

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN



Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care. The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth.

(Ecclesiastes 12:9-10 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

(Ecclesiastes 12:11-12 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN



Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth,
(Ecclesiastes 12:1 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth,
before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you
will say, “I have no pleasure in them”;

(Ecclesiastes 12:1 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low—they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets—before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, (Ecclesiastes 12:2-6 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low—they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets—before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, (Ecclesiastes 12:2-6 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low—they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets—before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, (Ecclesiastes 12:2-6 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low—they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets—before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, (Ecclesiastes 12:2-6 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low—they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets—before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, (Ecclesiastes 12:2-6 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low—they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets—before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, (Ecclesiastes 12:2-6 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low—they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; **the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails,** because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets—before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, (Ecclesiastes 12:2-6 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low—they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets—before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, (Ecclesiastes 12:2-6 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

and the dust returns to the earth as it was,
and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

(Ecclesiastes 12:7 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth,
(Ecclesiastes 12:1 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

The end of the matter; all has been heard.
Fear God and keep his commandments,
for this is the whole duty of man.

(Ecclesiastes 12:13 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

The end of the matter; all has been heard.
Fear God and keep his commandments,
for this is the whole duty of man.

(Ecclesiastes 12:13 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

God has done it, so that people **fear** before him.

(Ecclesiastes 3:14 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

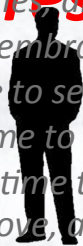
FEAR GOD



For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. What gain

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. What gain

eternity
beautiful
Justice
endures forever
God
cannot find out



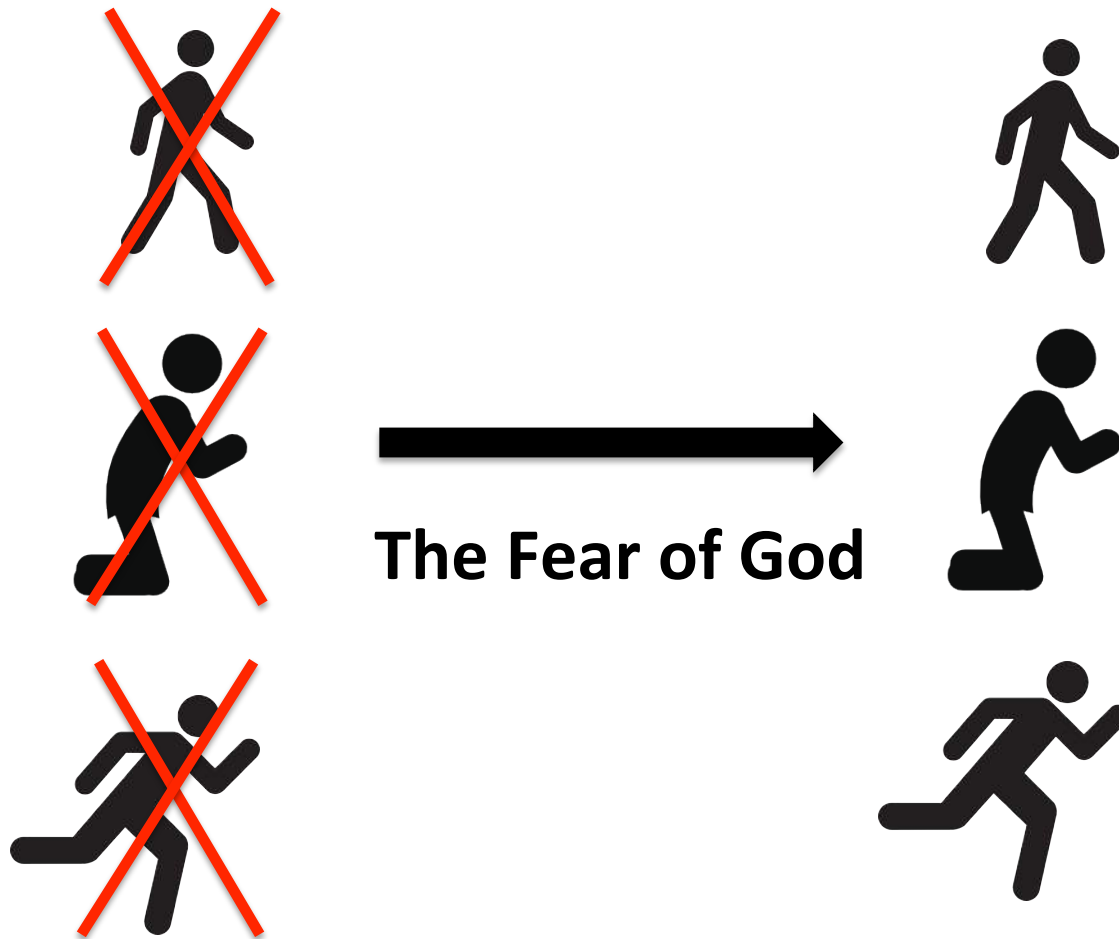
For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to refrain from embracing, and a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to

has the worker from his toil?
(Ecclesiastes 3:1-9 ESV)

— Ecclesiastes —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning



The Fool

The True Worshipper

For when dreams increase and words grow many,
there is vanity; but **God is the one you must fear.** v7

Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise.

Why should you destroy yourself?

Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool.

Why should you die before your time?

