

LEAVING AN INHERITANCE

The phrase, Under the Sun, is used 28 times in Ecclesiastes. It is used four times in our lesson text: (Eccl.2:18, 19, 20, and 22).

Under the Sun describes the believer's activities covering his life span. This is the hyphen between birth and death on a tomb stone. (born – died)

However, Solomon used the phrase 'Under the Sun' to describe several activities or aspects of his life while in reversionism (back-slider) (Prov.14:14). NOTE: Do a 'Key Word' search on 'Reversionism' on our website.

One of these reversionistic activities of life was related to his success in the business world which he called labor.

The Hebrew word for work or labor or toil is amal. It is used 10 times in our lesson text. It is used in every verse at least once.

Today's lesson will study five aspects of Solomon's dilemma resulting from his success in the business world, which was "Leaving an Inheritance" to those who would follow.

1. We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following four homiletical points.

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|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| • Fruit of labor | (Eccl.2:18-20) | Positive but vanity problem |
| • Future of labor | (Eccl.2:21) | Posterity but vanity problem |
| • Frustration of labor | (Eccl.2:22, 20) | Profit but vanity problem |
| • Futility of labor | (Eccl.2:23) | Painful and vanity problem |

2. Solomon addressed his great dilemma with two questions related to his success and leaving an Inheritance.

- **First Question:** "And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the fruits of my labor for which I have labored by acting wisely **under the sun**. **This too is vanity.**" (Eccl.2:19)

"Thus I hated all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored **under the sun**, for I must leave it to the man who will come after me." (Eccl.2:18)

- **Second question:** "For what does a man get in all his labor and in his striving with which he labored **under the sun**?" (Eccl.2:22)

"When there is a man who has labored with wisdom, knowledge, and skill, then he gives his legacy (cheleq) [possessions from achievements] to one who has not labored with them. **This too is vanity and a great evil.**" (Eccl.2:21)

3. Solomon is dealing with the Adamic curse of employment as a reversionistic believer.

He describes the Adamic curse in terms of a reversionistic believer in Eccl.2:23 – "Because all his days his task is painful and grievous; even at night his mind does not rest. **This too is vanity.**"

The Adamic curse is recorded in Gen.3:17-19. We will examine the Adamic curse by the following four homiletical points. “Cursed is the ground because of you.”

- Toil (Gen.3:17) Days (all his days) (Eccl.2:23)
- Thorns and thistles (Gen.3:18) Difficulty (painful and grievous)
- Tiresome (Gen.3:19a) Duress (even at night his mind does not rest) (Job 7:1-4)
- **Taken** (Gen.3:19b) Dust (who knows whether he will be wise or a fool?) (Eccl.2:19)

It was the “**taken**” part of the Adamic curse that Solomon was struggling with at this place in his life.

4. It was the success of the “taken” part of the Adamic curse of employment that depressed Solomon.

“Therefore I completely (sabab / kal pf) [new direction] despaired (yaash / piel infin) of all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored **under the sun.**” (Eccl.2:20)

Like Job, Solomon understood the dust factor of the “taken” part:

(Job 1:21) “**Naked** I came from my mother’s womb, and **naked** I shall return to there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.”

(Eccl.5:15) “As he had come **naked** from his mother’s womb, so will he return as he came. He will take nothing from the fruit of his labor that he can carry in his hand.”

(Ps.49:16-17) “Do not be afraid when a man becomes rich, when the glory of his house increased; for when he dies he will carry nothing away; his glory will not descend after him.”

(1 Tim.6:7) “For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.”

5. Solomon despaired over who would be worthy to leave in control of his inheritance:

(Eccl.2:19) “Who knows whether he will be a wise man or fool? Yet he will have control over all the fruit of my labor for which I have labored by acting wisely **under the sun.** This too is **vanity.**”

The prodigal son of Luke 15:12-14 shows that leaving it to a fool can be a real problem.

Jesus warned us about **greed and inheritance** in Luke 12:13-14:

“Teacher, tell my brother to divide the **family inheritance** with me. And He said to him, ‘Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbiter over you?’ And He said to them, ‘Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed, for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.’”

After his death, Solomon’s two sons fought over it that resulted in a civil war that divided the kingdom (Rehoboam / southern tribes) and (Jeroboam / northern tribes). This was part of the divine discipline for Solomon’s life of reversionism (1 Kings 11:1-40).

Inheritance principles

“A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children.” (Prov.13:22)

“House and wealth are an **inheritance** from fathers, but a **prudent wife** is from the Lord.” (Prov.19:14)