

The Wisdom of Solomon

- **Ecclesiastes 2:11** - “I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun”
- **Ecclesiastes 2:11 (LBLA)** 11 Consideré luego todas las obras que mis manos habían hecho y el trabajo en que me había empeñado, y he aquí, todo era vanidad y correr tras el viento, y sin provecho bajo el sol.

“the only book of the Bible
written on a Monday morning.”

- Ecclesiastes 4:1-3 (NASB) *1 Then I looked again at all the acts of oppression which were being done under the sun. And behold I saw the tears of the oppressed and that they had no one to comfort them; and on the side of their oppressors was power, but they had no one to comfort them. 2 So I congratulated the dead who are already dead more than the living who are still living. 3 But better off than both of them is the one who has never existed, who has never seen the evil activity that is done under the sun.*

- Genesis 1:31 (NASB) God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. and there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.
- Genesis 1:31 (LBLA) 31 Y vio Dios todo lo que había hecho, y he aquí que era bueno en gran manera. Y fue la tarde y fue la mañana: el sexto día.

- Romans 8:20-23 (NLT2) 20 Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, 21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. 22 For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.
- Romans 8:20-23 (LBLA) 20 Porque la creación fue sometida a vanidad, no de su propia voluntad, sino por causa de aquel que la sometió, en la esperanza 21 de que la creación misma será también liberada de la esclavitud de la corrupción a la libertad de la gloria de los hijos de Dios. 22 Pues sabemos que la creación entera a una gime y sufre dolores de parto hasta ahora. 23 Y no sólo ella, sino que también nosotros mismos, que tenemos las primicias del Espíritu, aun nosotros mismos gemimos en nuestro interior, aguardando ansiosamente la adopción como hijos, la redención de nuestro cuerpo.

The point of Ecclesiastes is to teach us that Life apart from God doesn't satisfy

- Ecclesiastes contrasts life “*under the sun*” with life “*under heaven.*”
- Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NIV2011) 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.
- Ecclesiastes 3:11 (LBLA) 11 El ha hecho todo apropiado a su tiempo. También ha puesto la eternidad en sus corazones, sin embargo el hombre no descubre la obra que Dios ha hecho desde el principio y hasta el fin.



