

1564.

Great Chapters
Ecclesiastes XI. 9 - XII

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GREAT CHAPTERS.

ECCLESIASTES. XI.9--XII.

INTRODUCTION.

This is the final section of the Book.

It contains the corrective to the false philosophy of Life which has been described.

The Book as a whole.

"Ecclesiastes" we owe to the LXX - One of the Ecclesia.

It was the translation of the Hebrew Koheleth.

This word occurs nowhere else in the Old Testament.

"Preacher" was Luther's translation, and misses the significance.

The best rendering would be DEBATER.

The whole Movement up to this final section is that of a discussion of Life when it is wholly conditioned on the earthly level.

"Under the sun" 29 times.

"Under heaven" twice.

The Debater declares that such life is VANITY. 33 times. Hebel ~ Abel.

The Key to this last section is found in xii.13.

A.V. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter."

R.V. "This is the end of the matter- all hath been heard."

"Fear God and keep His commandments!"

The Scheme of this Section.

A. General Counsel to Youth concerning Life. XI.9-XII.7

B. Epilogue. XII.8-12.

C. The final Finding. XII.13.14.

(1)

A. GENERAL COUNSEL TO YOUTH. XI.9-XII.7.

I. "Rejoice" xi.9.10.

i. Key-note. "Rejoice".

Brighten up. Be blithe, gleesome merry.

ii. Reason. "In thy Youth". Not during it- but in the fact of it.-

iii. Activity. Let life express itself.

iv. Safeguard. "God--Judgment!"

"Mishpât."

v. The Method. Remove Sorrow, i.e. Vexation. Worry. Put away evil.

II. "Remember". XII.1-7.

i. "Thy Creator". Intensive Plural.

Bârâ. Gen i.1.

The Originator of Being.

ii. "The Days of Youth."

← ~ ~ iii. Contrast of Old Age.

iv. The End. Dust. To Earth.

The Spirit. To God.

Gr. iii. 21.

The whole Conception being that if God be remembered in the days of strength the years of earthly decay are incidental, and indeed transfigured.

(2)

B. EPILOGUE. XII.8-12. (Cf John XX.30.31)

I. The Debater's first Finding. { 8.
Cf ~ I.2

II. The Debater's further Work. 9.10.

III. Comment. 11.12.

C. THE FINAL FINDING. 13.14.

I. "Fear God." *Personal. Essential.*
Prov. 2:7. "Chief thing". 14:16. "Just thing"
Vij-13. "To hate evil."
Xiv. 27. "A fountain of life."

II. "Keep His Commandments". *The Sequence*

III. "THE WHOLE OF MAN".