

**Ecclesiastes 10: 16-19; “Kings and Princes Feasting”, Message # 72 in
the series – “Remember Your Creator”, A Bible Study Conducted
by Pastor Paul Rendall on May 2nd, 2012,
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We find here Solomon elaborating on his statements of what is folly and what is wisdom in regard to the thinking and behavior of kings and princes. He is telling us that it is very important for kings and princes (leaders in high places of Political Government) to understand when to feast and how to feast. We want to draw three conclusions from what we read here. 1st of all – Woe will come upon a land when her king is a child and that child does not know when to feast. 2nd – Blessing will come upon a land when the king is the son of nobles who do know when and how to feast. And 3rd – The principles of laziness and diligence are directly related to woe and blessing. Let’s see if we can learn from the wise man Solomon and apply these truths to our own land and our own view of feasting and working.

1st of all – Woe will come upon a land when her king is a child and that child does not know when to feast. (verse 16)

“Woe to you, O land, when your king is a child, and your princes feast in the morning!” When Solomon says this, he is not condemning all persons who ruled while they were children. He would be condemning himself. He would be condemning others such as Joash, Uzziah, and Josiah as well. He may be speaking of when the king is a child in age, but most certainly he is referring to a king who has no moral or ethical discernment. He doesn’t know right from wrong, and he cannot put forth righteous efforts to rule the country. It often comes about that when a nation is in moral decline that God will give them leaders after their desires. Turn with me over to Isaiah Chapter 3, verse 1. “For behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, takes away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stock and the store, the whole supply of bread and the whole supply of water; the mighty man and the man of war, the judge and the prophet, and the diviner and the elder; the captain of fifty and the honorable man, the counselor and the skillful artisan, and the expert enchanter.” “I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them.” “The people will be oppressed, every one by another and every one by his neighbor; the child will be insolent to the elder, and the base toward the honorable.” Now I hope that you see, immediately, that it is God who gives us every good thing that we have, and He can most certainly take it away when He thinks that we are unworthy of these blessings that He has given to us. In verse 1, we see that He took away the whole supply of bread. He brought them into famine. In verse 2, He takes away the great men in the society; the mighty man and the man of war, the judge and the prophet, the diviner, and the elder, the captain of fifty and the honorable man, the counselor and the skillful artisan. Whenever a nation does not repent of their sins, eventually God will do this; He

will bring His judgments. One of the greatest judgments will be that there will be a real dearth of men capable of leading the country. Look at verse 6. “When a man takes hold of his brother in the house of his father, saying ‘You have clothing; you be our ruler, and let these ruins be under your power, in that day he will protest, saying, ‘I cannot cure your ills, for in my house is neither food nor clothing; do not make me a ruler of the people.’” Why does this awful state of affairs come about? Verse 8 – “For Jerusalem stumbled, and Judah is fallen, because their tongue and their doings are against the Lord, to provoke the eyes of His glory.” “The look on their countenance witnesses against them, and they declare their sins as Sodom; they do not hide it.” “Woe to their soul!” “For they have brought evil upon themselves.”

This is what is beginning to happen in our own country more and more, sad to say. There are not as many men of strength and wisdom and skill who are ruling in business, the military, and the government, as there used to be. God is not raising up such men to take the place of those who were so faithful before. These faithful ones have grown old and died, and gone to their reward, and so as a result of this, our country is much weaker today. This is not to say that there are not still many persons capable of ruling, or that there are not many Christians in the land. But you must ask yourself, why is it, in a land of 300,000,000 people that so few good men, so few righteous men are in places of political leadership? Why is it that our own President is a child in his moral and ethical convictions, and so weak in governing our country? Because God has ordained that it be so for us, because of our sins. Our tongue and our doings are against the Lord to provoke the eyes of His glory. The application ought to be obvious. Each of us must search our hearts to see whether we are repenting of all of our sins, or whether we are tolerating secret sins as a Christian. And we must also be attempting, then, to speak to people around us about their repenting as well. We live in a society which is declaring its sin like Sodom. We do not hide our fornication, and adultery, and homosexual perversity, but actually approve of people in public office who are more and more calling upon the government to enforce supposed or real homosexual “rights”. This is why our king, our President, is a child. He approves of such enforcement, and thinks that it is righteous, when it is really an abomination.

