


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”: — **Ecclesiastes 12:1 (NKJV)**

A person with short grey hair, wearing a green and white checkered shirt, is seen from behind, sitting in a wheelchair and looking out a large window. The window has a wooden frame and is flanked by patterned curtains. Bright light is coming through the window, creating a strong backlight effect. The person's hands are resting on the wheelchair's armrests.

REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR

Before the difficult days come

Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8



REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR

🌀 Life is frequently **disappointing, unfair, oppressive, tragic,** and seemingly **without point or meaning.**

🌀 Secularism, the predominate world view of our day, calls for active human-led solutions to the human condition mentioned in Ecclesiastes.

REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR

in the days of your youth

- ❖ The last two chapters of Ecclesiastes emphasize the need to INVEST our resources, time, efforts, & abilities toward that which will LAST instead of towards things that will PERISH (12:7)
- ❖ God will hold us all accountable to our PURPOSE in the end. (12:13,14)



Ecclesiastes 11:9–12:8 (NKJV)

⁹ Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment. ¹⁰ Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, And put away evil from your flesh, For childhood and youth *are* vanity. 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”: ² While the sun and the light, The moon and the stars, Are not darkened, And the clouds do not return after the rain;

Ecclesiastes 11:9–12:8 (NKJV)

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; 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. 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.

Ecclesiastes 11:9–12:8 (NKJV)

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

⁸ “Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher,
“*All is vanity.*”

REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR

“LIFE UNDER THE SUN”

- ❁ This world, and all that is visible and experiential in it, **MUST** be viewed through the lens of the **CREATOR**.
- ❁ To view the things in this world properly, we must also have a **correct understanding** of the **CREATOR**.



REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR

REJOICE IN YOUR YOUTH (11:9-10)



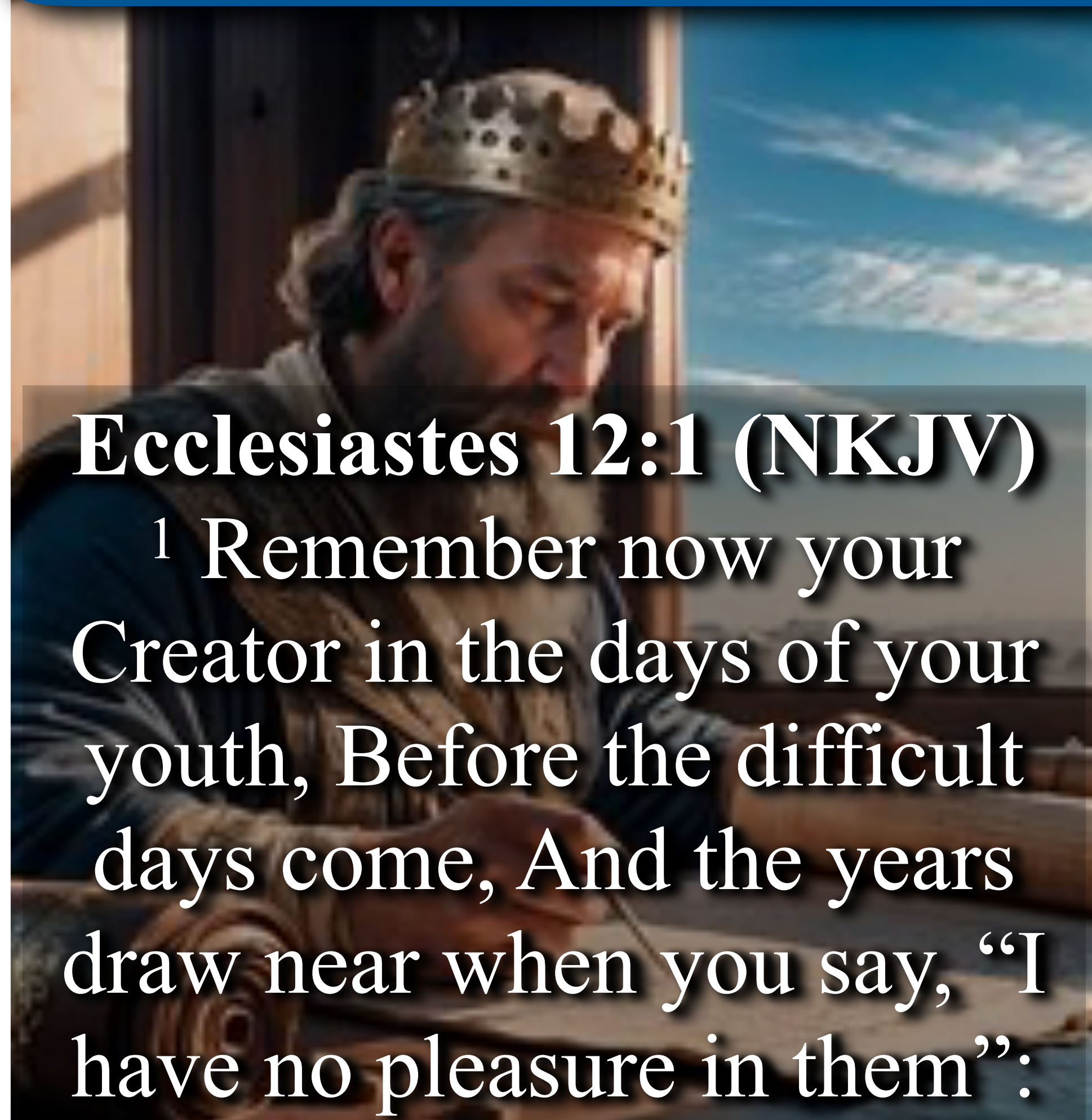
Ecclesiastes 11:9 (NKJV)

