

# Wisdom in the Ups & Downs

A photograph of a two-lane asphalt road with double yellow lines, curving through a forest. The trees have vibrant autumn foliage in shades of green, yellow, and red. The road is the central focus, leading the eye from the bottom left towards the top right.

***Ecclesiastes 6:10–7:14***

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[www.biblestudydownloads.com](http://www.biblestudydownloads.com)

If you could, *would you like to know*  
what would happen in the next year of  
your life?



**Yes? Or No?**  
**Why?**

**Do you think that knowing your future  
would make you more secure, more  
peaceful, and more joyful?**







Why should we trust in  
God's **plan** for our lives?

# Ecclesiastes Overview

403

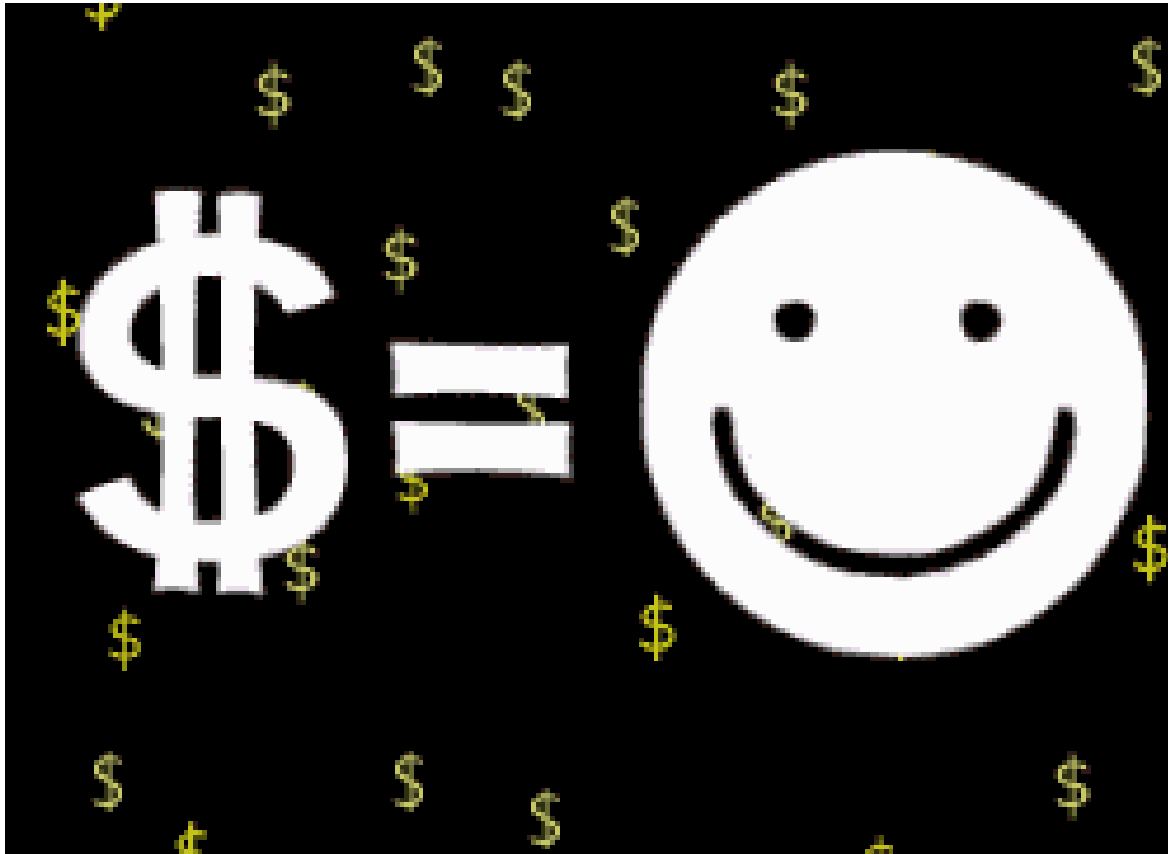
## Work & Wisdom Don't Last

<b>Theme (of 1:12–6:9): Fleetingness</b>	<b>Human Achievement</b>	<b>Human Wisdom</b>	<b>Youthful Joy/Godliness</b>
<b>1:1-11</b>	<b>1:12–6:9</b>	<b>6:10–11:6</b>	<b>11:7–12:14</b>
<b>Man's Humanity</b>	<b>Man's Hands</b>	<b>Man's Head</b>	<b>Man's Heart</b>
<b>Cycles</b>	<b>Work</b>	<b>Ignorance</b>	<b>Aging</b>
<b>Place: Earth ("under the sun")</b>			
<b>c. 935 BC</b>			



