

GUARD YOUR STEPS



Background of ECCLESIASTES

The Hebrew word **Qoheleth** (translated 'Ecclesiastes') occurs in Scripture only in this book. It means '**one who assembles**'.

Solomon, the son of David, is the 'Preacher'.

The purpose of Ecclesiastes is to instruct the young on the true values of life, which are to **fear God** and **keep His commandments**.

Context

The preacher sees people being disillusioned with life,
and they are stepping into the temple to find fulfilment.

A study of **ECCLESIASTES 5**

verse 1:

***“Guard your steps* when you go to the house of God.”**

**The direction of
your feet dictates
the direction of
your life.**

..... *Watch:*

- ♦ **Your posture**
- ♦ **Your mouth**
- ♦ **For offenses**

A study of **ECCLESIASTES 5**

verse 1:

“To *draw near to listen* is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil.”

“Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. ⁵ And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-5 (NLT)

A study of **ECCLESIASTES 5**

verse 1:

“To *draw near to listen* is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil.”

- Listening means obeying.
- Place yourself under the authority of the Word of God.
- Religious activities without obedience is not accepted by the Lord.

“When you come to appear before me, who has required of you this trampling of my courts? ¹³ Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations – I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. ¹⁴ Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.

ISAIAH 1:12-16 (NRSV)

¹⁵ When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. ¹⁶ Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil.

ISAIAH 1:12-16 (NRSV)

A study of **ECCLESIASTES 5**

verse 2-3:

“Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore *let your words be few.* ³ For a dream comes with much business, and a fool’s voice with many words.”

- Don’t be in a rush to explain what is happening.
- Don’t worry about eloquence and start being honest.

A study of **ECCLESIASTES 5**

verse 4-6:

“When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow. ⁵ It is *better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.* ⁶ Let not your mouth lead you into sin, and do not say before the messenger (or priest) that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry at your voice and destroy the work of your hands?”

A study **of ECCLESIASTES 5**

- Good intentions are not good enough.
- Don't just make empty promises. Ecclesiastes teaches us that there will be a day that we need to give an account of the vows that we made.

Sometimes God ordains the desert.

¹⁴ Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her. ¹⁵ And there I will give her her vineyards and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. And there she shall answer as in the days of her youth, as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt. ¹⁶ "And in that day, declares the Lord, you will call me 'My Husband,' and no longer will you call me 'My Baal.' ¹⁷ For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, and they shall be remembered by name no more.

HOSEA 2:14-17 (ESV)