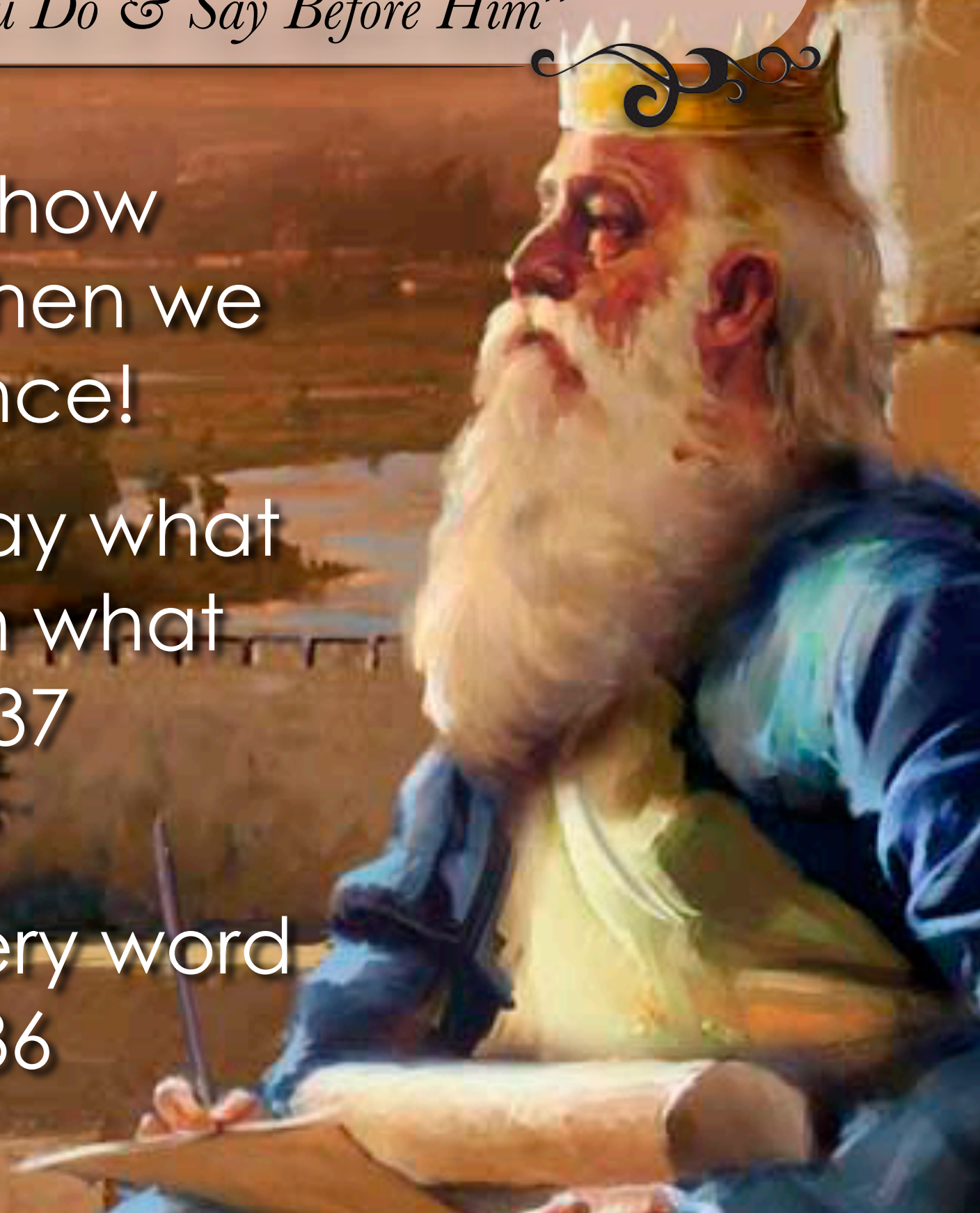
- The problem of **injustice** – (3:16,17)
- The problem of **death** – (3:18-22)
- The problem of **oppression** – (4:1-3)
- The problem of **self inflicted** problems – (4:4-8)
- The problem of **being alone** – (4:9-12)
- The problem of the **transitory nature of fame and prestige** – (4:13-16)



“Fear God”

“Be Careful What You Do & Say Before Him”

- God DEMANDS we show proper reverence when we come into His presence!
- God demands we say what we mean and mean what we say! — Mat 5:33-37
- We will be held accountable for every word — Prov. 6:2; Mat 12:36



Ecclesiastes 5:8–6:12 (NKJV)

⁸ If you see the oppression of the poor, and the violent perversion of justice and righteousness in a province, do not marvel at the matter; for high official watches over high official, and higher officials are over them. ⁹ Moreover the profit of the land is for all; *even* the king is served from the field. ¹⁰

He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; Nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also *is* vanity.