**Work**

# Materialism







**Wisdom**



# ***Our Study in Ecclesiastes***



**Work & Wisdom Don't Last**

# **Emphases of 6:10–11:6**

**"do(es) not or cannot know"**

**"do(es) not or cannot discover"**

**"it is good"**

**"X is better than Y"**

**"what God has done"**

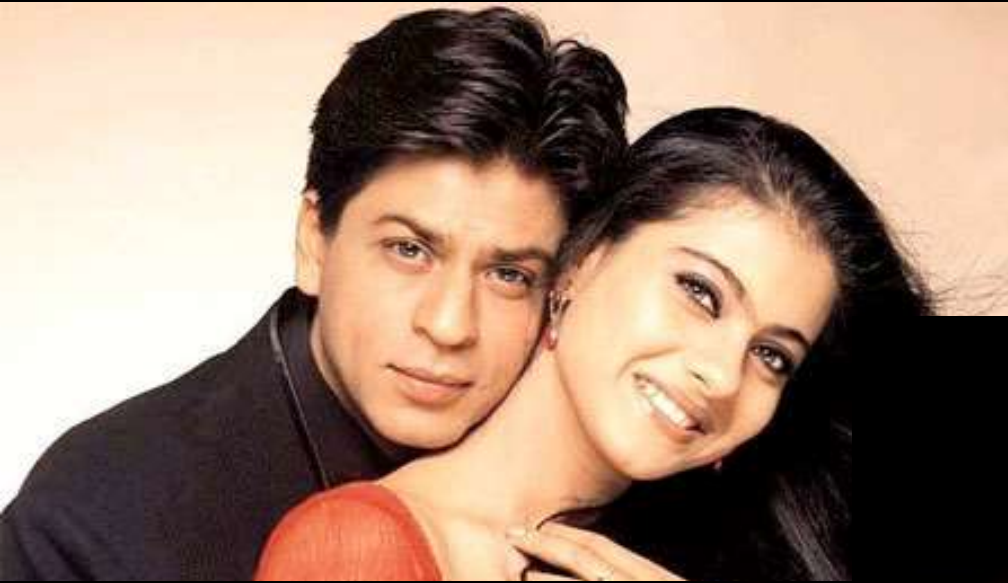
**what the future holds**

**fear God**

**please Him**

# Heroes

**Today:  
Sports & Actors**



**Ancient Near East:  
Wisdom**





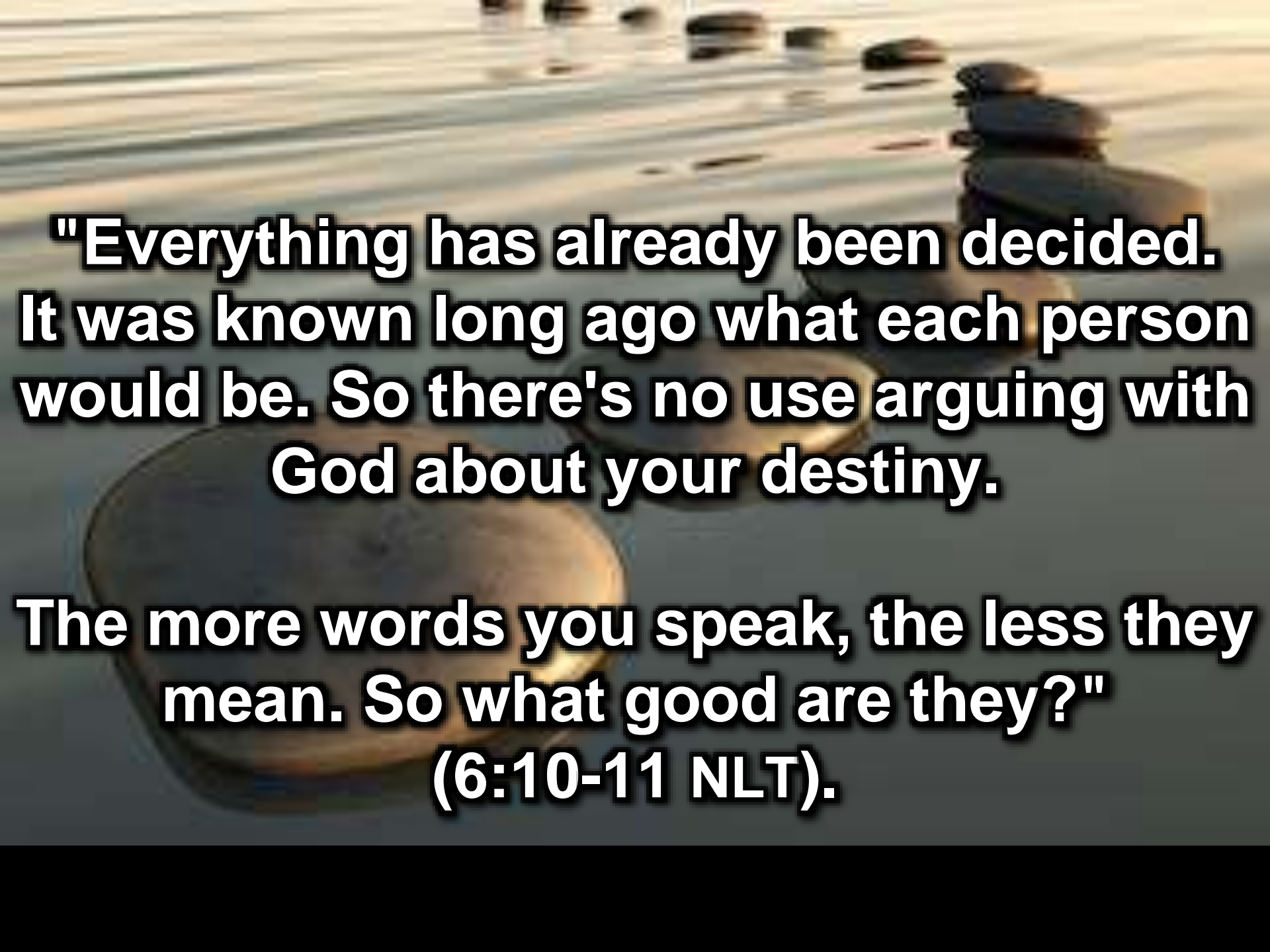
**2 reasons**  
**(Eccl. 6:10–7:14)**

Why should we trust in  
God's **plan** for our lives?



I. God has **planned** all events and  
won't **change** them (6:10-12).





