

Ecclesiastes

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

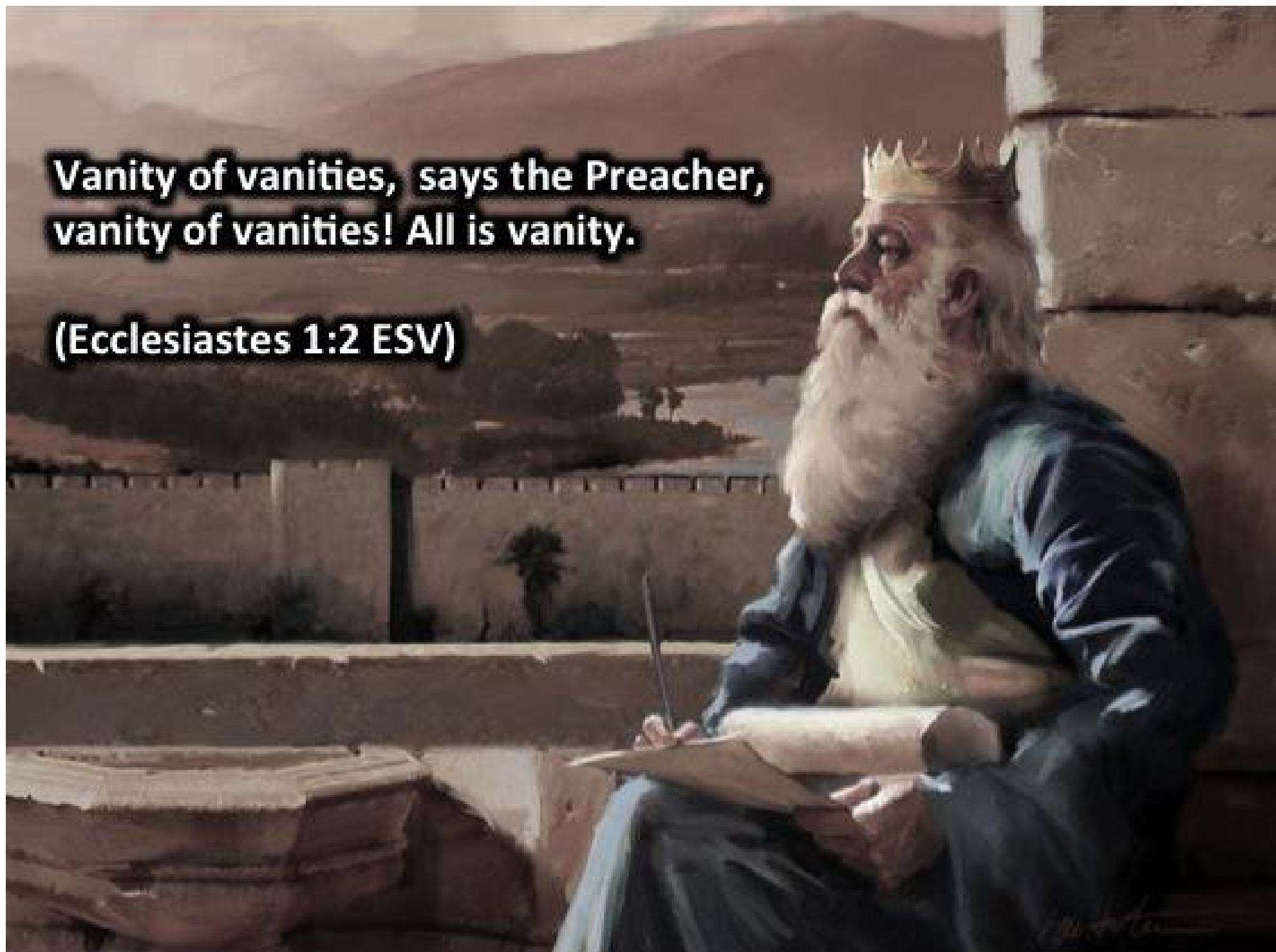
The Pursuit of Meaning





**Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.**

(Ecclesiastes 1:2 ESV)



*Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun.
And behold, the tears of the oppressed,
and they had no one to comfort them!
On the side of their oppressors there was power,
and there was no one to comfort them.*

(Ecclesiastes 4:1 ESV)

*And I thought the dead who are already dead
more fortunate than the living who are still alive.
But better than both is he who has not yet been
and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun.*

(Ecclesiastes 4:2-3 ESV)

Ecclesiastes

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning









In 16 hours of interviews, Singh showed no remorse and kept expressing bewilderment that such a fuss was being made about this rape, when everyone was at it.



*"A decent girl won't roam around at nine o'clock at night.
A girl is far more responsible for rape than a boy"*



*People "had a right to teach them a lesson" he suggested
- and he said the woman should have put up with it.*



"When being raped, she shouldn't fight back. She should just be silent and allow the rape. Then they'd have dropped her off after 'doing her', and only hit the boy"



"The death penalty will make things even more dangerous for girls. Now when they rape, they won't leave the girl like we did. They will kill her."



"Before, they would rape and say, 'Leave her, she won't tell anyone.' Now when they rape, especially the criminal types, they will just kill the girl. Death."



I had the long and shocking list of injuries the young woman had sustained, read out to him. I tried, really hard, to search for a glimmer of regret. There was none...



My encounter with Singh and 4 other rapists left me feeling like my soul had been dipped in tar, and there were no cleaning agents in the world that could remove the indelible stain.



I spoke to two lawyers who had defended the murderers of the 23-year-old student at their trial, and what they said was extremely revealing.



"In our society, we never allow our girls to come out from the house after 6:30 or 7:30 or 8:30 in the evening with any unknown person," said one of the lawyers, ML Sharma.



"You are talking about man and woman as friends. Sorry, that doesn't have any place in our society. We have the best culture. In our culture, there is no place for a woman."



The other lawyer, AP Singh, had said in a previous televised interview: "If my daughter or sister engaged in pre-marital activities and disgraced herself and allowed herself to lose face and character by doing such things, I would most certainly take this sort of sister or daughter to my farmhouse, and in front of my entire family, I would put petrol on her and set her alight."



When you look into the blackest recesses of the human heart, you cannot but be depressed and deeply disappointed.

*Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun.
And behold, the tears of the oppressed,
and they had no one to comfort them!
On the side of their oppressors there was power,
and there was no one to comfort them.*

(Ecclesiastes 4:1 ESV)

*And I thought the dead who are already dead
more fortunate than the living who are still alive.
But better than both is he who has not yet been
and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun.*

(Ecclesiastes 4:2-3 ESV)

Ecclesiastes

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work

(Ecclesiastes 4:4 ESV)

Ecclesiastes

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

*Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work
come from a man's **envy** of his neighbor.*

(Ecclesiastes 4:4 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

*Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work
come from a man's **envy** of his neighbor.
This also is vanity and a striving after wind.*

(Ecclesiastes 4:4 ESV)