Ecclesiastes 5:8–6:12 (NKJV)

¹¹ When goods increase, They increase who eat them; So what profit have the owners Except to see *them* with their eyes? ¹² The sleep of a laboring man *is* sweet, Whether he eats little or much; But the abundance of the rich will not permit him to sleep. ¹³ There is a severe evil *which* I have seen under the sun: Riches kept for their owner to his hurt. ¹⁴ But those riches perish through misfortune; When he begets a son, *there is* nothing in his hand.

Ecclesiastes 5:8–6:12 (NKJV)

¹⁵ As he came from his mother's womb,
naked shall he return, To go as he came;
And he shall take nothing from his labor
Which he may carry away in his hand. ¹⁶

And this also *is* a severe evil— Just
exactly as he came, so shall he go. And
what profit has he who has labored for the
wind? ¹⁷ All his days he also eats in
darkness, And *he has* much sorrow and
sickness and anger.

Ecclesiastes 5:8–6:12 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Here is what I have seen: *It is* good and fitting *for one* to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it *is* his heritage. ¹⁹ As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor—this *is* the gift of God.

Ecclesiastes 5:8–6:12 (NKJV)

²⁰ For he will not dwell unduly on the days of his life, because God keeps *him* busy with the joy of his heart. ¹ There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it *is* common among men: ² A man to whom God has given riches and wealth and honor, so that he lacks nothing for himself of all he desires; yet God does not give him power to eat of it, but a foreigner consumes it. This *is* vanity, and it *is* an evil affliction.

Ecclesiastes 5:8–6:12 (NKJV)

³ If a man begets a hundred *children* and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with goodness, or indeed he has no burial, I say *that* a stillborn child *is* better than he—⁴ for it comes in vanity and departs in darkness, and its name is covered with darkness. ⁵ Though it has not seen the sun or known *anything*, this has more rest than that man,

Ecclesiastes 5:8–6:12 (NKJV)

⁶ even if he lives a thousand years twice—
but has not seen goodness. Do not all go to
one place? ⁷ All the labor of man *is* for his
mouth, And yet the soul is not satisfied. ⁸
For what more has the wise *man* than the
fool? What does the poor man have, Who
knows *how* to walk before the living? ⁹

Better *is* the sight of the eyes than the
wandering of desire. This also *is* vanity and
grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 5:8–6:12 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Whatever one is, he has been named already, For it is known that he *is* man; And he cannot contend with Him who is mightier than he. ¹¹ Since there are many things that increase vanity, How *is* man the better? ¹² For who knows what *is* good for man in life, all the days of his vain life which he passes like a shadow? Who can tell a man what will happen after him under the sun?

“Everything Really Is Vanity!”

PROPER PERSPECTIVE ON OPPRESSION

Ecclesiastes 5:8 (NKJV)

