

The Happiness Code

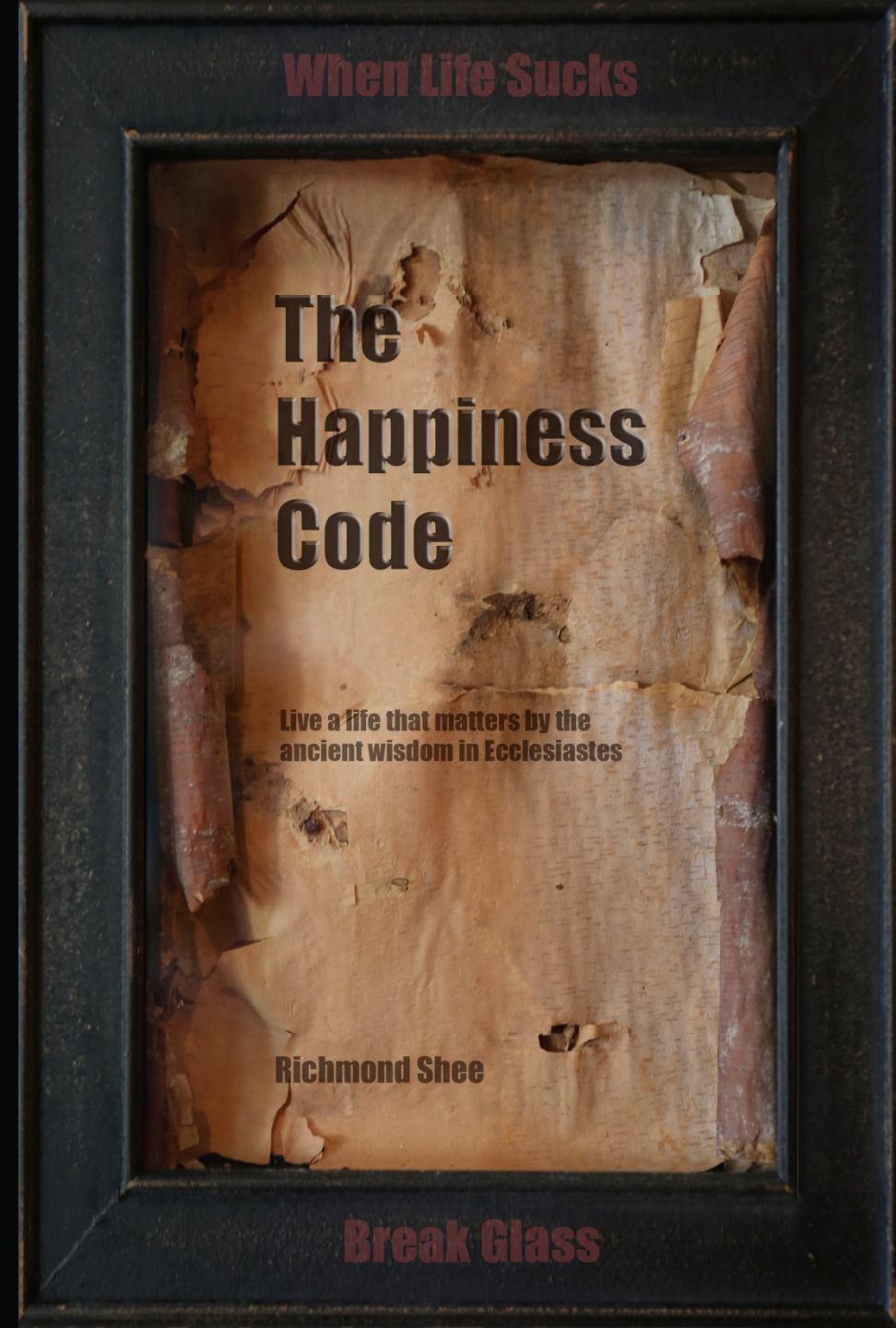
Week 3 – Vanity of Knowledge

Ecclesiastes 1:13-18



Recap from Week #1 and #2:

- Mankind is in the vanity of vanities—a place void of happiness. You don't have to believe it, but you will certainly feel the pain of emptiness.
- This truth is modeled by mortality, sun, wind, and river. Humans can labor all they want, but are no closer to happiness.
- It is IMPOSSIBLE for the human creature to be content and happy without Jesus Christ because the eyes and ears are never satisfied and failing memory causes the creature to repeat the same failed practices.