⁹ ... Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment.

**If God's will
governs our desires
& goals then joy
will be the result of
our labor & efforts**
Philippians 4:4-14

REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR

THE FUNDAMENTAL ADMONITION (12:1A)



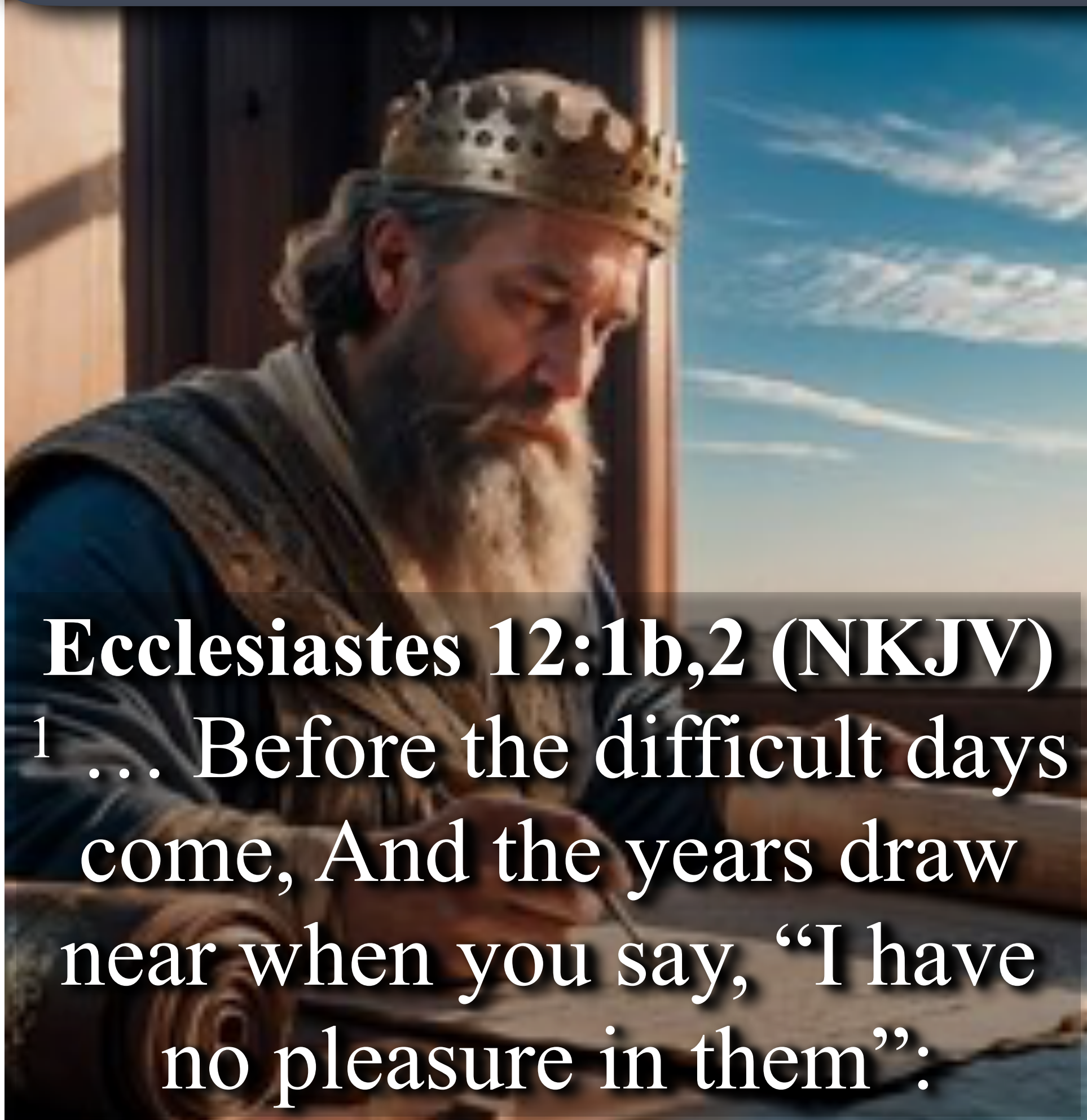
Ecclesiastes 12:1 (NKJV)

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”:

- **Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth**
- ▶ Will we squander the days of our strength? Or will we give God the best of our youth?
- ▶ The time of strength and opportunity will SOON come to an end!

REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR

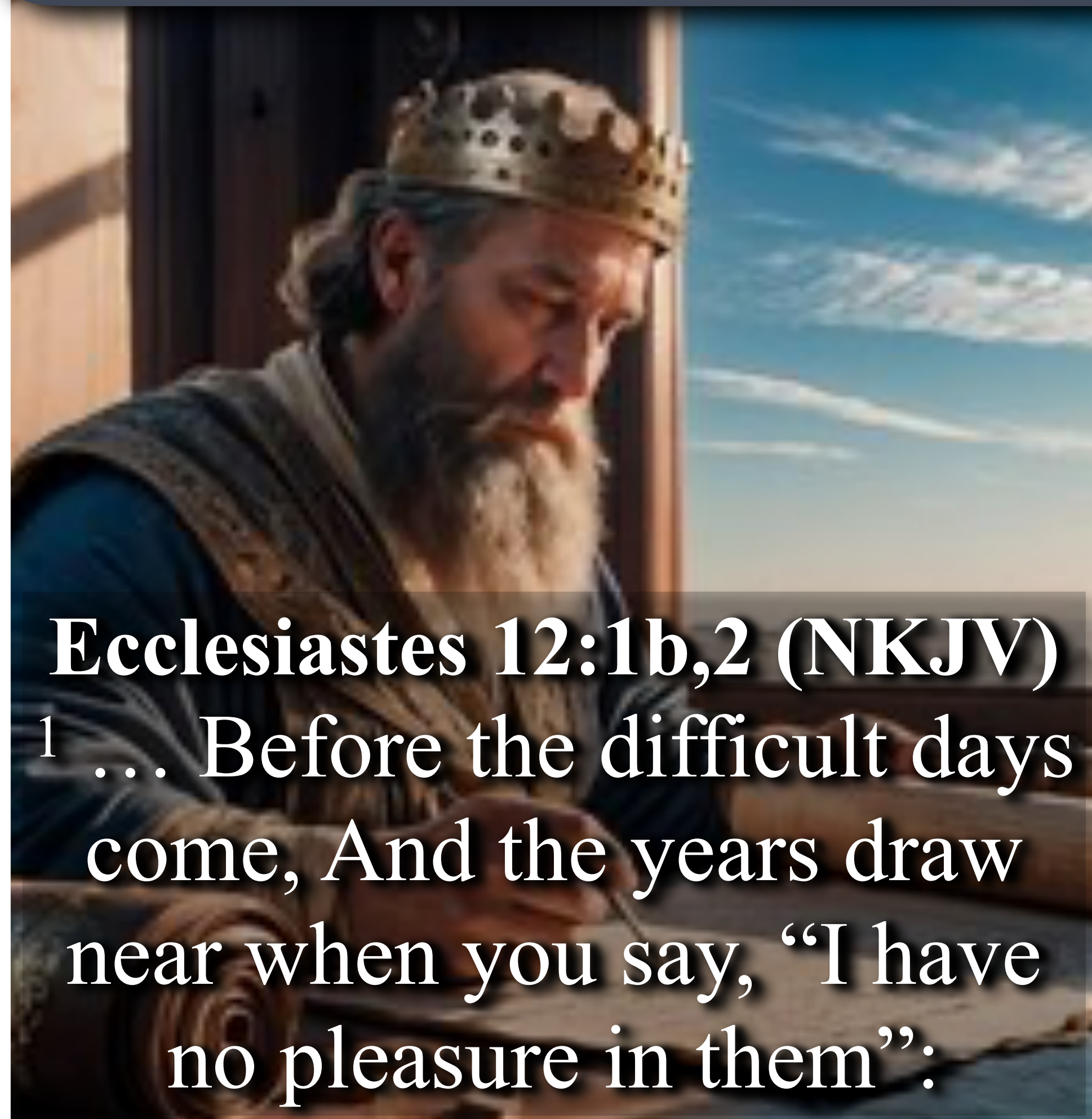
THE TIME OF OLD AGE (12:1B-7)



- **General Description (12:1b–2)**
 - ▶ The reference is to the grievances, inconveniences and afflictions of old age.
 - ▶ As time marches on the difficult days outnumber the good days. Bad days become bad years ...
 - ▶ Older people no longer find pleasure as easy to come by.

REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR

THE TIME OF OLD AGE (12:1B-7)



Ecclesiastes 12:1b,2 (NKJV)

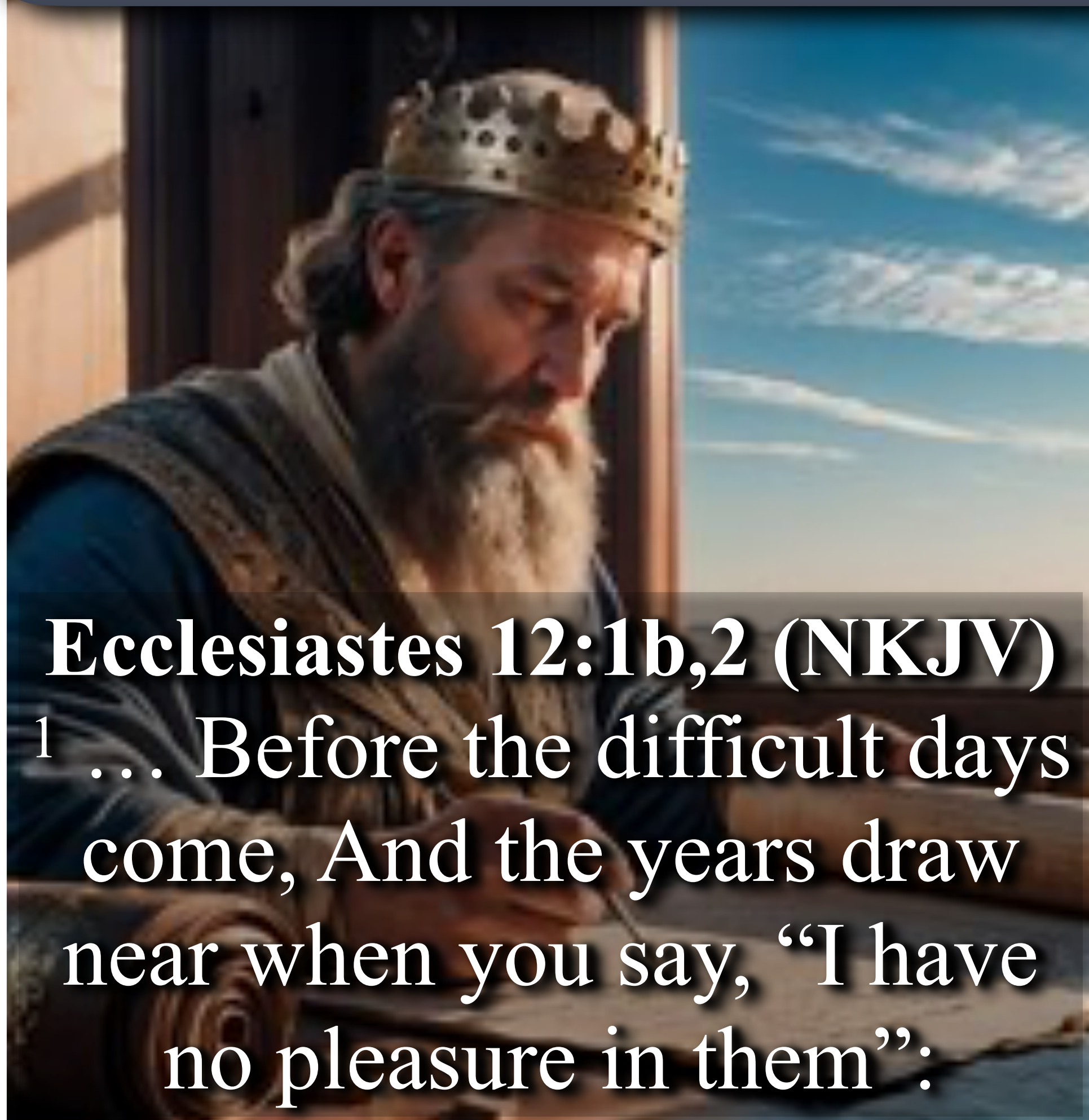
¹ ... Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, “I have no pleasure in them”:

■ General Description (12:1b–2)

- ▶ NO PLEASURE - Especially, if one hasn't chosen to serve God,
- ▶ The “golden years” can turn out to be very depressing.
- ▶ We cannot be ungodly and selfish in our, 20's, 30's, & 40's, and expect to happily enjoy the final years of our lives on earth.

REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR

THE TIME OF OLD AGE (12:1B-7)



■ General Description (12:1b–2)

- ▶ “The following **metaphors** all describe the deterioration of the body as old age comes on” (Garrett p. 341).
- ▶ Our productiveness might end a good number of years prior to our actual death. How long will we be productive?

REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR

THE TIME OF OLD AGE (12:1B-7)



Ecclesiastes 12:1b,2 (NKJV)

2 While the sun and the light, The moon and the stars, Are not darkened, And the clouds do not return after the rain;

■ General Description (12:1b-2)

- ▶ The picture is of darkened days - not just the loss of sight, but the loss of effectiveness, of vitality -
- ▶ Symbolic of trouble. “one storm succeeds another” (P. P. Comm. p. 297). - old age brings one complication or problem after another.

REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR

THE TIME OF OLD AGE (12:1B-7)



■ The Infirmities of Old Age (12:3–5)

- ▶ **“the keepers of the house shall tremble.”** (3) - metaphor for the hands / arms - they tremble.
- ▶ **“The men of power shall bow themselves.”** (3) — a metaphor for the legs and backs, which become feeble and bent. Weakness replaces strength.

REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR

THE TIME OF OLD AGE (12:1B-7)



■ The Infirmities of Old Age (12:3–5)

- ▶ **“The grinders cease because they are few.”** (3) teeth fall out / eating becomes more difficult.
- ▶ **“those that look through the windows grow dim”** The eyes are impaired with age making it more difficult to enjoy the beauty of things or do things (3).

REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR

THE TIME OF OLD AGE (12:1B-7)



■ The Infirmities of Old Age (12:3–5)

- ▶ **“When the doors are shut in the streets” (4)** several possibilities — hearing (BKC / SMITH); Lips? (JFB); The most obvious appears to be difficulty of social interaction and activities.

REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR

THE TIME OF OLD AGE (12:1B-7)



■ The Infirmities of Old Age (12:3–5)

- ▶ **“The sound of grinding is low; When one rises up at the sound of a bird,” (4)**
weakening of physical senses and productivity, and the lightness of sleep associated with aging.

REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR

THE TIME OF OLD AGE (12:1B-7)



■ The Infirmities of Old Age (12:3–5)

▶ **“All the daughters of music are brought low” (4)**

sensory functions
associated with hearing
and enjoying music
diminish with age.

REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR

THE TIME OF OLD AGE (12:1B-7)



■ The Infirmities of Old Age (12:3–5)

▶ **“Also they are afraid of height,
And of terrors in the way” (5)**

symbolizes the fears and physical frailties of the elderly, who become apprehensive of high places and the dangers of life's journey.

REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR

THE TIME OF OLD AGE (12:1B-7)



■ The Infirmities of Old Age (12:3–5)

- ▶ **When the almond tree blossoms (5)** hair turns white due to age.
- ▶ **The grasshopper is a burden (5)** small chores feel like carrying a heavy load.
- ▶ **And desire fails (5)** waning of sexual desire and enjoyable activities.

REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR

THE TIME OF OLD AGE (12:1B-7)