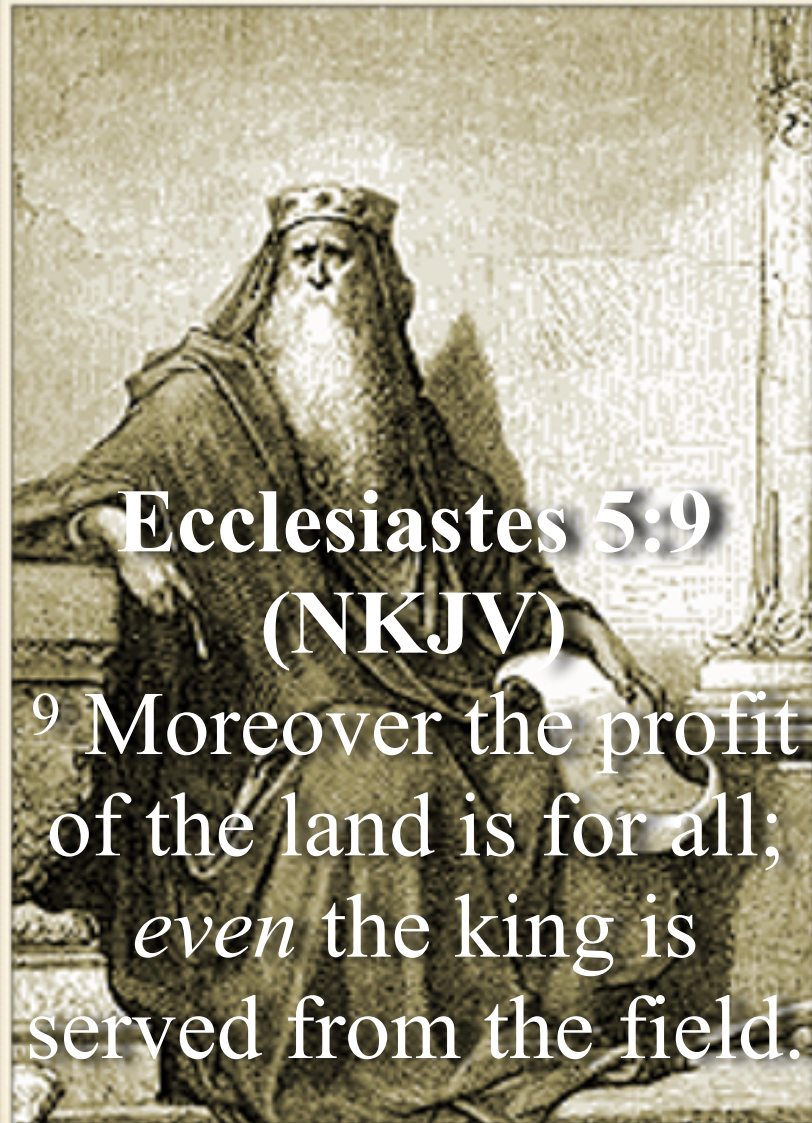
⁸ If you see the oppression of the poor, and the violent perversion of justice and righteousness in a province, do not marvel at the matter; for high official watches over high official, and higher officials are over them.

► Power **OFTEN** breeds corruption, injustice & abuse (8)

- Oppression does occur, (5:8a; 3:16; 4:1). — The cruelty of man over man knows no bounds — (Pr 14:31; Am 4:1-3; 5:11,12; etc.)
- Do NOT Marvel - injustice will always be, but there will always be just retribution. - even high officials answer to someone else - **5:8b**; cf. Rom. 13:1; Col. 3:24-4:1

“Everything Really Is Vanity!”

PROPER PERSPECTIVE ON OPPRESSION



**Ecclesiastes 5:9
(NKJV)**

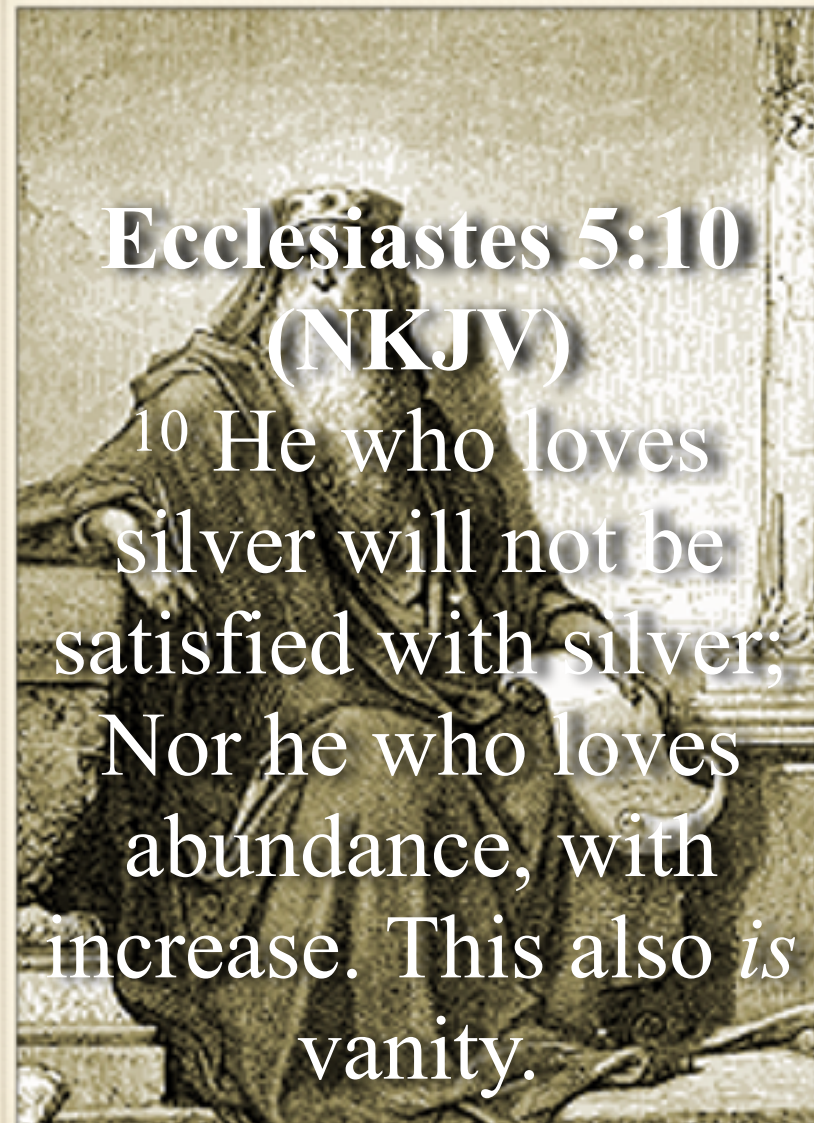
⁹ Moreover the profit
of the land is for all;
even the king is
served from the field.