**"Everything has already been decided. It was known long ago what each person would be. So there's no use arguing with God about your destiny.**

**The more words you speak, the less they mean. So what good are they?"  
(6:10-11 NLT).**

**A Lie of  
Our  
Age...**

**YOU CAN  
DO ANYTHING  
YOU WANT**



**"You can have anything in  
this world you want, if you  
want it badly enough and  
you're willing to pay the price"  
— Mary Kay Ash**





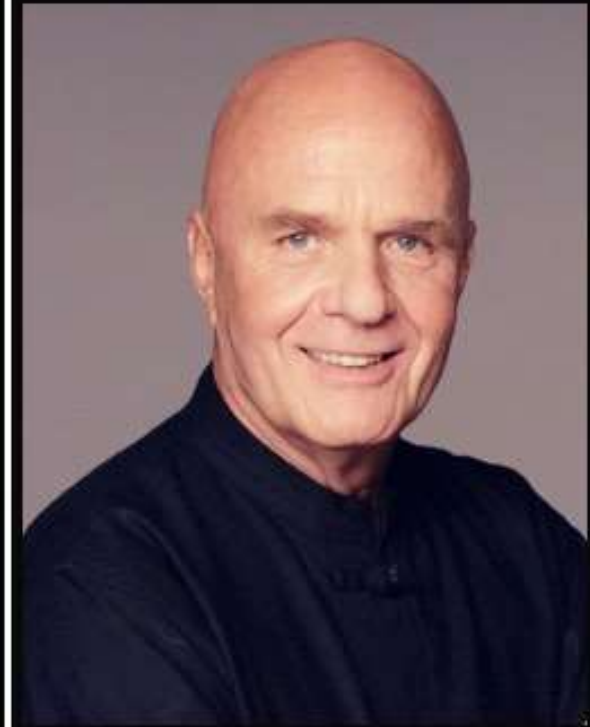
**"You can have anything you want if you want it desperately enough. You must want it with an exuberance that erupts through the skin and joins the energy that created the world."**