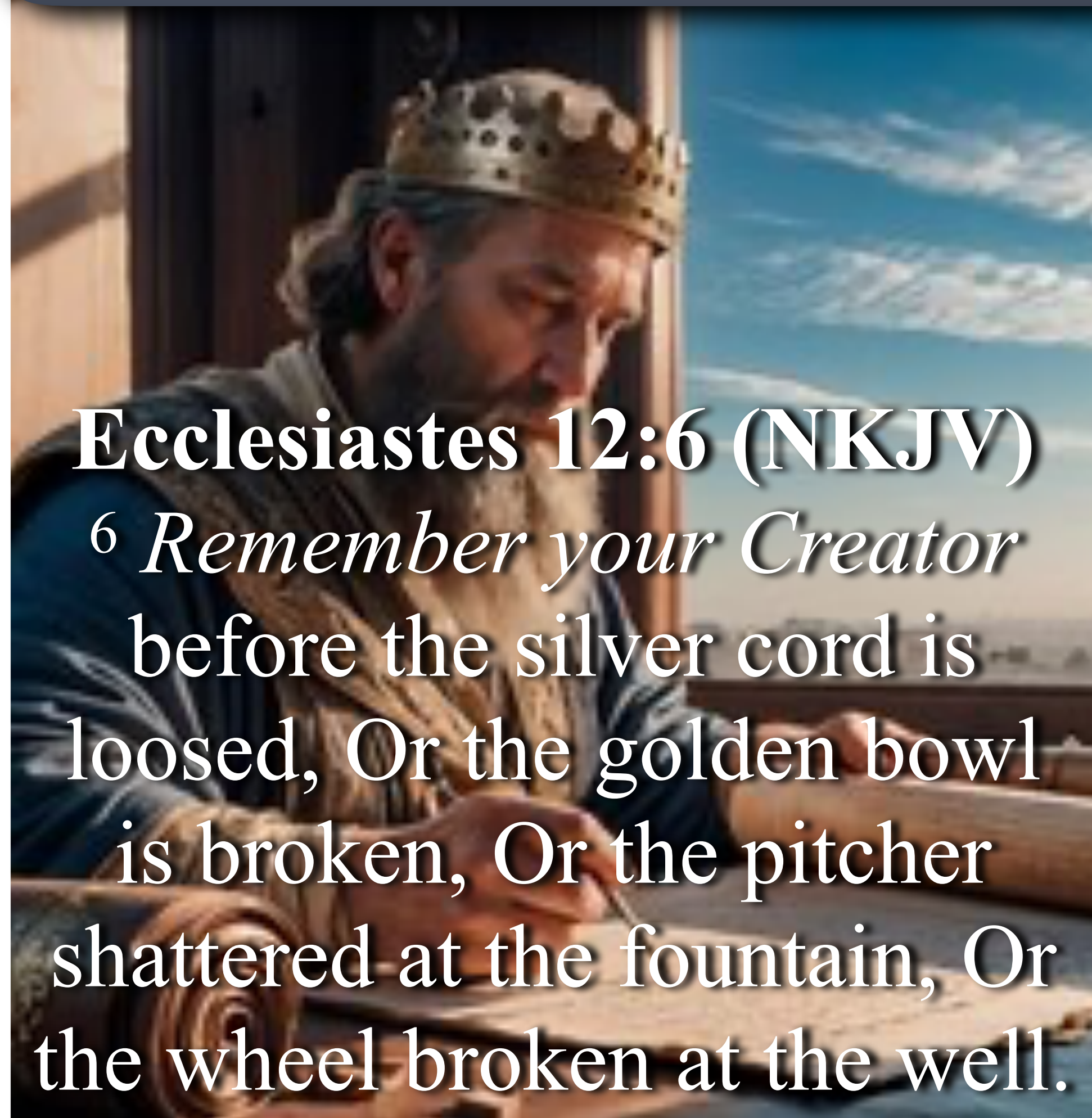


■ The Infirmities of Old Age (12:3–5)

- ▶ Aged Christians confined to their home or care facility can feel isolated from the world and other believers.
- ▶ The time to serve God is NOW!
- ▶ “For man goes to his eternal home, And the mourners go about the streets.” — 12:5c

REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR

THE TIME OF OLD AGE (12:1B-7)