► Difficulty in the Hebrew (9)

- “But this is gain for a land in every way: a king committed to cultivated fields.” — ESV
- “It is an advantage for a country on the whole that there is a king over the cultivated field.” - Leupold
- “... the best advantage of all is that there is one supreme ruler over all.” — Smith, J. E. (1996). *The wisdom literature and Psalms*.

“Everything Really Is Vanity!”

PROPER PERSPECTIVE ON WEALTH



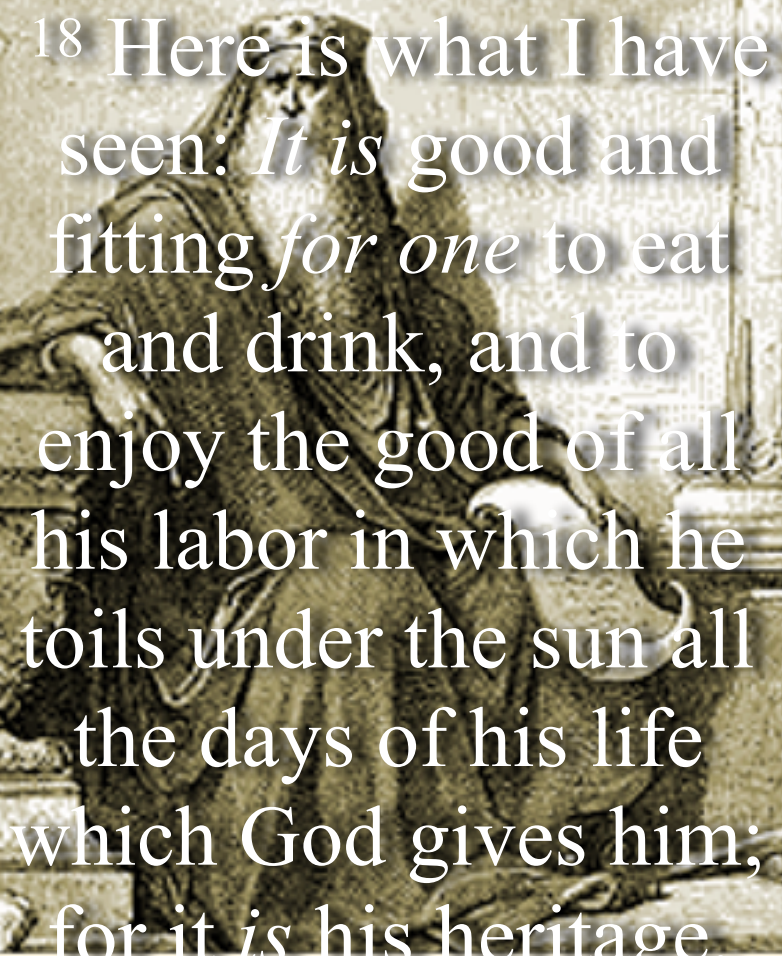
► Those who love Riches will not find satisfaction (10-17)

- Riches produce more responsibility, anxiety and sleeplessness & harm. (12,13)
- Riches are easily lost (14)
- Riches can't be taken with us (15-17; cf. Job 1:21; Lk 12:13-21)

“Everything Really Is Vanity!”

