

Fact Sheet for **“Remember Your Creator Now!”**
Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

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The longest currently documented human lifespan is that of Jeanne Calment of France (1875–1997), who lived to the age of 122 years, 164 days. She met Vincent van Gogh when she was 12 or 13. The longest undisputed lifespan for a man is that of Jiroemon Kimura of Japan (1897–2013), who died at age 116 years, 54 days. In contrast, Adam lived to the age of 930 (Genesis 5:5). These individuals all have something in common... they all grew old and died. Physical life, no matter how long we live, is just a vapor. We appear in history, and then we are gone. The question Solomon explores in Ecclesiastes is, “How should we live while we are here?” What should we value? What should we pursue? What should we enjoy?

We have come to the end of this book and Solomon sums up his thoughts with these words... figurative and poetic words...

^{ESV 1} **Remember also your Creator** (Serve Him faithfully. Serve Him responsibly.) **in the days of your youth** (Don't wait until you are old.), **before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, "I have no pleasure in them";**

Old age, and the physical decline that comes with it, is ahead for all of us, but how we live is now. Remember your Creator...

² **before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened** (diminishing joy {light} and increasing gloom {dark}) **and the clouds return after the rain** (Physical infirmities of old age and the approach of death are likened to recurring rainstorms.),

³ **in the day when the keepers of the house tremble** (The arms and the hands grow weak.), **and the strong men are bent** (legs grow bent and feeble), **and the grinders cease because they are few** (teeth), **and those who look through the windows are dimmed** (eyes),

⁴ **and the doors on the street are shut-- when the sound of the grinding is low** (The lips sink in due to the loss of teeth.), **and one rises up at the sound of a bird** (The aged get up early as they have increasing trouble sleeping.), **and all the daughters of song are brought low** (hearing)—

⁵ **they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way** (The lack of balance and vigor that makes older people afraid to venture out.); **the almond tree blossoms** (The almond tree has a white blossom picturing the hair turning white.), **the grasshopper drags itself along** (People who were once quick are now slow.), **and desire fails** (literally “the caperberry is ineffective”... The caperberry was used both to stimulate the palate and to excite sensual passion.), **because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets—**

Remember your Creator...

⁶ before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, ⁷ and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it (See Genesis 2:7; 3:19).

Here's Solomon's point. Live for God now! Don't wait until you are old!

⁸ Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.

Physical life is a fleeting vapor.

⁹ ¶ Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care.

Remember what I have said several times... Much of Ecclesiastes is an arrangement of proverbs.

¹⁰ The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth. ¹¹ ¶ The words of the wise are like goads (A goad is a type of long stick with a pointed end used to spur or guide livestock.), and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings (They are a secure basis for living.); they are given by one Shepherd (This is a reference to God, and His care and concern for us.).

¹² My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

This verse *does not* mean that people should not study hard, or publish. This verse *does* mean that God's wisdom, found in the Bible, should be the foundational template for our lives, and we should evaluate everything else by its light.

Solomon now ends this book with two very memorable verses.

¹³ ¶ The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. ¹⁴ ¶ For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Read these verses again slowly.

Wait a minute! Aren't all of our sins (past, present, and future) forgiven in Christ? Are we still subject to God's judgment? Does this mean we may lose our salvation? Yes, we are still subject to God's judgment (Romans 14:10-12; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10). No, we will not lose our salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Think back over this chapter. How are you doing? Do you wake up every morning thinking about God. Do you go to bed at night with Him on your mind? Do you live each moment in the fear of the Lord?