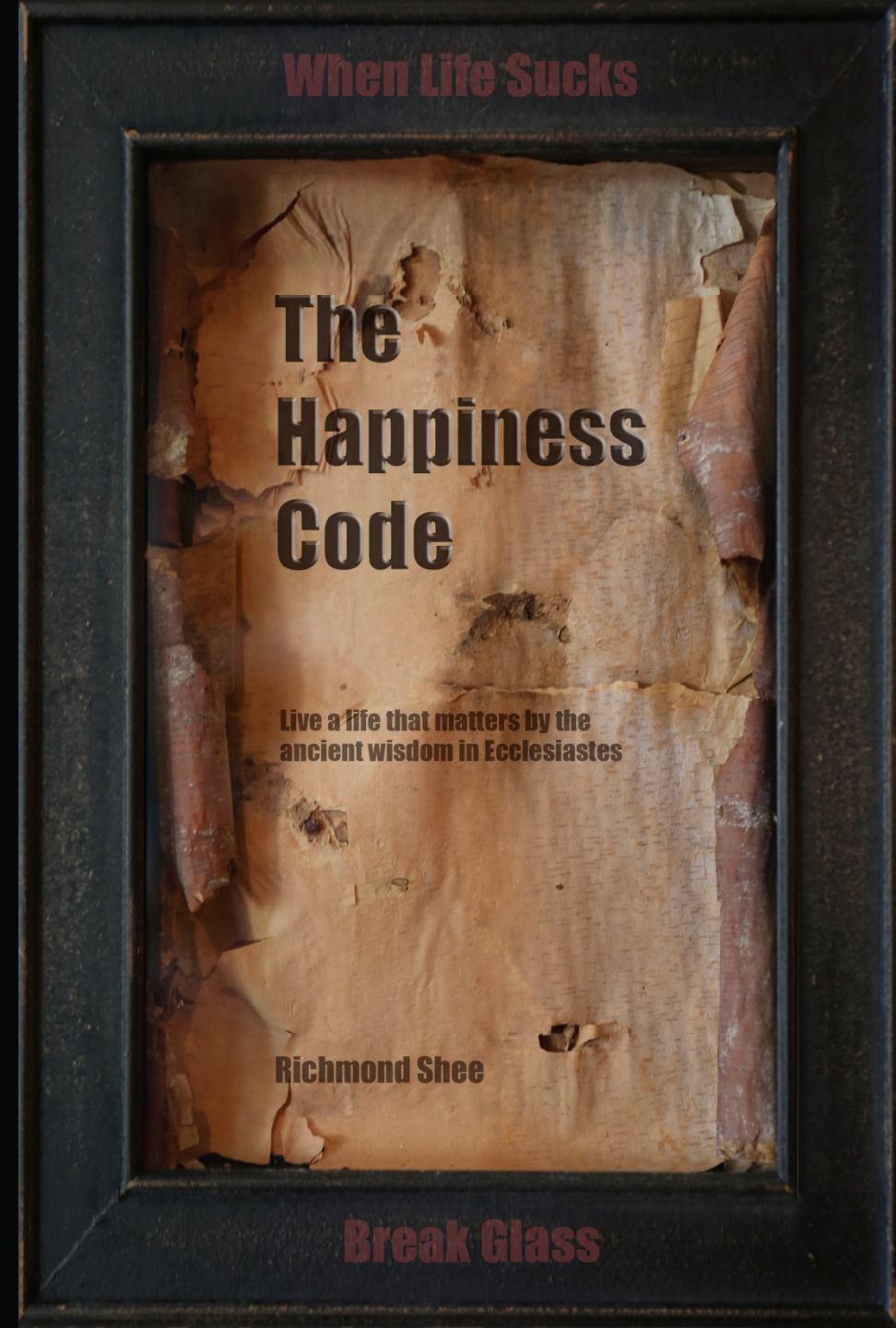


Recap from Week #2:

Witness	Fixed Circuit	Short Circuit	Zero-gain Laborious Circuit	Message
Mortality	Birth. . . .Death	"One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever."	Life is laborious, yet can take nothing away.	Life is short.
Sun	East. . . . West	"The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down..."	"...and hasteth to his place where he arose" – laborious. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Back to square one – no closer to happiness.	Life is restless.
Wind	North. . . . South	"The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north..."	"...it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits" – laborious. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Back to square one – no closer to happiness.	Life is uncertain.
River	Headwater. .Sea	"All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full..."	"...unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again" – laborious. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Back to square one – no closer to happiness.	Life is unfulfilling.

Checkpoint...

- What are you going to do now based on the illumination in the last 2 weeks?
 - a) Business as usual—continue to live for self.
 - b) Still not convinced and need more data.
 - c) Find out how to get involve in serving God.
- The profit of knowledge is not in gathering data, but is in the application of knowledge. It is in your proper response to God's truth.

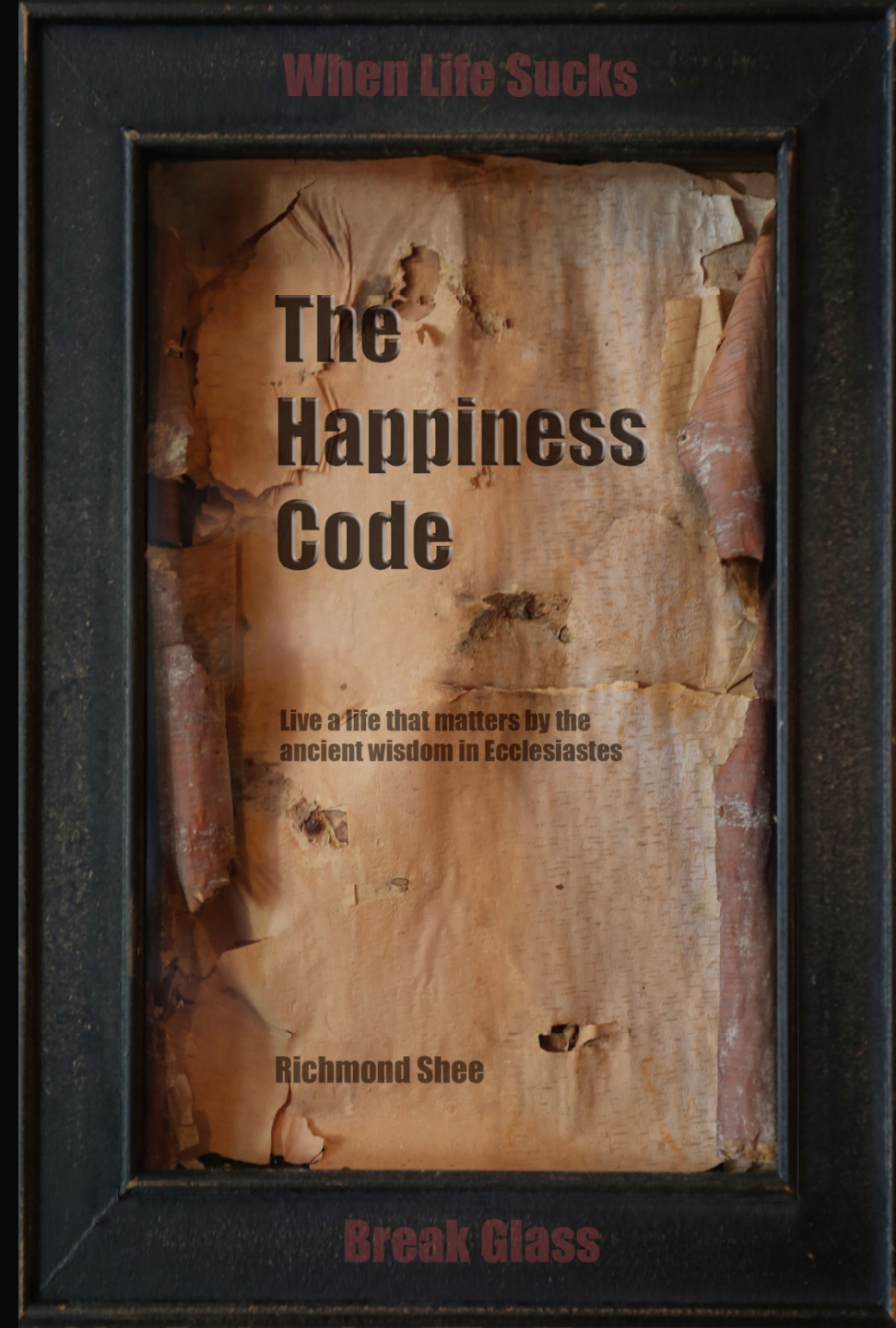


Week #3: Level Set

I don't believe this is the vanity of vanities.

I don't believe the 4 witnesses of God.

Last 2 weeks were philosophical
(proclamation and testimonies), but I want
to see empirical proofs.