PROPER PERSPECTIVE ON WEALTH

Ecclesiastes 5:18
(NKJV)



¹⁸ Here is what I have seen: *It is good and fitting for one* to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage.

► Riches can be enjoyed w/ **RIGHT perspective - (5:18–20)**

- “Eat and drink,” i.e., to enjoy life; to use the blessings God bestows with thankfulness & contentment (cf. 1 Tim 6:8)
- Abundance is useless without the power to enjoy it - Only God can liberate the soul from the slavery to things and enable one truly to enjoy his wealth: “This is the gift of God.” (5:19)

“Everything Really Is Vanity!”

PROPER PERSPECTIVE ON WEALTH

Ecclesiastes 5:18
(NKJV)

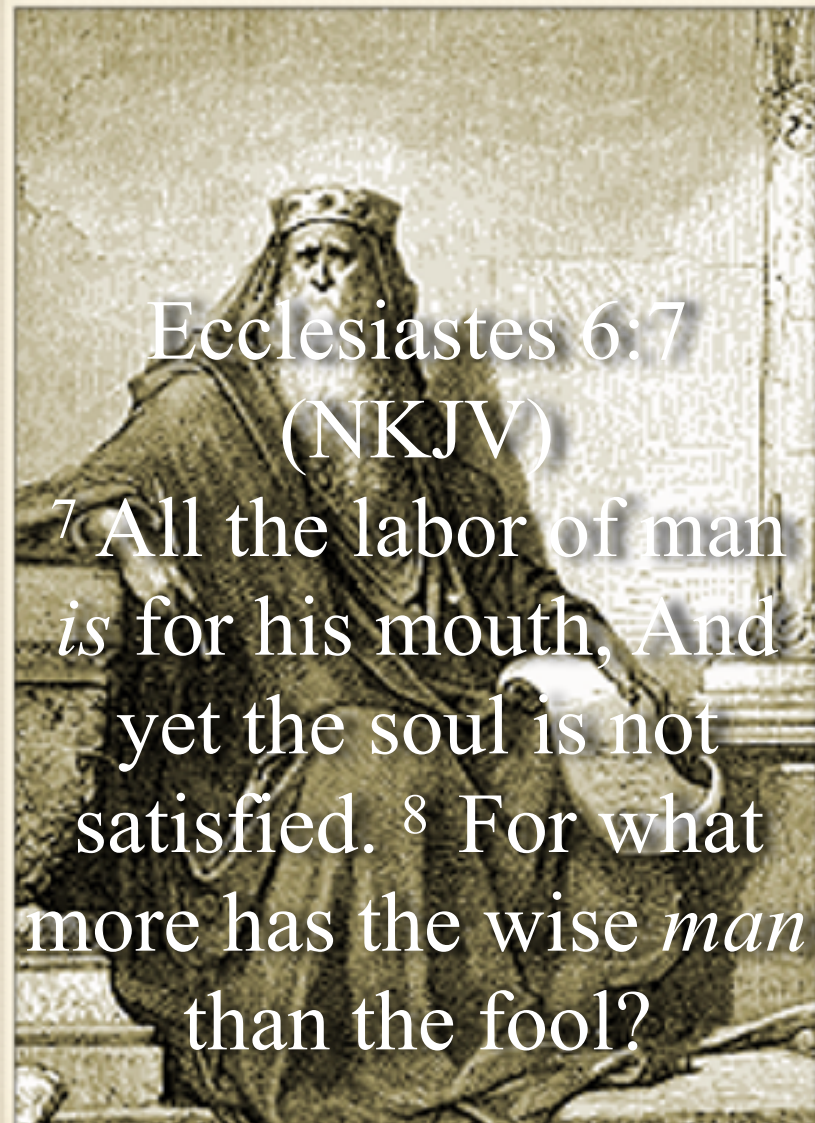
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► Vanity of Success — (6:1-6)

- A rich man with no enjoyment — (6:2a, 3a; Luke 12).
- A rich man without an heir - all is lost — (6:2b).
- A rich man without a tomb - No honor - (6:3-5)
- A rich man without hope - only despair — (6:6).