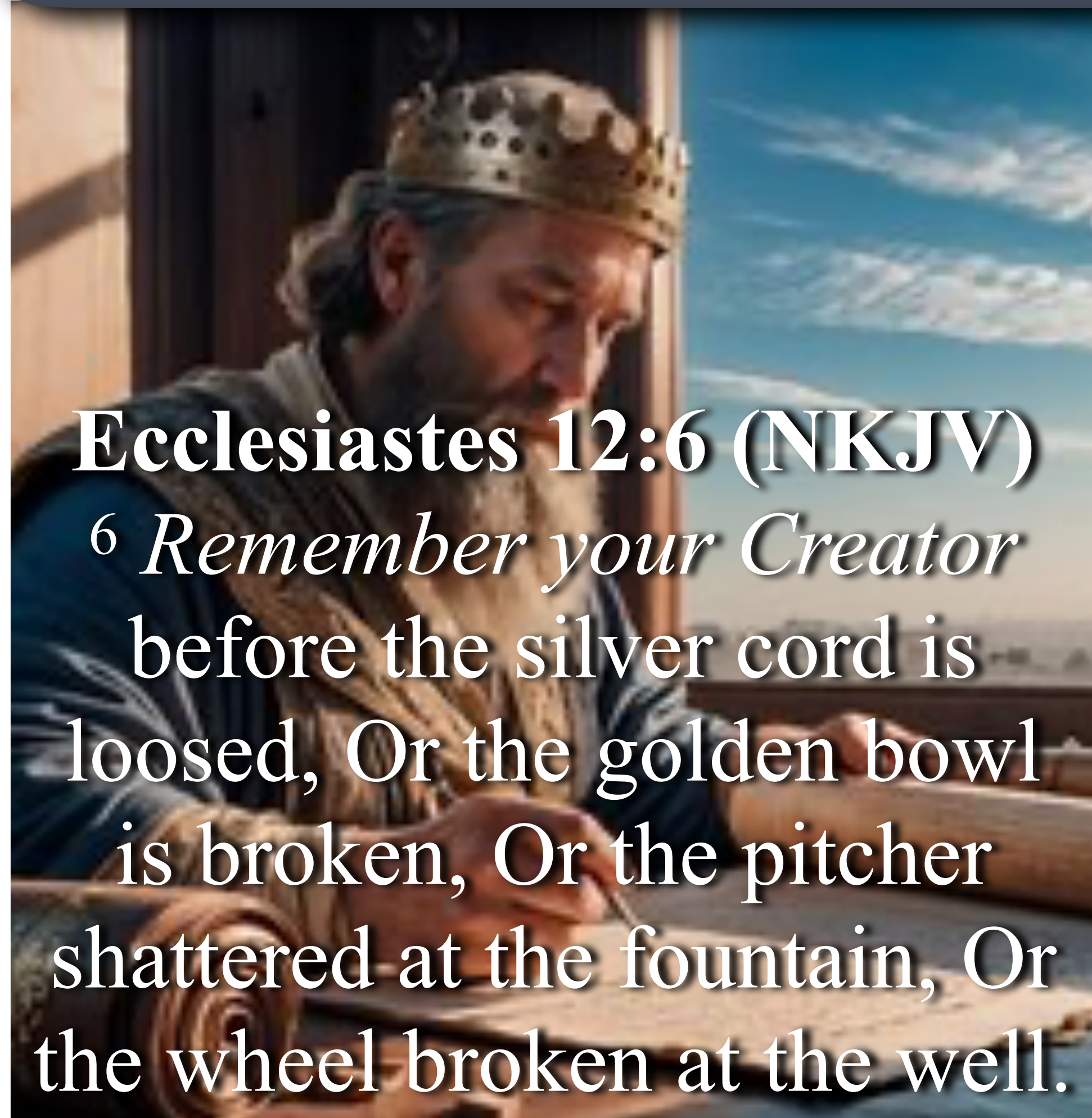


■ The Finality of Death (12:6)

- ▶ **“silver cord, and golden bowl”** — the reservoir of oil in a lamp - When broken the light is extinguished and bowl (body) broken.
- ▶ **“pitcher by the well”** — is easily broken - Man’s life is not only precious, it is fragile.

REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR

THE TIME OF OLD AGE (12:1B-7)



■ The Finality of Death (12:6)

- ▶ “The wheel broken at the well”
(6) The apparatus for drawing water, a wheel, rope, and bucket is broken and falls into the well, the bucket is dashed to pieces, and no water can be drawn / the breaking of life-sustaining organs.

REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR

THE TIME OF OLD AGE (12:1B-7)