**—Sheila Graham**

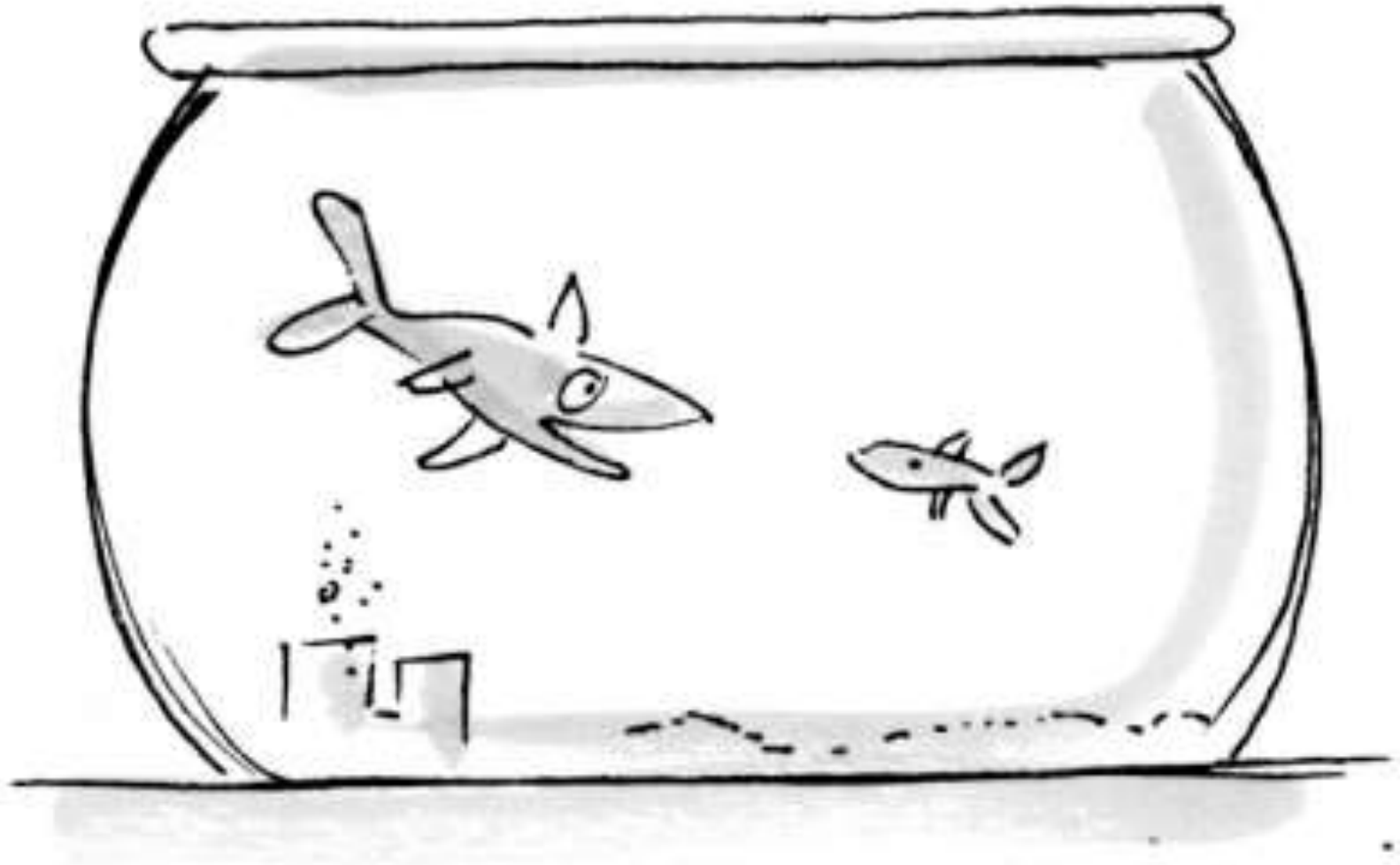
A black and white photograph showing the lower half of a woman. She is wearing a dark, short skirt and black high-heeled shoes with ankle straps. Her legs are crossed at the ankles, and she is standing on a dark wooden floor. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**"You can have  
anything you want in  
life if you dress for it"  
—Edith Head**