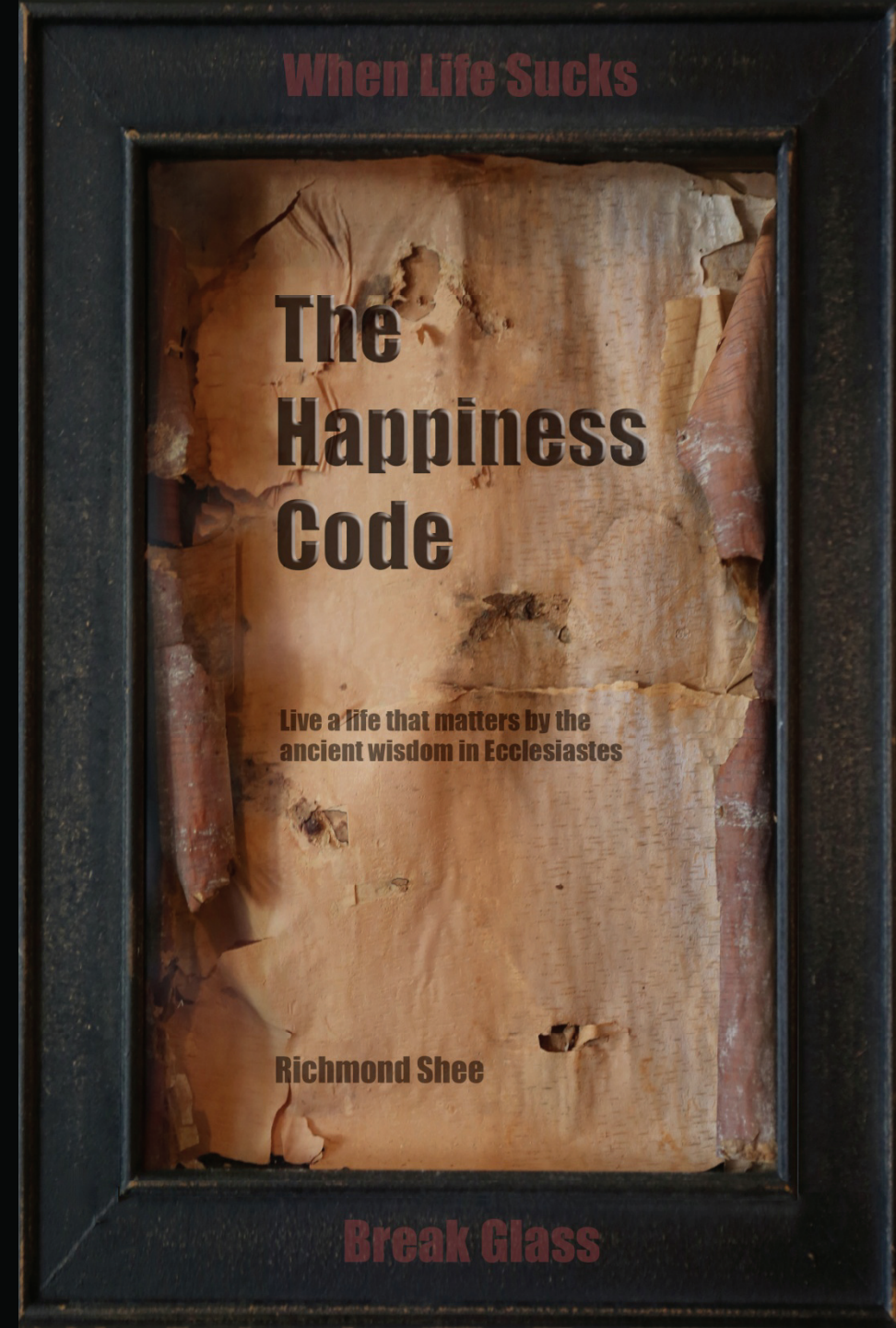


Week #3: Level Set

If you were a me-monster...

What is the main sought-after thing for happiness?

Surprisingly, the answer is not money, possession, power, or vices. It is.....



Week #3: Level Set

I rely on intellectual prowess for happiness.