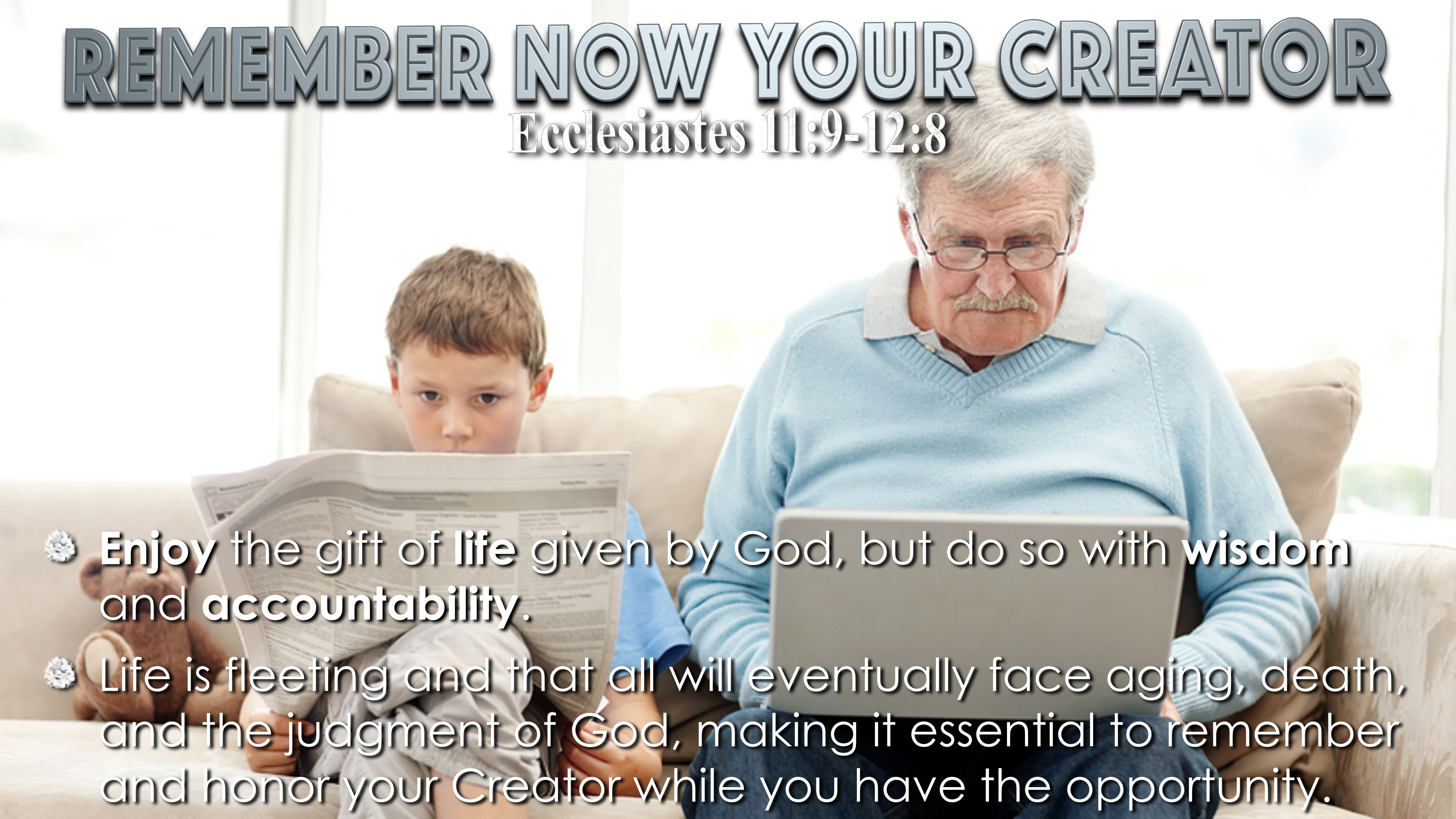


Ecclesiastes 12:7–8 (NKJV)

⁷ Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it. ⁸ “Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher, “All is vanity.”

REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR

Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8


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- A young boy and an elderly man are sitting on a light-colored couch in front of a large window. The boy, on the left, is holding a newspaper and looking directly at the camera. The elderly man, on the right, is wearing glasses and a blue sweater, looking down at a laptop on his lap. A teddy bear is visible on the left side of the couch.
- **Enjoy** the gift of **life** given by God, but do so with **wisdom** and **accountability**.
 - Life is fleeting and that all will eventually face aging, death, and the judgment of God, making it essential to remember and honor your Creator while you have the opportunity.

REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR

Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8

2 Corinthians 6:2 (NKJV)

2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

A group of people are seen from behind, embracing each other on a grassy hill. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow that fills the sky and the scene. The people are silhouetted against the bright light.

REMEMBER NOW YOU CREATOR

in the days of your youth

Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8



Sunday evening lesson live stream
4:00 PM ^{CDT} September 14, 2025



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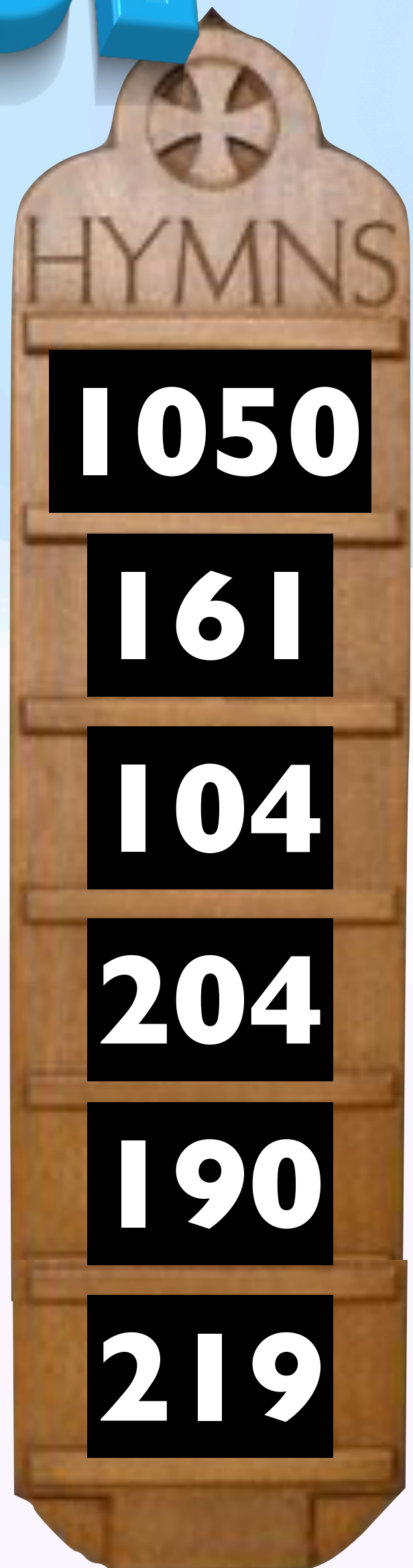
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REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR

Before the difficult days come

Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8



1050

161

104

204

190

219

2 Chronicles 34:1–7 (NKJV)

¹ Josiah *was* eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. ² And he did *what was* right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the ways of his father David; *he* did *not* turn aside to the right hand or to the left. ³ For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images. ⁴ They broke down the altars of the Baals in his presence,

2 Chronicles 34:1–7 (NKJV)

and the incense altars which *were* above them he cut down; and the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images he broke in pieces, and made dust of them and scattered *it* on the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. ⁵ He also burned the bones of the priests on their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem. ⁶ And *so he did* in the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, and Simeon, as far as Naphtali and all around, with axes. ⁷ When he had broken down the altars and the wooden images, had beaten the carved images into powder, and cut down all the incense altars throughout all the land of Israel, he returned to Jerusalem.