JUST FAB

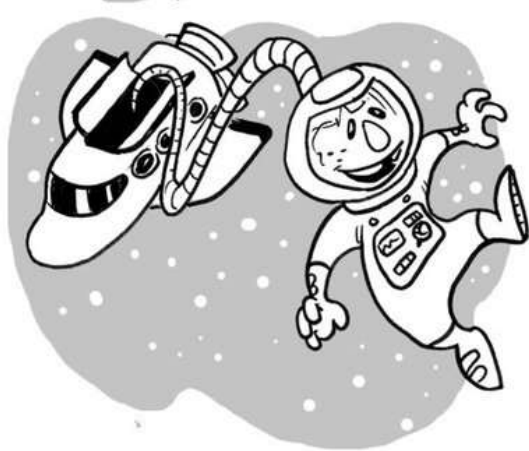


**"Anything you really want,  
you can attain, if you really  
go after it."  
— Wayne Dyer**



***"You can be anything you want to be—  
no limits"***





FRED STREISING

***"When you grow up, you can be anything you want!"***

**None of us really believes that we can control our lives.**



**"Happiness and freedom begin with a clear understanding of one principle. Some things are within your control. And some things are not."**

**—Epictetus**

**"In the few days of our meaningless lives, who knows how our days can best be spent? Our lives are like a shadow. Who can tell what will happen on this earth after we are gone?" (6:12 NLT).**



**None of knows the  
future—and it's a  
good thing!**







Why should we trust in  
God's **plan** for our lives?

I. God has **planned** all events and  
won't **change** them (6:10-12).



**II. We don't  
know why  
**easy** and  
**tough** times  
come our  
way (7:1-14).**





**The wise gain wisdom from adversity  
(7:1-10).**



TinaHailey via Getty Images

**"A good reputation is more valuable than costly perfume" (7:1a NLT).**

**CHANEL**



L'AUTRE IDÉE DE L'ALLURE



**"And the day you die is better than the day you are born. <sup>2</sup>Better to spend your time at funerals than at parties. After all, everyone dies—so the living should take this to heart" (7:1b-2 NLT)**



**"Sorrow is better than laughter, for sadness has a refining influence on us. <sup>4</sup>A wise person thinks a lot about death, while a fool thinks only about having a good time" (7:3-4 NLT).**





**Help children deal with death.**



# The wise listen to rebuke (7:5-6)



**"Better to be criticized by a wise person than to be praised by a fool" (7:5 NLT).**








**Listen to your parents**

**"An open rebuke is better than hidden love!" (Prov. 27:5 NLT).**



**"...Be quick to listen, slow to speak..."  
(James 1:19 NLT).**

A close-up photograph of a man with dark hair and glasses, wearing large black headphones. He has a wide-eyed, surprised, or perhaps indignant expression on his face. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Speak Less