Ecclesiastes

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

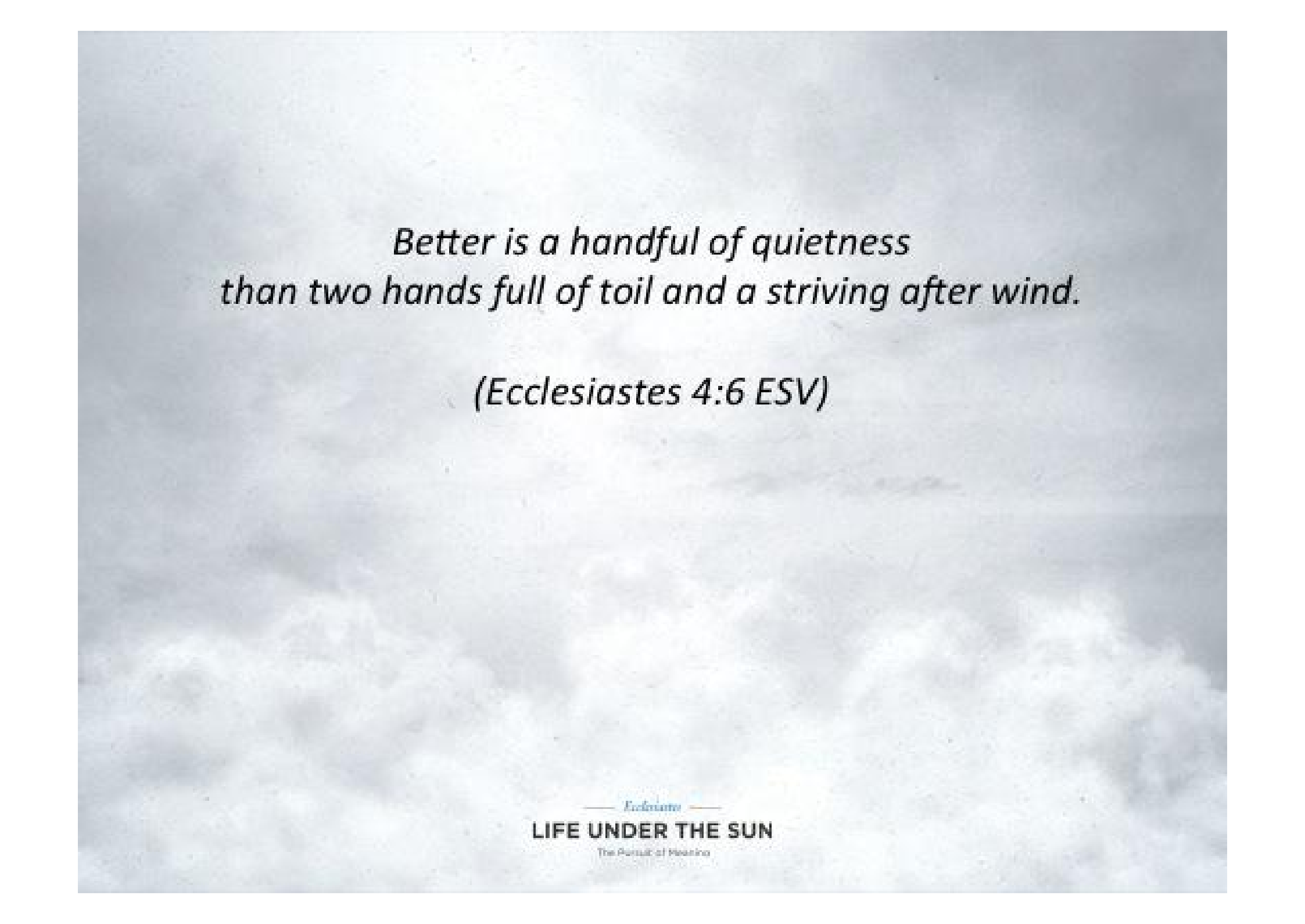
The fool folds his hands and eats his own flesh.

(Ecclesiastes 4:5 ESV)

Ecclesiastes

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning



*Better is a handful of quietness
than two hands full of toil and a striving after wind.*

(Ecclesiastes 4:6 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

*Better is a handful of quietness
than two hands full of toil and a striving after wind.*

(Ecclesiastes 4:6 ESV)

High Cost of Living

— Ecclesiastes —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

*Better is a handful of quietness
than two hands full of toil and a striving after wind.*

(Ecclesiastes 4:6 ESV)

High Cost of Living vs Cost of High Living

Ecclesiastes

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

Again, I saw vanity under the sun: one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, "For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?" This also is vanity and an unhappy business.