“Everything Really Is Vanity!”

PROPER PERSPECTIVE ON WEALTH

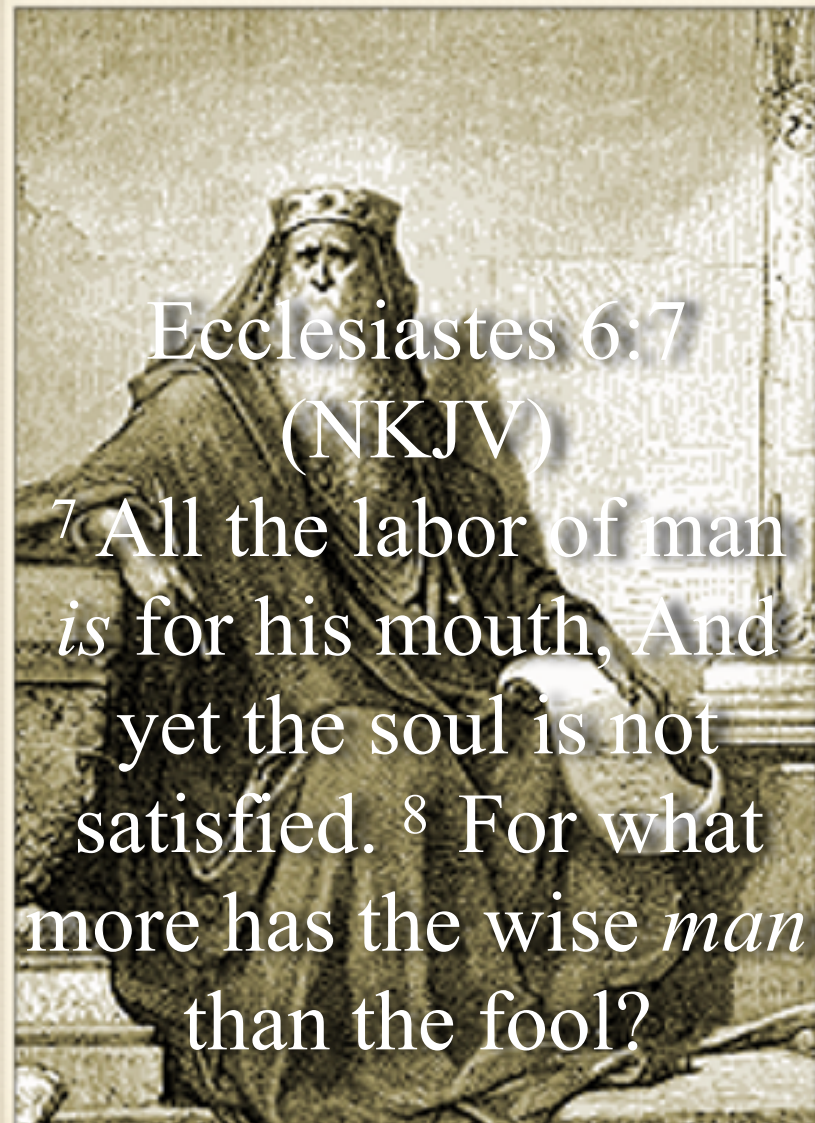


► Wealth & Man's Desire (6:7–9)

- The natural man's labor is for his mouth, i.e., for self-preservation — Mt 6:31-33; 1 Tim 6:7-8
- The desires of the heart are never satisfied (6:7; cf. 1:8). The more people pursue pleasure, the more elusive the goal becomes.
- Both the wise & fool must labor for bodily sustenance - and neither are satisfied (6:8)

“Everything Really Is Vanity!”

PROPER PERSPECTIVE ON WEALTH



► Wealth & Man's Desire (6:7–9)

- The contrast here is between the rich wise man and the prudent poor man - both fail at enjoying life, because their desires are insatiable — (6:8)
- A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush - Make the most of existing opportunities, to enjoy the present (6:9).