Listen More



**"A fool's laughter is quickly gone, like  
thorns crackling in a fire. This also is  
meaningless" (7:6 NLT).**



**The wise submit to both prosperous  
and adverse circumstances (7:7-10).**



**If there are no ups and downs in your life  
it means you are dead.**



**Life is a roller coaster**



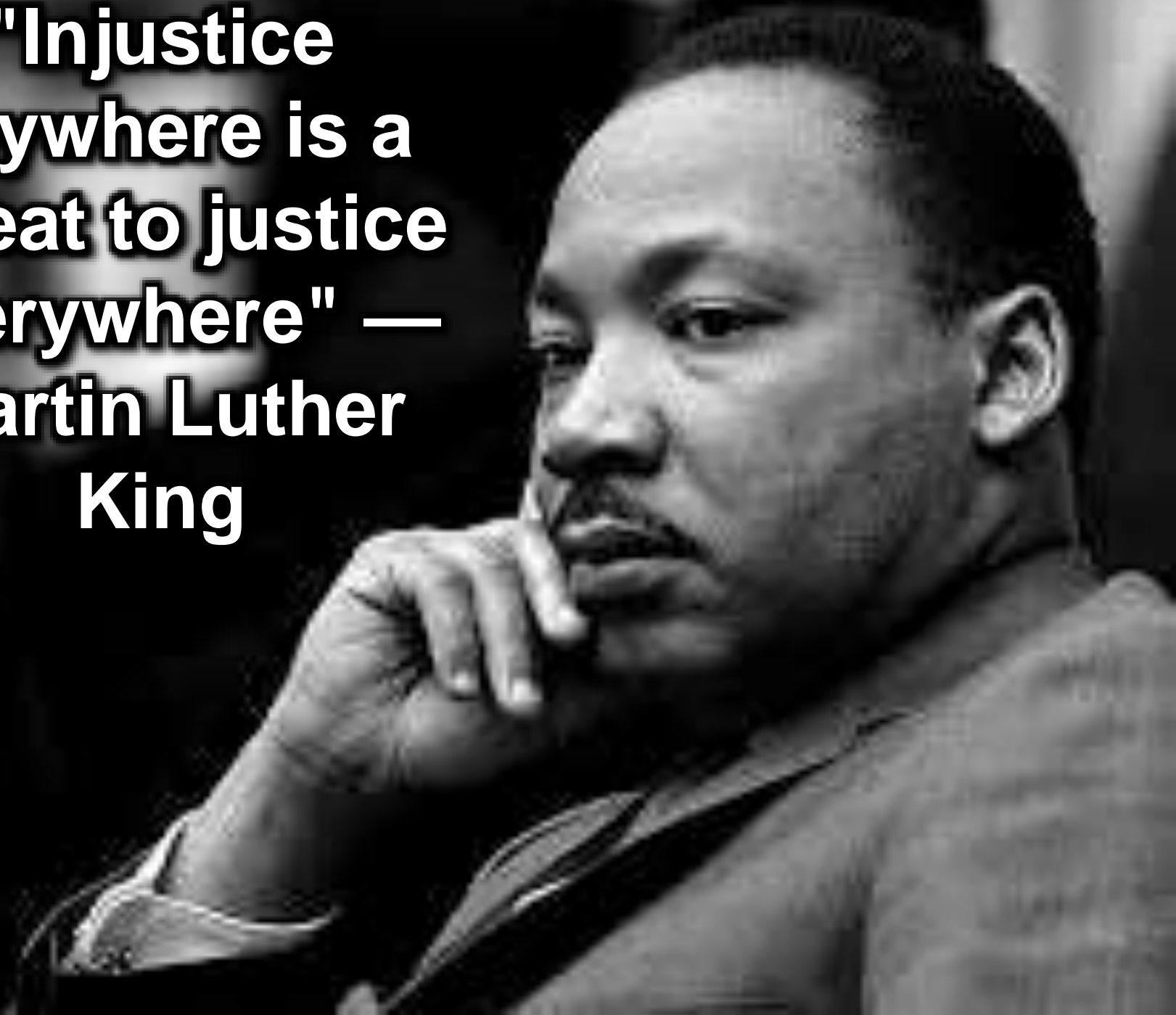


**An oppressive situation can tempt  
one to anger and greed.**

**"For oppression makes a wise man mad,  
and a bribe corrupts the heart" (7:7 NAU)**



**"Injustice  
anywhere is a  
threat to justice  
everywhere" —  
Martin Luther  
King**



**This is the most dangerous animal  
in the world. It is responsible for  
MILLIONS of deaths every year.  
By its side, a great white  
shark swims  
peacefully.**





