

There is a tendency for the young to ignore their inevitable death until late in life.

*Ecc 12:1 So remember your Creator in the days of your youth –*

1Ti 4:12 Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

Solomon viewed wisdom, pleasure, wealth, wives, and knowledge. Then he asks what is the value of all of these things for we all die.

Cancer is a specter; he walks the gleaming halls of the hospital; sometimes in Gucci shoes; sometimes in threadworn slippers.

But to everyone he brings equality; pain, nausea and ultimately death.

What advantage do the Gucci shoes bring? Or the knowledge of the treatment? Death overtakes us all.

*Ecc 12:1 So remember your Creator  
in the days of your youth –*

*before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you will say, “I have no pleasure in them”;*

KJV “the evil days”

NIV “the days of trouble”

The young often doubt that there will be trouble when they are old.

*12:2 before the sun and the light of the moon and the stars grow dark,*

cataracts will soon cloud the eyes of those who spend much time in the sun.

No longer will the eyes be able to see or focus on the light God provides.

*and the clouds disappear after the  
rain;*

when there is no prospect of things  
getting better.

*12:3 when those who keep watch  
over the house begin to tremble*

When we grow older, our hands are  
no longer steady

*and the virile men begin to stoop  
over*

Even the strongest of men begin to  
lose the straightness that once  
came so easily.

*and the grinders begin to cease  
because they grow few*

our teeth begin to fall out so that  
our weight falls due to the inability  
to chew, although we now have  
dentures, plates, and implants.

*and those who look through the  
windows grow dim*

we suffer from failing vision and  
cannot clearly see either near or far.

*12:4 and the doors along the street  
are shut; when the sound of the  
grinding mill grows low*

We lock things up so that the young  
will not bother us, especially when  
we can no longer hear.

*and one is awakened by the sound  
of a bird,  
and all their songs grow faint*

*we no longer can hear, yet we do  
not sleep through the night.*

*12:5 and they are afraid of heights and  
the dangers in the street;*

The older you are the more you know  
you will fall if you lose your balance; at  
the same time those on the street are  
more worrisome because you can no  
longer defend yourself.

*the almond blossoms grow white*

When the blossoms first appear  
they are pink, but with age they  
turn white just as the hair of the  
elderly turns white.

*and the grasshopper drags itself  
along*

In the spring the grasshopper is very fast, but as autumn comes on, the grasshopper slows due to old age.

*and the caper berry shrivels up –*

NAS – desire no longer is stirred  
even aphrodisiacs no longer cause  
sexual longing.

*because man goes to his eternal home, and the mourners go about in the streets –*

Mat 25:46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

2Sa 14:2 So Joab sent to Tekoa and brought a wise woman from there and said to her, "Please pretend to be a mourner, and put on mourning garments now, and do not anoint yourself with oil, but be like a woman who has been mourning for the dead many days;

*12:6 before the silver cord is removed, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the well, or the water wheel is broken at the cistern – all metaphors for death.*

*12:7 and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the life's breath returns to God who gave it.*

God made us from the dust (carbon, hydrogen, oxygen) and we will disintegrate to the same.

*12:8 “Absolutely futile! laments the Teacher, ‘All of these things are futile!”*

No matter what you do in this life,  
only beyond this life is there  
purpose and fulfillment.

*Tit 1:1 Paul, a servant of God and  
an apostle of Jesus Christ to further  
the faith of God's elect and their  
knowledge of the truth that leads to  
godliness-- (2) in the hope of  
eternal life, which God, who does  
not lie, promised before the  
beginning of time,*

# Ozymandias

I met a traveller from an antique land  
Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone  
Stand in the desert. Near them, on the sand,  
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,  
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,  
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read  
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,  
The hand that mocked them and the heart that fed:  
And on the pedestal these words appear:  
"My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:  
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"  
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay  
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare  
The lone and level sands stretch far away.

*Act 24:24 But some days later, Felix arrived with Drusilla, his wife who was a Jewess, and sent for Paul, and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus.*

*(25) And as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for the present, and when I find time, I will summon you."*

*Act 26:27 King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest. (28) Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.*

Act 22:16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'