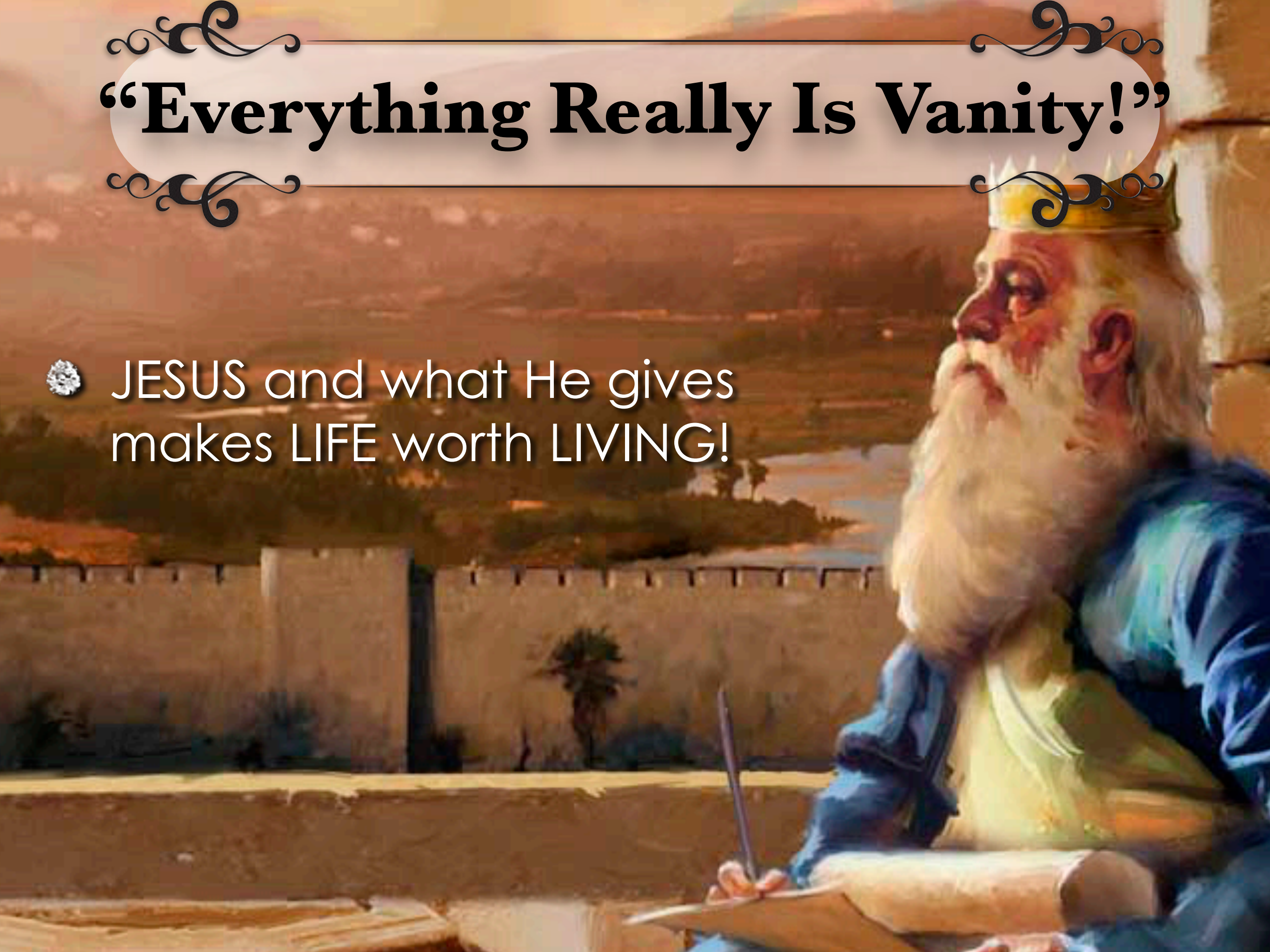
“Everything Really Is Vanity!”

- Life “under the sun” is filled with Challenging and important considerations!
- We need to see things as God sees them
- We need to see ourselves as God sees us
- We need God’s perspective on everything!!



