

Ecclesiastes 6:1-12

**Hebel and Life Under the Sun**

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# Outline

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- 1) The Unsatisfied Soul (vv. 1-6)**
- 2) The Unsatisfied Appetite (vv. 7-9)**
- 3) Life Under the Sun (vv. 10-12)**
- 4) Conclusion**

# Ecclesiastes 6

[1] There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, and it lies heavy on mankind: [2] a man to whom God gives wealth, possessions, and honor, so that he lacks nothing of all that he desires, yet God does not give him power to enjoy them, but a stranger enjoys them. This is vanity; it is a grievous evil. [3] If a man fathers a hundred children and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with life's good things, and he also has no burial, I say that a stillborn child is better off than he. [4] For it comes in vanity and goes in darkness, and in darkness its name is covered. [5] Moreover, it has not seen the sun or known anything, yet it finds rest rather than he. [6] Even though he should live a thousand years twice over, yet enjoy no good—do not all go to the one place?

# Ecclesiastes 6

[7] All the toil of man is for his mouth, yet his appetite is not satisfied. [8] For what advantage has the wise man over the fool? And what does the poor man have who knows how to conduct himself before the living? [9] Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the appetite: this also is vanity and a striving after wind. [10] Whatever has come to be has already been named, and it is known what man is, and that he is not able to dispute with one stronger than he. [11] The more words, the more vanity, and what is the advantage to man? [12] For who knows what is good for man while he lives the few days of his vain life, which he passes like a shadow? For who can tell man what will be after him under the sun?

# 1) The Unsatisfied Soul (vv. 1-2)

- **Enjoyment is a Gift**

[6:1] There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, and it lies heavy on mankind: [2] a man to whom God gives wealth, possessions, and honor, so that he lacks nothing of all that he desires, yet God does not give him power to enjoy them, but a stranger enjoys them. This is vanity; it is a grievous evil.



# 1) The Unsatisfied Soul (vv. 3-6)

- **Better not to be Born**

[3] If a man fathers a hundred children and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with life's good things, and he also has no burial, I say that a still born child is better off than he. [4] For it comes in vanity and goes in darkness, and in darkness its name is covered. [5] Moreover, it has not seen the sun or known anything, yet it finds rest rather than he. [6] Even though he should live a thousand years twice over, yet enjoy no good—do not all go to the one place?

## 2) The Unsatisfied Appetite (vv. 7-9)

- **Vanity of Vanities**

[7] All the toil of man is for his mouth, yet his appetite is not satisfied.

- **The Vanity of Wisdom**

[8] For what advantage has the wise man over the fool? And what does the poor man have who knows how to conduct himself before the living?



## 3) Life under the Sun (vv. 10-12)

### ■ Realistic View

[10] Whatever has come to be has already been named, and it is known what man is, and that he is not able to dispute with one stronger than he.

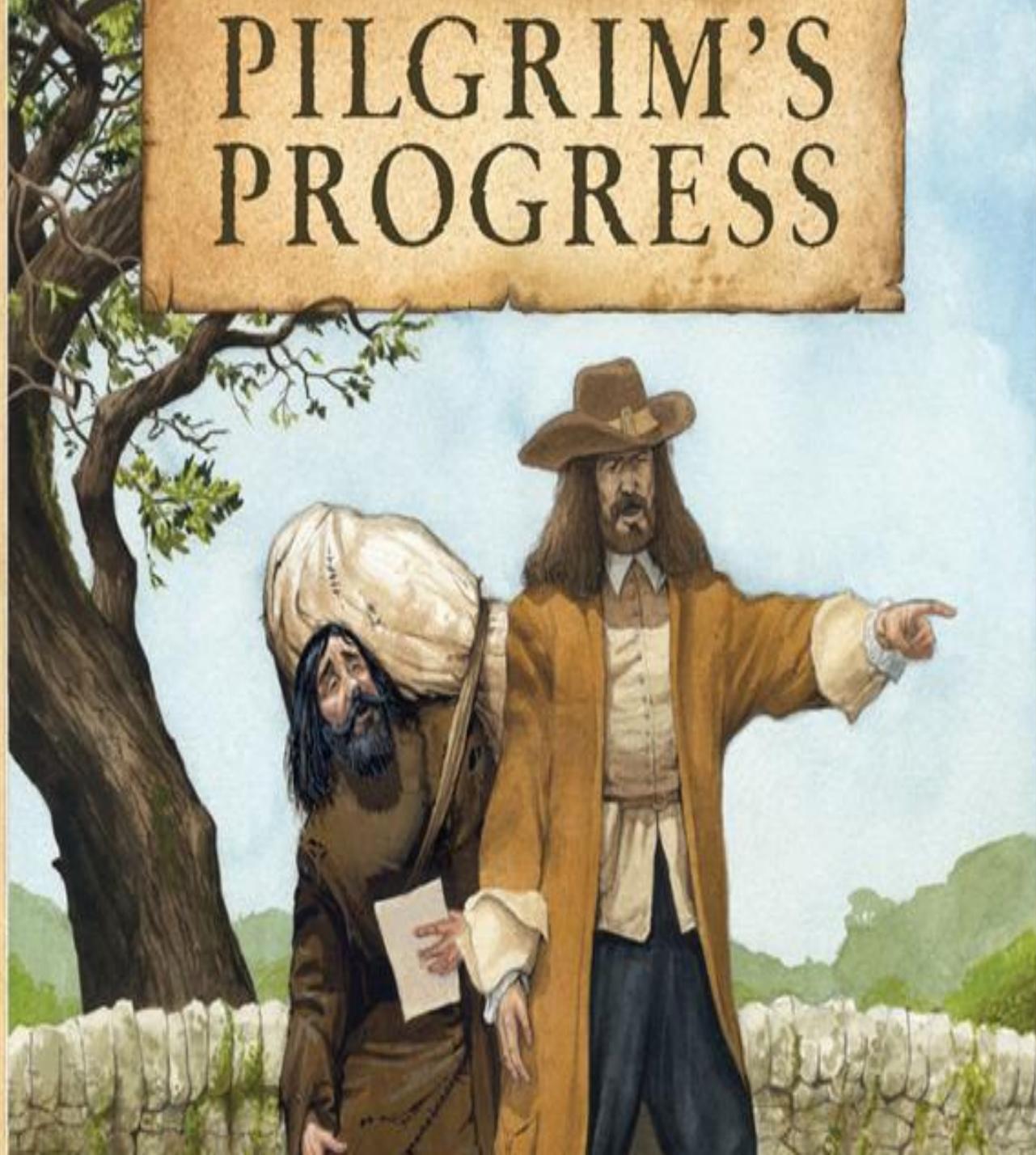
[11] The more words, the more vanity, and what is the advantage to man?

Derek Kidner: "Whatever brave words we may multiply about man, or against his maker, verses 10 and 11 remind us that we shall not alter the way we and our world were made."

### 3) Life under the Sun (vv. 10-12)

- [12] For who knows what is good for man while he lives the few days of his vain life, which he passes like a shadow? For who can tell man what will be after him under the sun?

# PILGRIM'S PROGRESS



# Pilgrim's Progress

I had a dream in which I saw a man dressed in rags standing in a certain place and facing from his house. He had a book in his hand and a great burden on his back. As I looked, I saw him open the book and read out of it, and as he read he wept and trembled. Unable to contain himself any longer, he broke out with a sorrowful cry, saying, "What shall I do?"

# Rest for your Souls

- Matthew 11:28-29 [28] Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.