**"...a bribe corrupts the heart" (7b)**



**"Finishing is better than starting."**



**"Patience is better than pride" (7:8 NLT).**

**"Control your  
temper, for anger  
labels you a fool"  
(7:9 NLT).**





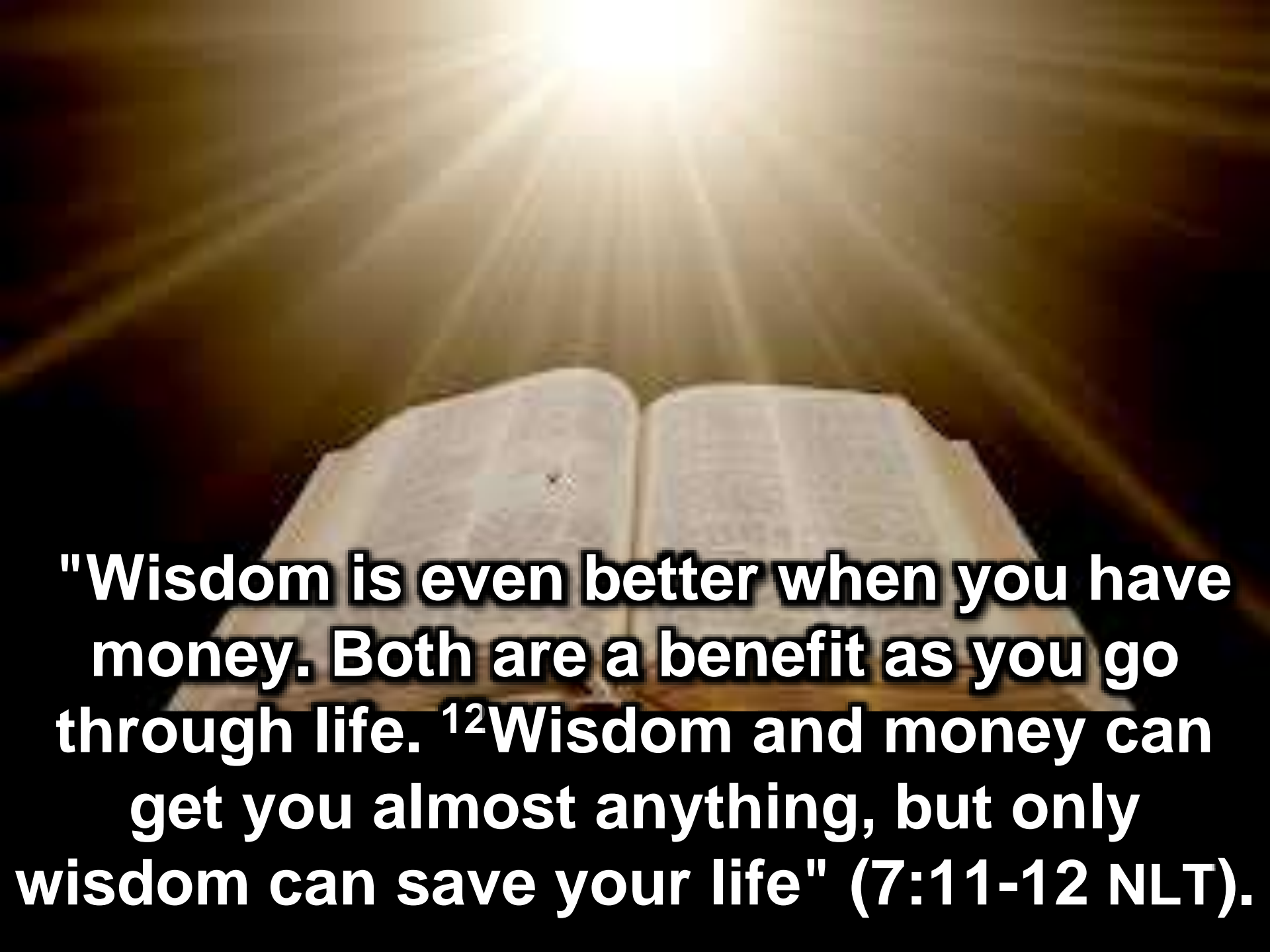


**"Don't long for 'the good old days.'  
This is not wise" (7:10 NLT).**

# The wise benefit from prosperity (7:11-12).





An open book is shown from a high angle, with a bright light source at the top center casting rays of light down onto the pages. The background is dark, making the light rays and the white pages of the book stand out.

**"Wisdom is even better when you have money. Both are a benefit as you go through life. <sup>12</sup>Wisdom and money can get you almost anything, but only wisdom can save your life" (7:11-12 NLT).**