(Ecclesiastes 4:7-8 ESV)

Ecclesiastes

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning



I have an iron will, and all of my will has always been
to conquer some horrible feeling of inadequacy
I push past one spell of it and discover myself as a special human
being, and then I get to another stage and think I'm mediocre
and uninteresting..... Again and again.

My drive in life is from this horrible fear of being mediocre.

And that's always pushing me, pushing me.

Because even though I've become Somebody,

I still have to prove I'm Somebody.

My struggle has never ended and it probably never will.

Madonna

Again, I saw vanity under the sun: one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, "For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?" This also is vanity and an unhappy business.

(Ecclesiastes 4:7-8 ESV)

Ecclesiastes

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

Again, I saw vanity under the sun: *one person who has no other, either son or brother*, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, “For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?” This also is vanity and an unhappy business.

(Ecclesiastes 4:7-8 ESV)

— Ecclesiastes —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

ORIGINAL ARTIST RECORDINGS

HARRY
CHAPIN

Cat's In The Cradle

and Other Hits

FLASHBACK

My child arrived just the other day
He came to the world in the usual way
But there were planes to catch and bills to pay
He learned to walk while I was away
And he was talkin' 'fore I knew it, and as he grew
He'd say "I'm gonna be like you dad
You know I'm gonna be like you"

And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon

Little boy blue and the man on the moon

When you comin' home dad?

I don't know when, but we'll get together then son

You know we'll have a good time then

My son turned ten just the other day
He said, "Thanks for the ball, Dad, come on let's play
Can you teach me to throw", I said "Not today
I got a lot to do", he said, "That's ok"
And he walked away but his smile never dimmed
And said, "I'm gonna be like him, yeah
You know I'm gonna be like him"

Well, he came home from college just the other day

So much like a man I just had to say

"Son, I'm proud of you, can you sit for a while?"

He shook his head and said with a smile

"What I'd really like, Dad, is to borrow the car keys

See you later, can I have them please?"

I've long since retired, my son's moved away
I called him up just the other day
I said, "I'd like to see you if you don't mind"
He said, "I'd love to, Dad, if I can find the time
You see my new job's a hassle and kids have the flu
But it's sure nice talking to you, Dad
It's been sure nice talking to you"

And as I hung up the phone it occurred to me
He'd grown up just like me
My boy was just like me

Again, I saw vanity under the sun: *one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, "For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?"* This also is vanity and an unhappy business.

(Ecclesiastes 4:7-8 ESV)

— Ecclesiastes —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

*Two are better than one,
because they have a good reward for their toil.
For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow.
But woe to him who is alone when he falls
and has not another to lift him up!
Again, if two lie together, they keep warm,
but how can one keep warm alone?
And though a man might prevail against one who is alone,
two will withstand him—
a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*

(Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 ESV)

*Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work
come from a man's **envy** of his neighbor.
This also is vanity and a striving after wind.*

(Ecclesiastes 4:4 ESV)

Ecclesiastes

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

Better was a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king who no longer knew how to take advice. For he went from prison to the throne, though in his own kingdom he had been born poor. I saw all the living who move about under the sun, along with that youth who was to stand in the king's place. There was no end of all the people, all of whom he led.

(Ecclesiastes 4:13-16 ESV)

— Ecclesiastes —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

Better was a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king who no longer knew how to take advice. For he went from prison to the throne, though in his own kingdom he had been born poor. I saw all the living who move about under the sun, along with that youth who was to stand in the king's place. There was no end of all the people, all of whom he led. Yet those who come later will not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and a striving after wind.