Happiness belongs to the learned.



**KNOWLEDGE
IS POWER**
Your Education Is Your Passport

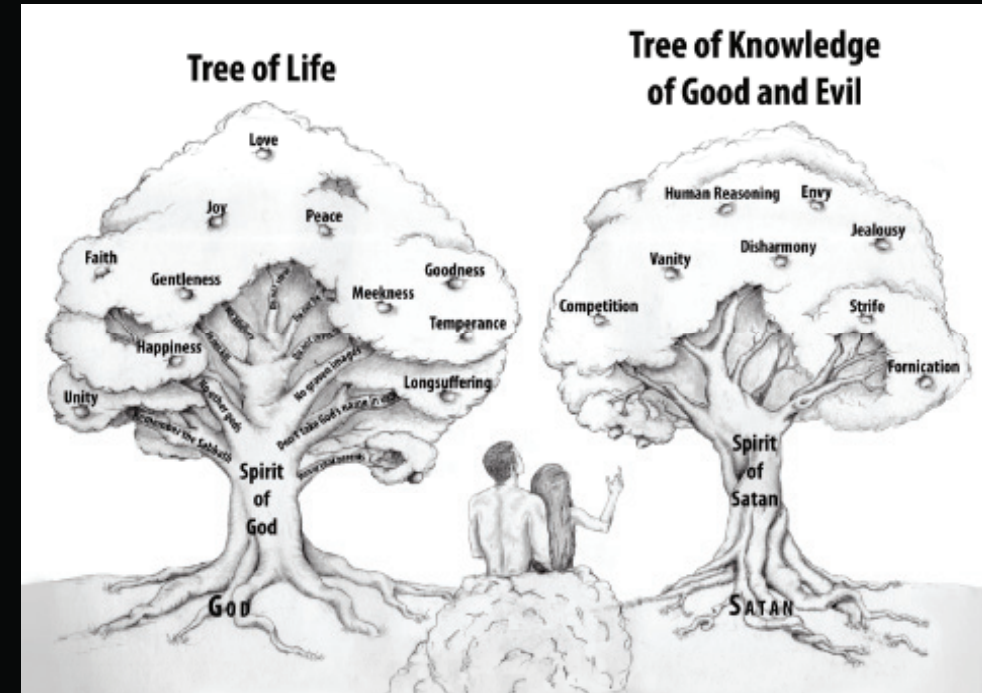


Week #3: Level Set

Knowledge is the main sought-after thing for happiness, because our first parents coveted the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.