DELL' TROLO



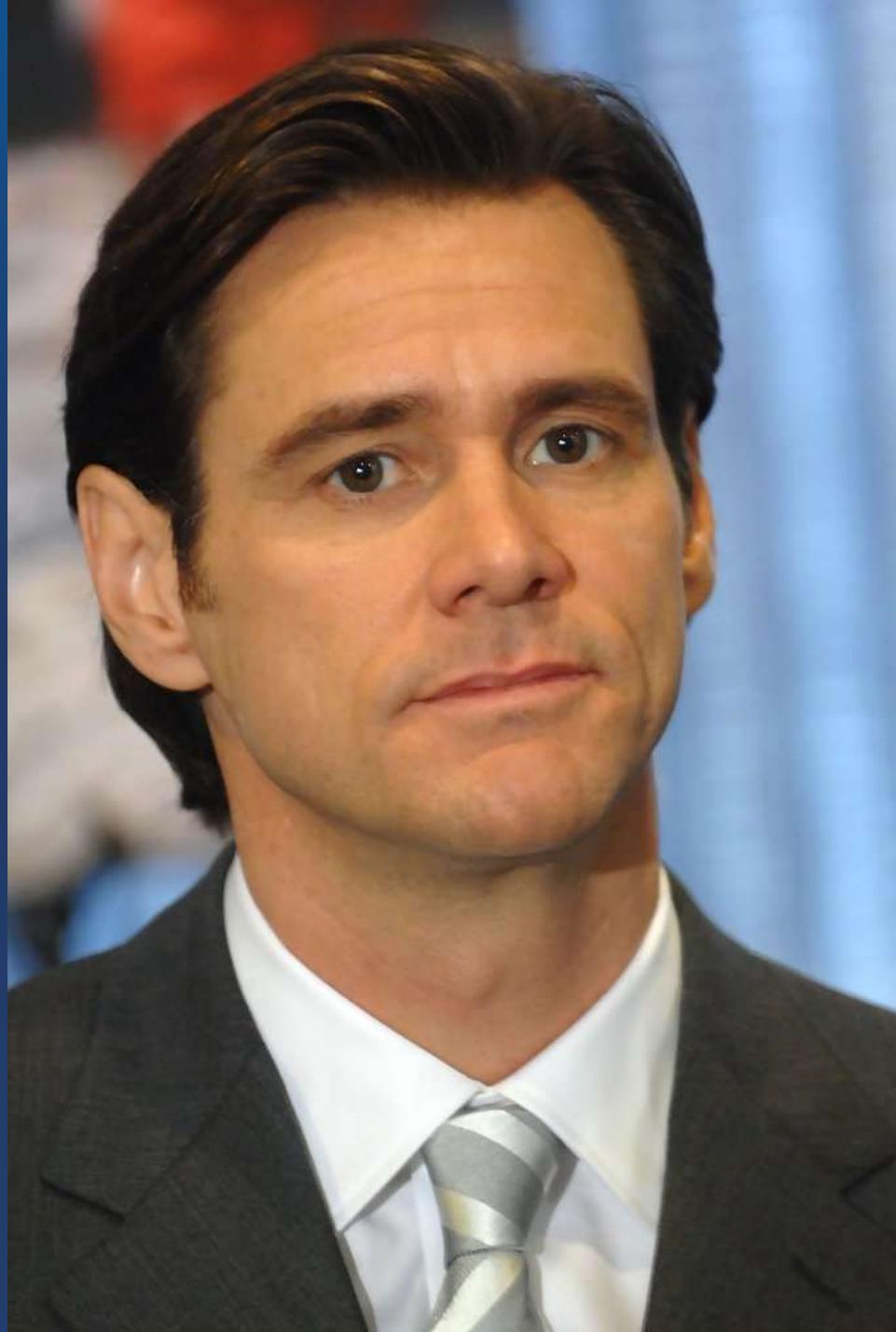
What about fame?