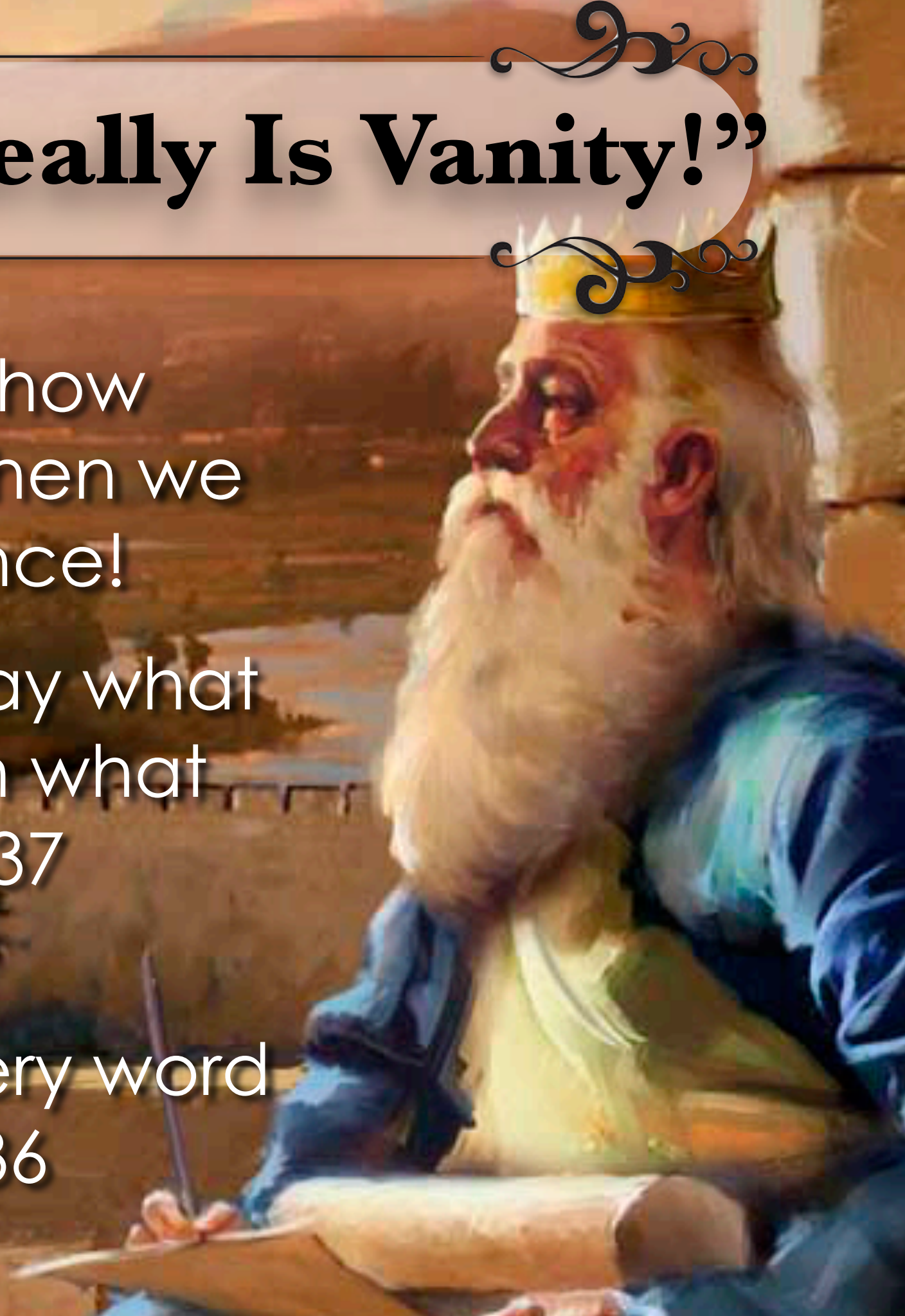
“Everything Really Is Vanity!”

- JESUS and what He gives makes LIFE worth LIVING!



“Everything Really Is Vanity!”

- God DEMANDS we show proper reverence when we come into His presence!
- God demands we say what we mean and mean what we say! — Mat 5:33-37
- We will be held accountable for every word — Prov. 6:2; Mat 12:36



Luke 12:13–21 (NKJV)

¹³ Then one from the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ But He said to him, “Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵ And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

Luke 12:13–21 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Then He spoke a parable to them, saying:
“The ground of a certain rich man yielded
plentifully. ¹⁷ And he thought within himself,
saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room
to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ So he said, ‘I will do
this: I will pull down my barns and build
greater, and there I will store all my crops and
my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, “Soul,
you have many goods laid up for many years;
take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry.” ’

Luke 12:13–21 (NKJV)

²⁰ But God said to him, ‘Fool!

This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ ²¹ “So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”