

## Obey Rulers

8:1 **W**HO is like the wise man and who knows the interpretation of a matter? A man's wisdom <sup>a</sup>illuminates <sup>1</sup>him and causes his <sup>b</sup>stern face to <sup>2</sup>beam.

**2** I say, "Keep the <sup>1</sup>command of the king because of the <sup>a</sup>oath <sup>2</sup>before God. **3** "Do not be in a hurry <sup>1</sup>to leave him. Do not join in an evil matter, for he will do whatever he pleases." **4** Since the word of the king is authoritative, <sup>a</sup>who will say to him, "What are you doing?"

**5** He who <sup>a</sup>keeps a *royal* command <sup>b</sup>experiences no <sup>1</sup>trouble, for a wise heart knows the proper time and procedure. **6** For <sup>a</sup>there is a proper time and procedure for every delight, when a man's trouble is heavy upon him. **7** If no one <sup>a</sup>knows what will happen, who can tell him when it will happen? **8** <sup>a</sup>No man has authority to restrain the wind with the wind, or authority over the day of death; and there is no discharge in the time of war, and <sup>b</sup>evil will not deliver <sup>1</sup>those who practice it. **9** All this I have seen and applied my <sup>1</sup>mind to every deed that has been done under the sun wherein a man has exercised <sup>a</sup>authority over *another* man to his hurt.

**10** So then, I have seen the wicked buried, those who used to go in and out from the holy place, and they are <sup>a</sup>soon forgotten in the city where they did thus. This too is futility. **11** Because the <sup>a</sup>sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore <sup>b</sup>the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil. **12** Although a sinner does evil a hundred *times* and may <sup>a</sup>lengthen his *life*, still I know that it will be <sup>b</sup>well for those who fear God, who fear <sup>1</sup>Him openly. **13** But it will <sup>a</sup>not be well for the evil man and he will not lengthen his days like a <sup>b</sup>shadow, because he does not fear God. **14** There is futility which is done on the earth, that is, there are <sup>a</sup>righteous men to whom it <sup>1</sup>happens according to the deeds of the wicked. On the other hand, there are <sup>b</sup>evil men to whom it <sup>1</sup>happens according to the deeds of the righteous. I say that this too is futility. **15** So I commended pleasure, for there is nothing good for <sup>a</sup>a man under the sun except to eat and to drink and to be merry, and this will stand by him in his <sup>1</sup>toils *throughout* the days of his life which God has given him under the sun.

**16** When I <sup>a</sup>gave my heart to know wisdom and to see the task which has been done on the earth (even though one should <sup>1</sup><sup>b</sup>never sleep day or night), **17** and I saw every work of God, *I concluded* that <sup>a</sup>man cannot discover the work which has been done under the sun. Even though man should seek laboriously, he will not discover; and <sup>b</sup>though the wise man should say, "I know," he cannot discover.

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<sup>a</sup> Ex. 34:29, 30

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *his face*

<sup>b</sup> Deut. 28:50

<sup>2</sup> Or, *change*

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *mouth*

<sup>a</sup> Ex. 22:11; 2 Sam. 21:7; Ezek. 17:18

<sup>2</sup> Lit., *of*

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *to go out from his presence*

<sup>a</sup> Eccl. 10:4

<sup>a</sup> Job 9:12; Dan. 4:35

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<sup>a</sup> Eccl. 12:13

<sup>b</sup> Prov. 12:21

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *evil thing*

<sup>a</sup> Eccl. 3:1, 17

<sup>a</sup> Eccl. 3:22; 6:12; 7:14; 9:12

<sup>a</sup> Ps. 49:7

<sup>b</sup> Eccl. 8:13

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *its possessors*

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *heart*

<sup>a</sup> Eccl. 4:1; 5:8; 7:7

<sup>a</sup> Eccl. 1:11; 2:16; 9:5, 15

<sup>a</sup> Ex. 34:6; Ps. 86:15; Rom. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9

<sup>b</sup> Eccl. 9:3

<sup>a</sup> Eccl. 7:15

<sup>b</sup> Deut. 4:40; 12:25; Ps. 37:11; Prov. 1:33; Is. 3:10

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *before Him*

<sup>a</sup> Eccl. 8:8; Is. 3:11

<sup>b</sup> Job 14:2; Eccl. 6:12

<sup>a</sup> Ps. 73:14; Eccl. 7:15

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *strikes*

<sup>b</sup> Job 21:7; Ps. 73:3, 12; Jer. 12:1; Mal. 3:15

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *strikes*

<sup>a</sup> Eccl. 2:24; 3:12, 13; 5:18; 9:7

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *labor*

<sup>a</sup> Eccl. 1:13, 14

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *see no sleep in his eyes*

<sup>b</sup> Eccl. 2:23

<sup>a</sup> Eccl. 3:11

<sup>b</sup> Ps. 73:16; Eccl. 7:23; Rom. 11:33

<sup>i</sup>*The New American Standard Bible*, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977.