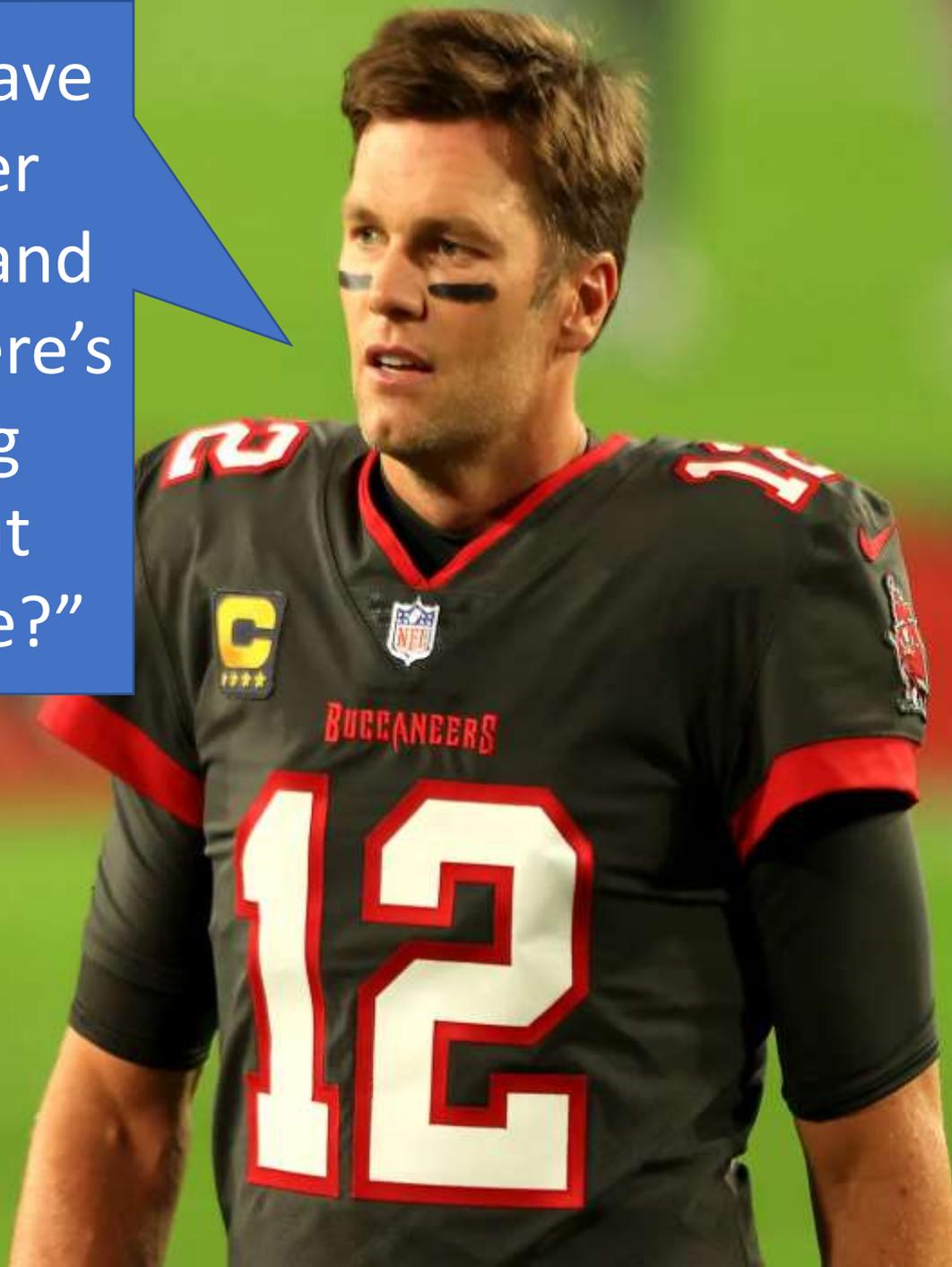
“I wish everyone
could
experience
being rich and
famous, so
they’d see it
wasn’t the
answer to
anything.”





“Being thought of as a beautiful woman has spared me nothing in life. No heartache, no trouble. Love has been difficult. Beauty is essentially meaningless, and it is always transitory.”

“Why do I have three Super Bowl rings, and still think there’s something greater out there for me?”



Solomon says in Ecclesiastes all
of this is “*Vanity of vanities*”

Money and possessions – that's the answer



- “Just a little bit more.”

- Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NIV2011) *10 Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.*
- Ecclesiastes 5:10 (LBLA) *10 El que ama el dinero no se saciará de dinero, y el que ama la abundancia no se saciará de ganancias. También esto es vanidad.*

Only in a God-centered life can wealth and possessions be enjoyed and find their proper place in life.

- Ecclesiastes 5:19-20 (NIV2011) 19 Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. 20 They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.
- Ecclesiastes 5:19-20 (LBLA) 19 Igualmente, a todo hombre a quien Dios ha dado riquezas y bienes, lo ha capacitado también para comer de ellos, para recibir su recompensa y regocijarse en su trabajo: esto es don de Dios. 20 Pues él no se acordará mucho de los días de su vida, porque Dios lo mantiene ocupado con alegría en su corazón.

- Luke 12:15 (NASB) *"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."*
- Luke 12:15 (LBLA) *15 Y les dijo: Estad atentos y guardaos de toda forma de avaricia; porque aun cuando alguien tenga abundancia, su vida no consiste en sus bienes.*

- 1 Timothy 6:7 (NIV2011) 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.
- 1 Timothy 6:7 (LBLA) 7 Porque nada hemos traído al mundo, así que nada podemos sacar de él.