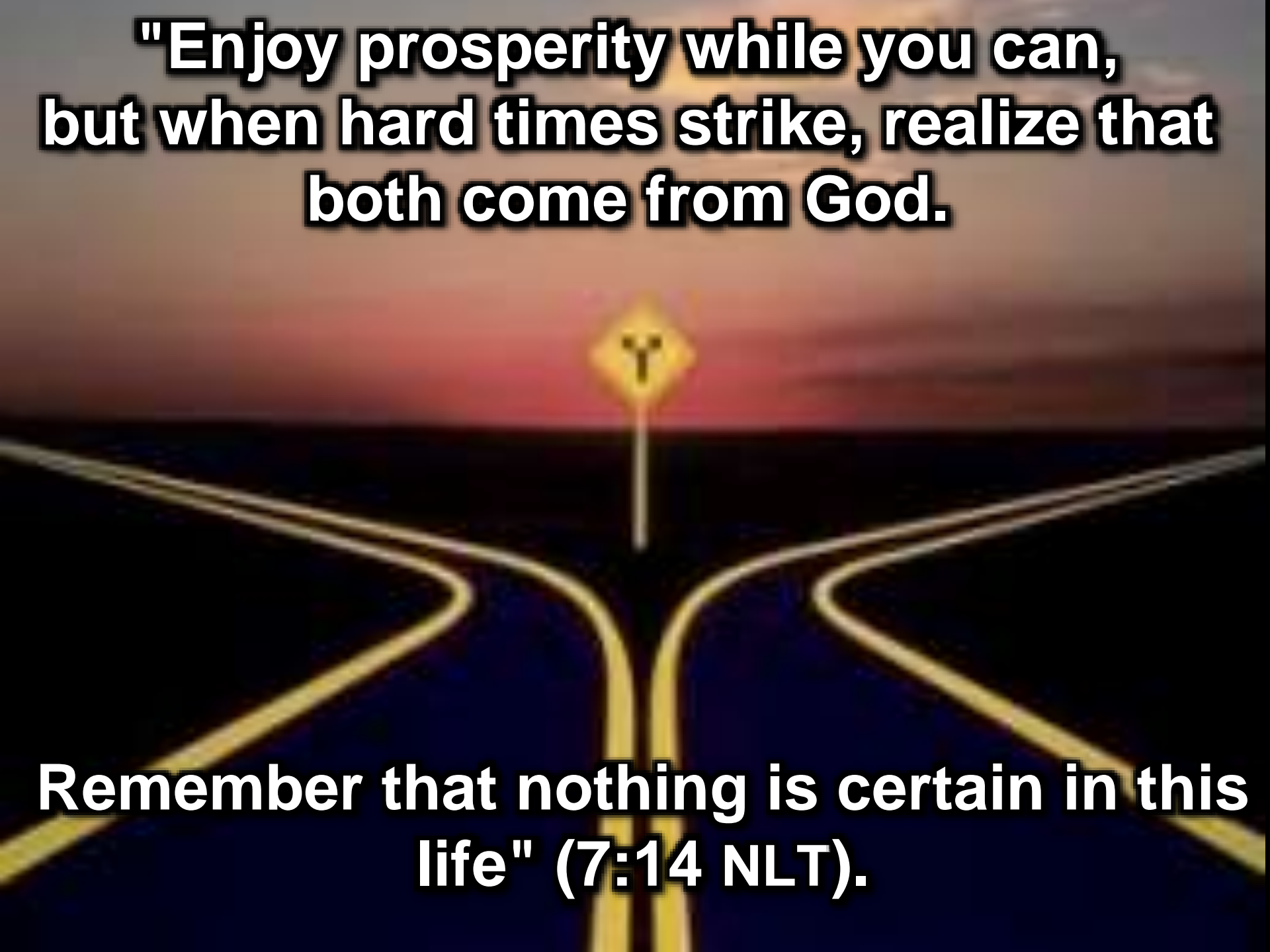


**The wise rest in God's plan for prosperity and adversity (7:13-14).**

**"Accept the way God does things, for who can straighten what he has made crooked?" (7:13 NLT).**



**"Enjoy prosperity while you can,  
but when hard times strike, realize that  
both come from God.**

A photograph of a road with a Y-junction. The road is paved with yellow lines. A signpost stands at the junction, with a yellow diamond-shaped sign on top. The background is a sunset or sunrise sky with a gradient of colors from blue to red. The text is overlaid on the image.

**Remember that nothing is certain in this  
life" (7:14 NLT).**





2 reasons

Why should we trust in  
God's **plan** for our lives?

# The Main Idea of 6:10–7:14

*Why trust in God's plan?*



God's plan is **unchanging**  
and you are **ignorant** of it.

I. God has **planned** all events and  
won't **change** them (6:10-12).





**II. We don't  
know why  
**easy** and  
**tough** times  
come our  
way (7:1-14).**







**Rest in your future.**



**Since God is author of  
both the good times  
and the bad times,  
wisdom trusts that  
God has purposes  
beyond human  
understanding.**

How is God telling you to

*rest*

in your ignorance of your  
future?







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