Princes “feasting in the morning” is not a good thing. It is in the morning when the affairs of business ought to be conducted. The purpose of a feast is given to us in verse 19 of our text. “A feast is made for laughter, and wine makes merry.” This can be a good thing if indeed all the business of state has been taken care of, and wise decisions are made and appropriate actions taken, and the wine drinking is not leading to drunkenness. But once a king comes to believe that this kind of entertainment is beneficial to himself and to all of society, he then is promoting evil and he ceases to be wise. He will then, also, most likely, give himself over to these pleasures in the morning and all real business will cease. This is the kind of

false reasoning that the Lord brings judgments upon, in regard to both the king and the people over whom he rules. It is the kind of thinking that can even infiltrate the Church. We are told in the Bible that it is false teachers who attempt to lead people into sensual pursuits in the midst of what they should be doing, which used to be considered serious or holy. Look over at 2nd Peter 2: 9 – “The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority.” “They are presumptuous, self-willed.” “They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.” “But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime.” “They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls.” “They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children.” There’s our word again. It is a truly awful thing when kings or rulers in the church are children in their thinking and babes in their understanding. A woe is pronounced upon them in our text. We should pray that the Lord might forgive our sins, both personally and as a nation, so that our land might be healed by God’s giving us wise and discerning men in government, and especially in the Presidency of these United States.

2nd – Blessing will come upon a land when her king is the son of nobles who do know when and how to feast. (verse 17)

“Blessed are you, O land, when your king is the son of nobles, and your princes feast at the proper time—for strength and not for drunkenness!” You can see here that feasting in and of itself is not sinful. It is a good thing if it is done at the proper time, and not for drunkenness. But turn with me over to Proverbs Chapter 31 and we should think about something more. “What, my son?” “And what, son of my womb?” “And what, son of my vows?” “Do not give your strength to women, nor your ways to that which destroys kings.” “It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes intoxicating drink; lest they forget the law, and pervert the justice of all the afflicted.” “Give strong drink to the perishing, and wine to those who are bitter of heart.” “Let him drink and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.” You can see that there is nothing of real dignity or real nobility in be a drinker of alcoholic beverages. Let us remember this. It says here that it is for those who have fallen into poverty, and they have bitterness of heart. They do not have the lofty goals of promoting the welfare of society. Instead, a righteous mother speaks this way to her son. listen to verse 8 – “Open your mouth for the speechless, in the cause of all who are appointed to die.” “Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of

the poor and needy.” This is the man who is the son of nobles, who is taught by example how to govern in this holy way. This was something that Solomon himself had learned to do from his mother Bathsheba and his father David. They set him a good example in this, but he was also taught personally and practically by the Lord to feast at the proper time. He took care of his business with God first, and then feasted for strength afterwards.

Turn with me over to 1st Kings Chapter 3, verse 3. “And Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David, except that he sacrificed and burned incense at the high places.” “Now the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place: Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.” “At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, ‘Ask!’” “What shall I give you?” “And Solomon said: ‘You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.’” “Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.” “And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted.” “Therefore give to Your servant and understanding heart to discern between good and evil.” “For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?” “The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.”

“Then God said to him: ‘Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you.’” “And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days.” “So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.” “Then Solomon awoke; and indeed it had been a dream.” “And he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, offered up burnt offerings, offered peace offerings, and made a feast for all of his servants.” Now this was the right time for a feast. And it was for strength. Matthew 6: 31 says, “Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all of these things will be added to you. But how often people seek first to feast and be merry in an earthly sense and forget to seek the Lord at all. Therefore, they wonder why God does not bless them more abundantly with gladness of heart and wisdom and discernment. And this too, is the reason that we do not have more good and upright men in positions of government. It takes spiritual wisdom and discernment to feast at the proper

time, in a way that God will not only bless you, but also your city, your state, and your nation. But Solomon knew the secret. Do you?

And then 3rdly – The principles of laziness and diligence are directly related to the woe and the blessing of our text. (verses 18 and 19)

“Because of laziness the building decays, and through idleness of hands the house leaks.” “A feast is made for laughter, and wine makes merry; but money answers everything.” You have probably heard that saying, “Money is the answer to everything.” Well, that saying comes from this verse. But remember that the context here shows us that it is not just your having money which will give you the means to deal with all of the difficulties and problems of every situation that you face. For you may have the love of money and not the love of God; in order to be rich towards Him. You may have money and be a very lazy person. This will only bring you to woe. And God will place that woe upon you unless you repent. But let us end our study with thinking of these things in a better light. We need not have woe, when we pursue the right things. In fact, turn over to 1 Timothy 6: 10. “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” “But you, O man of God, (you who would be a leader among men, or over men) flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.” “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” It is God, through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who gives a man the ability to be diligent to pursue the right things. Laziness and idleness are very poor qualities in a king, and they are sinful qualities in a Christian who would follow Christ and someday be a leader of men. Proverbs 22: 29 says, “Do you see a man who is diligent in his work or his business?” “He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men.” (mean men, or obscure men) What an awful scourge it is when men in political power are lazy and idle. But what a blessing to all of society is the man who is diligent and can make money to help not only himself, but also many others, as he teaches them about God, and the great salvation which is found only in our Lord Jesus Christ.