

Studies in Ecclesiastes

Part 4

Chapters 7-10 – *How to live a slightly less miserable life.*

Chapters 11-12 – *Do what you can while you can.*

You will soon grow old and die.

Avoid Extremes

Ecclesiastes 7:15-18

I have seen everything during my lifetime of futility; there is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness and there is a wicked man who prolongs *his life* in his wickedness. Do not be excessively righteous and do not be overly wise. Why should you **ruin** yourself? Do not be excessively wicked and do not be a fool. Why should you die before your time? It is good that you grasp one thing and also not let go of the other; for the one who fears God comes forth with both of them.

↓
שָׁמַיִם
(Shamayim)
"Heaven"

שָׁמַם
(sha'meim)
"to make desolate"

חֲסִיד שׁוֹטָה = **"pious fool"**

Nothing stands to reason in this world

Ecclesiastes 9:11

I again saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift and the battle is not to the warriors, and neither is bread to the wise nor wealth to the discerning nor favor to men of ability; for time and chance overtake them all.

Ecclesiastes 9:18

Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.

Deal Wisely With Fools & Kings

Ecclesiastes 10:12-15

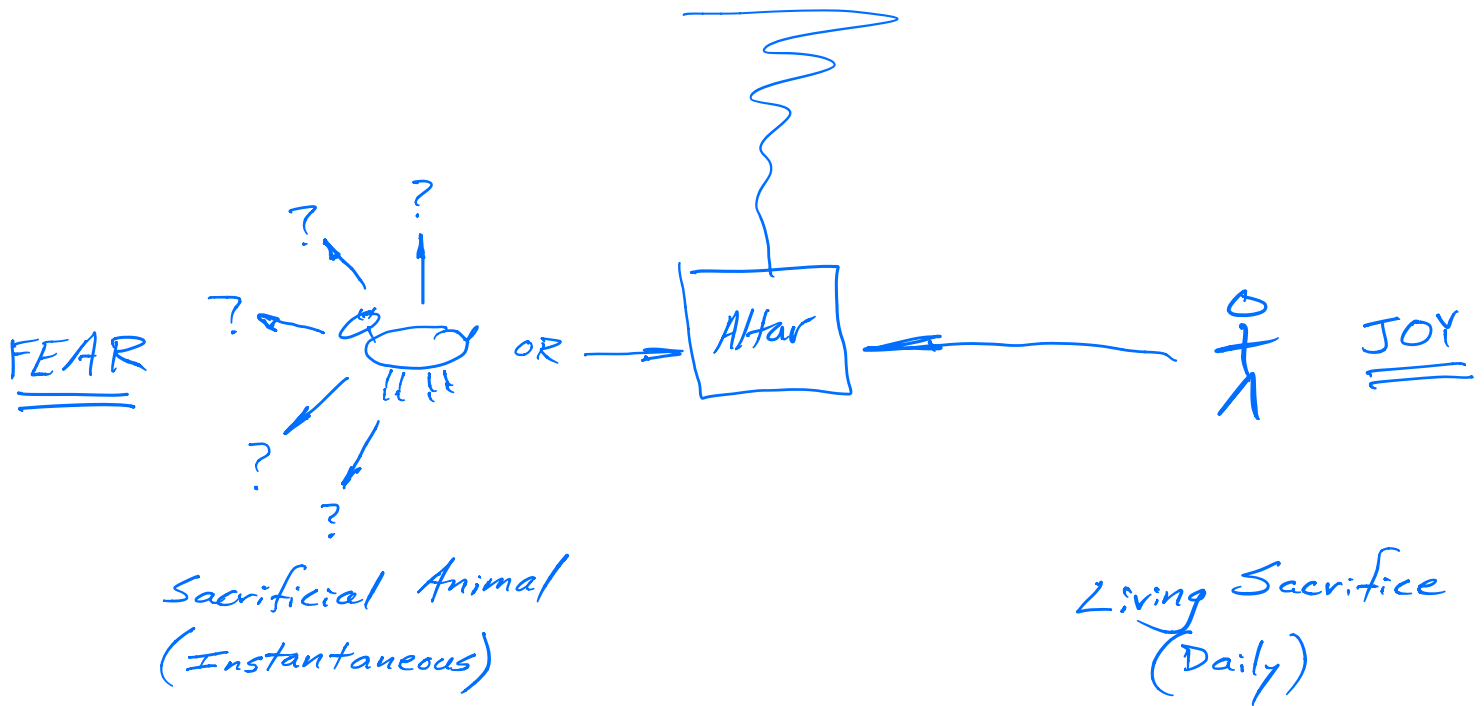
Words from the mouth of a wise man are gracious, while the lips of a fool consume him; the beginning of his talking is folly and the end of it is wicked madness. Yet the fool multiplies words. No man knows what will happen, and who can tell him what will come after him? The toil of a fool so wears him that he does not even know how to go to a city.

You Will Soon Grow Old and Die

Ecclesiastes 11:10 – 12:1

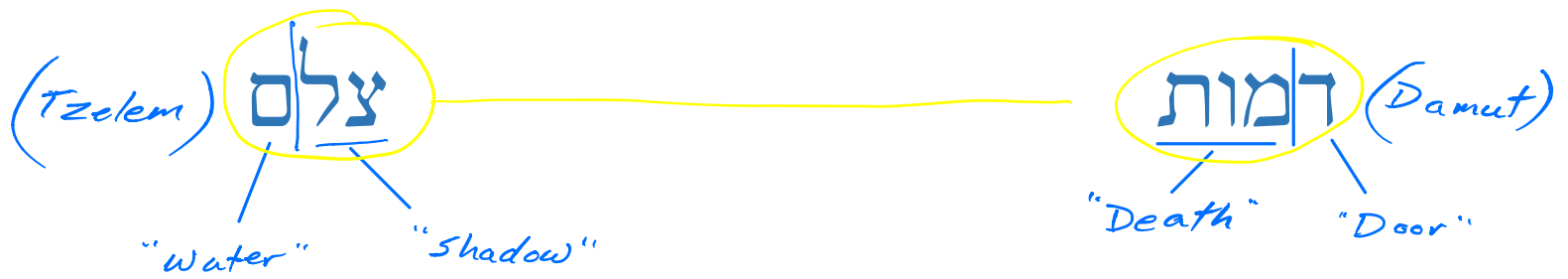
So, remove grief and anger from your heart and put away pain from your body, because childhood and the prime of life are fleeting. Remember also your Creator in the days of your

youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, "I have no delight in them".



Romans 12:1-2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.



Ecclesiastes 12:13

The **conclusion**, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this is the whole of man.

סוף
(sof)