Week #3: Vanity of Knowledge

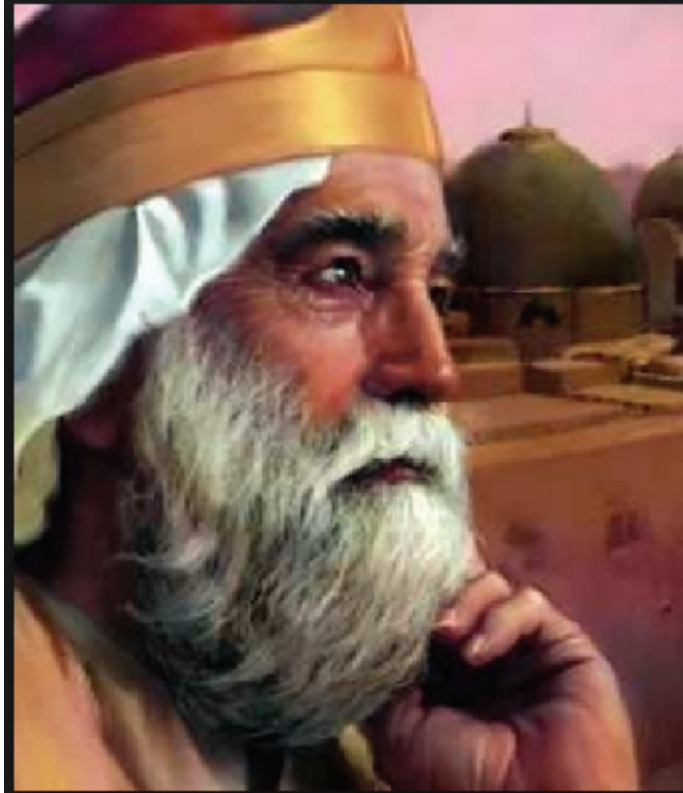
There is a strange problem with knowledge and skills.

The more you have, the more miserable you are. Thanks to them, you are in high demand with a full calendar, non-stop conference calls, hundreds of emails a day, text messages, and phones ringing off the hook.

Weren't you happier, with more time to enjoy life when you were less knowledgeable and skillful?

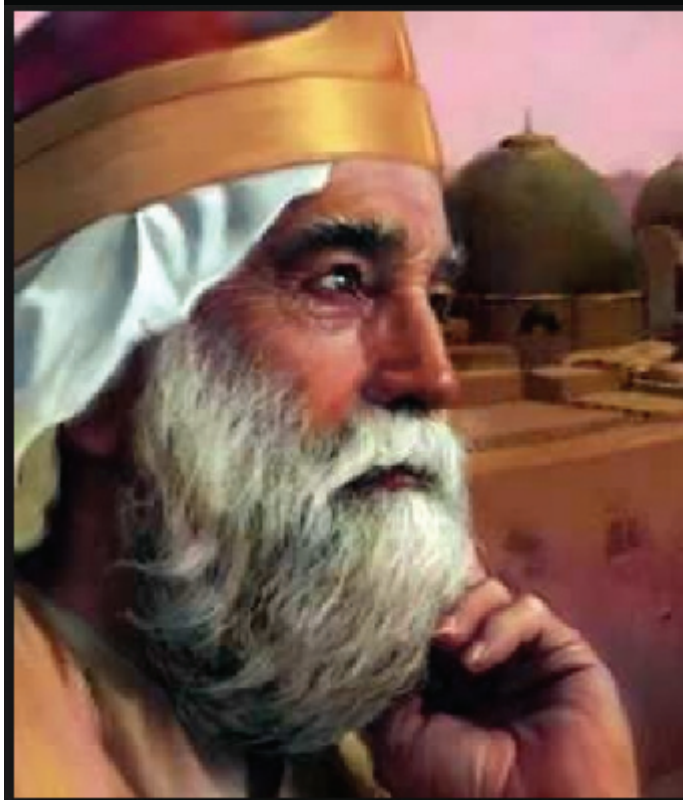


Ecc 1:13 And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith.