.....for the one who fears God

shall come out from both of them.

(Ecclesiastes 7:16-18 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

Though a sinner does evil a hundred times and prolongs his life,
yet I know that it will be well with those who fear God,
because they **fear before him**.

But it will not be well with the wicked,
neither will he prolong his days like a shadow,
because he does **not fear before God**.

(Ecclesiastes 8:12-13 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

The end of the matter; all has been heard.
Fear God and keep his commandments,
for this is the whole duty of man.

(Ecclesiastes 12:13 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

And he said to man,
'Behold, the **fear of the Lord**, that is wisdom,
and to turn away from evil is understanding.'"

(Job 28:28 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

(Proverbs 1:7 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

“So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria
had peace and was being built up.
And walking in the **fear of the Lord**
and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.”

(Acts 9:31)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

“Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable **worship, with reverence and awe,** for our God is a consuming fire.

(Heb 12:28,29)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God,
and the song of the Lamb, saying,
“Great and amazing are your deeds,
O Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways,
King of the nations!
Who will not fear, O Lord,
and glorify your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

(Revelation 15:3-4 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

“Love God”- 88x in Bible- 45x in OT, 43x in NT

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

“Love God”- 88x in Bible- 45x in OT, 43x in NT

“Trust God”- 91x in Bible- 82x in OT, 9x in NT

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

“Love God”- 88x in Bible- 45x in OT, 43x in NT

“Trust God”- 91x in Bible- 82x in OT, 9x in NT

“Fear God”- 278x in Bible- 235x in OT, 43x in NT

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

Jerry Bridges



The Psalmist complains that we have an all-too-human view of God (Ps 50:21).

I think that our basic problem is that **we try to scale God down to our size. And because we think God is like us**, we do not reverence Him. As a result, we're not scared to disobey Him. This means that for most people in our society today, God is at best peripheral and at worst irrelevant to their lives.

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

..... the Apostle Paul says: “Therefore, whatever you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God”.

If you combine that idea with the very first petition of the Lord’s Prayer “**Hallowed be your name**” (Matt 6:9), you arrive at the concept that having God at the centre of your life means that you exist to please God by honoring Him.

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

I don't think we should ever be afraid of God in the sense of being afraid of something wild and unpredictable like a tornado or of a sadistic bully who terrorizes his victims. It's not that kind of fear. God is not irrational or malicious.

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

In fact, the passage which I often use to teach the fear of God is Exodus 14:31. There we read that “when the people saw what God had done to the army of Egypt, they feared the Lord and put their trust in Him”. So to fear God is to be in awe of God. It means to know God as the sovereign, all-powerful One.

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

Perhaps a good working-definition of the fear of God is something like this: to truly fear God means to be **in awe of God's being and character as well as in awe of what He has done for us in Christ.**

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

Perhaps a good working-definition of the fear of God is something like this: to truly fear God means to be **in awe of God's being and character as well as in awe of what He has done for us in Christ.**

When you put these two ideas together, you have an absolutely sovereign Creator of the universe who punishes those who resist Him, and yet loves us and sends His Son to die in our place. Surely that's good reason to fear or reverence Him.

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

I think that 'cringing' and 'servility' are foreign concepts to the biblical idea of fearing God. I think that what the Bible means when it talks about fearing God is that we **don't take God for granted. You must treat God with absolute respect** because He is a God who judges sin.

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

Christians need to know this deep in their souls. Even though we know that our sins are forgiven through Jesus Christ and that we are perfectly righteous in Him, we must never forget that **we cannot fool around with God. He treats sin seriously.**

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

Jerry Bridges



“Reverence and awe have often been replaced by a yawn of familiarity. The consuming fire has been domesticated into a candle flame, adding a bit of religious atmosphere, perhaps, but no heat, no blinding light, no power for purification.”

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

“we must face our tendency to trivialize God...
for we face the dangerous illusion of a manageable deity.”

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

“Intimacy with God doesn’t begin with the comfort of familiarity
but with the humility of a holy distinction that separates us.”

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

The end of the matter; all has been heard.
Fear God and keep his commandments,
for this is the whole duty of man.

(Ecclesiastes 12:13 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

The end of the matter; all has been heard.
Fear God and **keep his commandments,**
for this is the whole duty of man.

(Ecclesiastes 12:13 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

“One in four times where the term “fear the Lord” is used in the Bible, it’s connected with our obedience.”

Jerry Bridges

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

“And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you,
but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways,
to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and
with all your soul,

(Deuteronomy 10:12 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

Oh that they had such a heart as this always,
to fear me and to keep all my commandments,
that it might go well with them
and with their descendants forever!

(Deuteronomy 5:29 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

The end of the matter; all has been heard.
Fear God and **keep his commandments,**
for this is the whole duty of man.

(Ecclesiastes 12:13 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

For God will bring every deed into judgment,
with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

(Ecclesiastes 12:14 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN



“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

(Romans 3:18 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

I will give them one heart and one way,
that they may **fear me forever**,
for their own good and
the good of their children after them.

(Jeremiah 32:39 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

“And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that **he may learn to fear the LORD** his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel.

(Deuteronomy 17:18-20 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

Teach me your way, O LORD,
that I may walk in your truth;
unite my heart to **fear your name.**

(Psalm 86:11 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