Living the way I want to and fulfilling all my desires – that's the answer

- In 1964, Time Magazine presented the following argument against unrestrained sexual freedom, *“When sex is pursued only for pleasure, or only for gain, or even only to fill a void in society or in the soul, it becomes elusive, impersonal, and ultimately disappointing.”*
- Vanity of vanities.

Pleasure for pleasure's sake is futile.

- Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 (NASB) 10 All that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor. 11 Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun.
- Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 (LBLA) 10 Y de todo cuanto mis ojos deseaban, nada les negué, ni privé a mi corazón de ningún placer, porque mi corazón gozaba de todo mi trabajo, y ésta fue la recompensa de toda mi labor. 11 Consideraré luego todas las obras que mis manos habían hecho y el trabajo en que me había empeñado, y he aquí, todo era vanidad y correr tras el viento, y sin provecho bajo el sol.

- Ecclesiastes 8:15 (NCV) 15 So I decided it was more important to enjoy life. The best that people can do here on earth is to eat, drink, and enjoy life, because these joys will help them do the hard work God gives them here on earth.
- Ecclesiastes 8:15 (LBLA) 15 Por tanto yo alabé el placer, porque no hay nada bueno para el hombre bajo el sol sino comer, beber y divertirse, y esto le acompañará en sus afanes en los días de su vida que Dios le haya dado bajo el sol.

Our only true and lasting pleasure is in God

- Ecclesiastes 2:24-26 (GW) 24 There is nothing better for people to do than to eat, drink, and find satisfaction in their work. I saw that even this comes from the hand of God. 25 Who can eat or enjoy themselves without God? 26 God gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy to anyone who pleases him. But to the person who continues to sin, he gives the job of gathering and collecting {wealth}. The sinner must turn his wealth over to the person who pleases God. Even this is pointless. {It's like} trying to catch the wind.
- Ecclesiastes 2:24-26 (LBLA) 24 Nada hay mejor para el hombre que comer y beber y decirse que su trabajo es bueno. Esto también yo he visto que es de la mano de Dios. 25 Porque ¿quién comerá y quién se alegrará sin El? 26 Porque a la persona que le agrada, El le ha dado sabiduría, conocimiento y gozo; mas al pecador le ha dado la tarea de recoger y amontonar para darlo al que agrada a Dios. Esto también es vanidad y correr tras el viento.

- Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 (NLT2) 18 Even so, I have noticed one thing, at least, that is good. It is good for people to eat, drink, and enjoy their work under the sun during the short life God has given them, and to accept their lot in life. 19 And it is a good thing to receive wealth from God and the good health to enjoy it. To enjoy your work and accept your lot in life—this is indeed a gift from God. 20 God keeps such people so busy enjoying life that they take no time to brood over the past.
- Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 (LBLA) 18 He aquí lo que yo he visto que es bueno y conveniente: comer, beber y gozarse uno de todo el trabajo en que se afana bajo el sol en los contados días de la vida que Dios le ha dado; porque ésta es su recompensa. 19 Igualmente, a todo hombre a quien Dios ha dado riquezas y bienes, lo ha capacitado también para comer de ellos, para recibir su recompensa y regocijarse en su trabajo: esto es don de Dios. 20 Pues él no se acordará mucho de los días de su vida, porque Dios lo mantiene ocupado con alegría en su corazón.

- Ecclesiastes 7:14 (NCV) 14 When life is good, enjoy it. But when life is hard, remember: God gives good times and hard times, and no one knows what tomorrow will bring.
- Ecclesiastes 7:14 (LBLA) 14 Alégrate en el día de la prosperidad, y en el día de la adversidad considera: Dios ha hecho tanto el uno como el otro para que el hombre no descubra nada que suceda después de él.

- Ecclesiastes 9:7 (NLT2) 7 So go ahead. Eat your food with joy, and drink your wine with a happy heart, for God approves of this!
- Ecclesiastes 9:7 (LBLA) 7 Vete, come tu pan con gozo, y bebe tu vino con corazón alegre, porque Dios ya ha aprobado tus obras.