- Mind-blowing task of learning everything there is to learn about human earthly pursuits of happiness.
Pr 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter. 3 The heaven for height, and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings is unsearchable.
- Only Solomon had the wisdom and resources to do so.
- A multi-year royal project authorized and led by the king himself, with full priority, funding, and focus.
- Jerusalem was the Ivy League center of learning and the rendezvous of academic and political elites.
- Solomon's learning was guided by wisdom because cognitive prowess without wisdom does not always lead to rational decisions.

Ecc 1:13 And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith.



- Knowledge didn't come easily to Solomon. All the in-depth fact findings, critical analyses, and examinations were very burdensome and wearisome.
- The getting of knowledge is by design a "sore travail" after Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit.
- Since then, the affliction of mankind is such that the desire for knowledge remains, but knowledge doesn't come easily and learning is tough. As bread is to the body, so is knowledge to the soul—"all things are full of labour."
- Learning the Bible is hard, but life is harder not knowing and living the Bible.

Ecc 1:14 I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit. (15) That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered.

The Illumination of Knowledge

- “All is vanity” – All self-serving works of happiness under the sun are vanity or empty.
- “And vexation of spirit” – Vexation of spirit is the result of laboring for something that doesn’t exist. All the labor is for nothing and it irritates, frustrates, and distresses the doer.
- Man’s ways of securing happiness are crooked and wanting.
- Education teaches the right way of doing things, but in practice, people cut corners because of sin.

The learned sees flaws everywhere.

Ecc 1:15 That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered.

The Short- Coming of Knowledge

- Solomon thought to reform the people with his wisdom (or intellect)—to make straight what he found crooked so that people could be on the right path to happiness.
- He discovered a corrupt human nature unfixable by any amount of human wisdom, doomed to a lifetime of hopelessness.
- The root cause of this problem is the wicked human heart.
Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?
- This is a spiritual issue, not fixable by knowledge. Only God can make straight that which is crooked. Isa 42:16 .

The learned is unable to fix corrupt human heart.

Ecc 1:16 I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all they that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge. (17) And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit.

The Vexation of Knowledge

- Solomon arrived at the highest pitch of knowledge.
- He truly mastered the application of knowledge. The word “Yea” underscores his great experience.
- His experience of wisdom and madness and folly was not superficial. Ecclesiastes 7:25 I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness.

The learned is frustrated by knowledge.

Ecc 1:18 For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.

The Vanity of Knowledge

- While knowledge is useful to individuals, it falls short of delivering happiness.
Proverbs 9:12a If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself.
- As one becomes more knowledgeable, the individual increases in sorrow instead of happiness.
- If you are banking on knowledge for happiness, you are rerunning an experiment that has been proven to disappoint.

The learned is grieved by knowledge.

Hello self-serving people,
Three of your dominoes (world, self,
knowledge) have fallen!

- If knowledge is all that makes and defines you, life has little satisfaction.
- What are you going to do for happiness now?



You have been illuminated to these truths:

1. Our felicity rests not in learning or intellectual capital. (We should obtain the vital degrees and professional certifications to make a better living.)
2. While knowledge unlocks worldly success and affords a better living, it comes short of delivering happiness. Why?
 - a) The illumination of knowledge
 - The more a person learns what's right, the more the person sees what's wrong and opportunity for improvements, resulting in dissatisfaction.
 - b) The short-coming of knowledge
 - People don't practice what they learn and cut corners, because of the wickedness of heart. This spiritual issue is unfixable by knowledge.
 - c) The vexation of knowledge
 - The learned is frustrated by knowledge.
 - d) The vanity of knowledge
 - The learned grieved by knowledge.