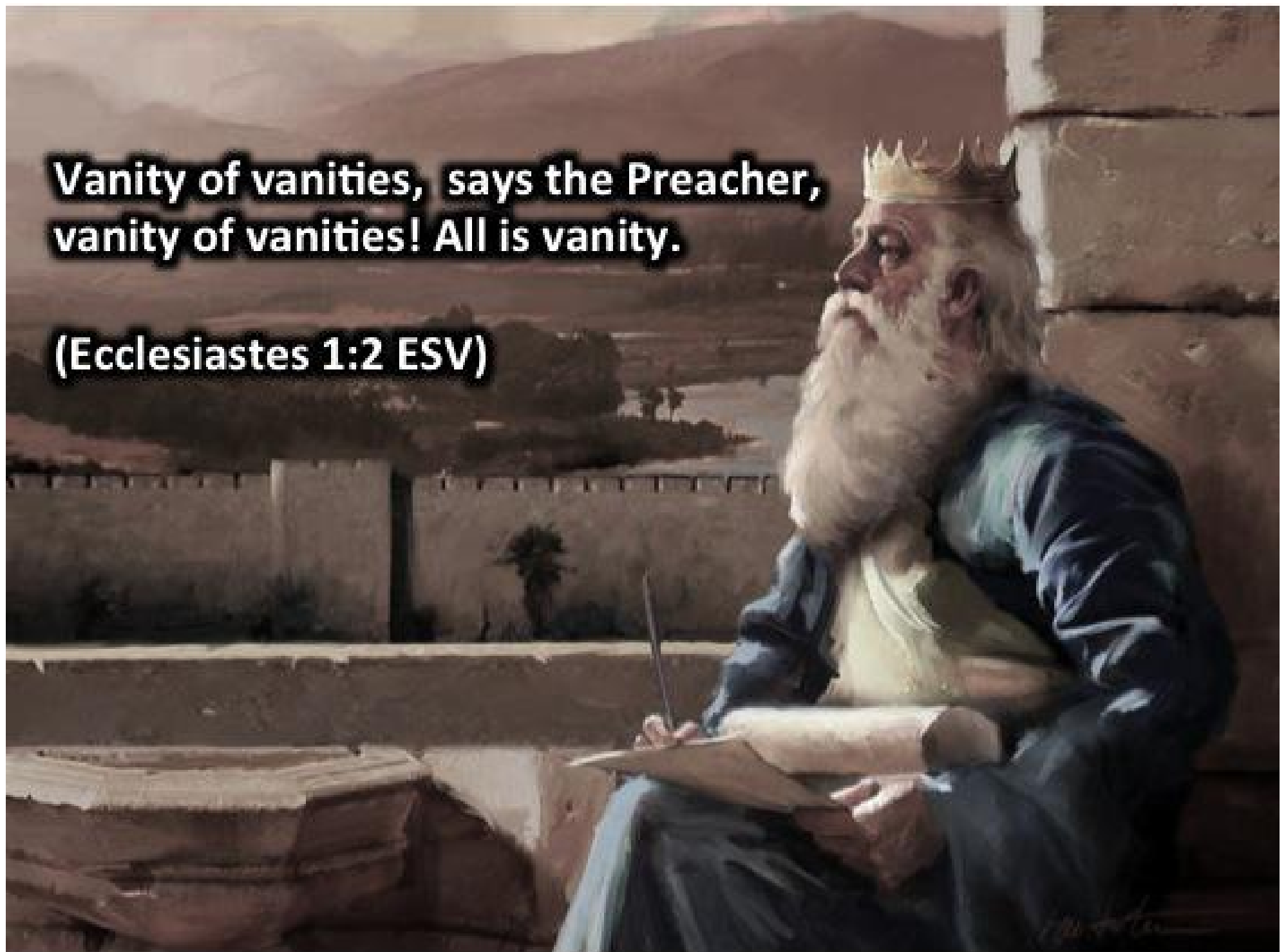
(Ecclesiastes 4:13-16 ESV)





**Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.**

(Ecclesiastes 1:2 ESV)



— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Tragedies of Life



*He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.*

*By oppression and judgment he was taken away.....
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.*

(Isaiah 53:7-9 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

*Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.
Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.*

(Isaiah 53:10-11 ESV)