1 Timothy 6:17 says it is God
who-

*“richly provides us with
everything to enjoy”*

Well then, the pursuit of wisdom is the answer

- Ecclesiastes 1:17 *“I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind.”*
- Ecclesiastes 1:17 (LBLA) *17 Y apliqué mi corazón a conocer la sabiduría y a conocer la locura y la insensatez; me di cuenta de que esto también es correr tras el viento.*

- Proverbs 9:10 (NASB) *10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*
- Proverbs 9:10 (LBLA) *10 El principio de la sabiduría es el temor del SEÑOR, y el conocimiento del Santo es inteligencia.*

- CAESAR BORGIA- Italian nobleman, politician, and cardinal: “While I lived, I provided for everything but death; now I must die, and am unprepared to die.”
- THOMAS HOBBS – Political philosopher: “I say again, if I had the whole world at my disposal, I would give it to live one day. I am about to take a leap into the dark.”
- THOMAS PAYNE – Leading atheistic writer in American colonies: “Stay with me, for God’s sake; I cannot bear to be left alone, O Lord, help me! O God, what have I done to suffer so much? What will become of me hereafter? I would give worlds if I had them, that The Age of Reason had never been published. O Lord, help me! Christ, help me! No, don’t leave; stay with me! Send even a child to stay with me; for I am on the edge of hell here alone. If ever the Devil had an agent, I have been that one.”

- SIR THOMAS SCOTT – Chancellor of England:
“Until this moment I thought there was neither a God nor a hell. Now I know and feel that there are both, and I am doomed to perdition by the just judgment of the Almighty.”
- VOLTAIRE – Famous anti-Christian atheist: “...I am abandoned by God and man.” He said to his physician, Dr. Fochin: “I will give you half of what I am worth if you will give me six months of life.” When he was told this was impossible, he said, “Then I shall die and go to hell!” His nurse said: “For all the money in Europe I wouldn’t want to see another unbeliever die! All night long he cried for forgiveness.”
- ROBERT INGERSOLL – American writer and orator of the Golden Age of Free Thought: “O God, if there be a God, save my soul, if I have a soul!” Or some say: “Oh God, if there be a God, save my soul, if I have a soul, from hell, if there be a hell!”

- SIR FRANCIS NEWPORT – Head of an English Atheist club, to those gathered around his deathbed: “You need not tell me there is no God, for I know there is one, and that I am in his presence! You need not tell me there is no hell. I feel myself already slipping. Wretches, cease your idle talk about there being hope for me! I know I am lost forever! Oh, that fire! Oh, the insufferable pangs of hell! Oh, that I could lie for a thousand years upon the fire that is never quenched, to purchase the favor of God and be united to Him again. But it is a fruitless wish. Millions and millions of years will bring me no nearer the end of my torments than one poor hour. Oh, eternity, eternity forever and forever! Oh, the insufferable pangs of Hell!”

- ANTON LEVEY –
Satanic Bible
author and high
priest of the
Satanic worship
religion. ...
- His dying words
were: “Oh my, oh
my, what have I
done, there is
something very
wrong.”



The End of the Matter—or, How to Find Meaning in Life

- Ecclesiastes 12:13–14—*“The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.”*
- Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (LBLA) *13 La conclusión, cuando todo se ha oído, es ésta: teme a Dios y guarda sus mandamientos, porque esto concierne a toda persona. 14 Porque Dios traerá toda obra a juicio, junto con todo lo oculto, sea bueno o sea malo.*

Matthew 16:26-27 (NASB)

"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 27 "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.

“Everything Solomon pursued, Jesus was tempted by, but resisted.”

- ***“The creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God”*** (Romans 8:21).

“You have made us for yourself,
O Lord, and our hearts are
restless until they find their rest
in you.”