

Wisdom, Talent, Luck or Something More?

Ecclesiastes 9:11-18a

I. **HUMAN VARIABLES** (11; 2 Chr 32:8)—**what we bring to the table**

A. **Our Merits**—human effort and abilities that provide advantage

1. **Talent**—natural aptitude, gifting, innate ability, good genes!
2. **Strength**—physical strength, manpower, money, technology
3. **Wisdom**—responsible, prudent, ethical
4. **Brilliance**—intelligence, creativity, genius, skill or expertise
5. **Education**—well educated, knowledgeable, informed, enlightened

B. **Our Inadequacy**—Human resources, effort, ability not sufficient

II. **DUMB LUCK** (11-12)—**things outside of us that happen to us,**

A. **Time** (Ps 31:13-15)—progression of events and progress that affect people and things

1. **Your Time**—a time that is significant to you, personally
 - a. The Time into which You Were **Born**
 - b. Your Moment of Fate or **Destiny** (Jn 2:4; 7:6)
 - c. The Inevitable Day of Your **Death** (Ps 139:16; Lk 12:25; Jn 7:30)
2. **Evil Times** (Ps 33:16-19)—distressing period of time, negatively impacts everyone
3. **Unexpected Blows** (Ps 112:6-8)—sudden bad news, personal crisis or calamity

B. **Chance**—things just happen

1. **Accidental**—unintentional, nothing personal
2. **Unpredictable**—don't know when, where, or to whom

III. **WISDOM'S GUIDANCE** (13-18a)—**how to make the best of life**

A. **Wisdom's Value** (17-18a)—best thing under the sun we have going

1. **Not infallible**
2. **Better than strength**

B. **Wisdom's Character**

1. **Wisdom is humble.**
 - a. Speaks **TO Everyone.**

- b. Speaks THROUGH Anyone
- c. Not Personally Ambitions

2. Wisdom is quiet. (Isa 42:2-3; Prov 1:20–21 & 25:15; Mat 11:29; 1 Pet 3:4)—Manner demonstrates confidence

- a. Manner—calm, composed, gentle—not loud and tyrannical
- b. Attitude—confident, self-assured

B. Wisdom's Requirements (Isa 30:21)—You are responsible

1. You must **choose to listen**. (Pro 4:1)
2. You must **choose to act**. (Js 1:22)

IV. GOD'S HELP (Prov 21:31; Ps 16:8)—**What makes all the difference!**

A. God's Sovereignty—His choice, design and purpose

1. **My Personal Composition** (Ps 139:13-14)
2. **My Time in History** (Est 4:14)
3. **My Place in Geography** (Act 17:26)
4. **My Purpose in Life** (Ps 139:8)

B. God's Power (1 Sam 17:47; 2 Chr 32:8; 1 Cor 1:25; 2 Cor 12:9)—available to me

1. **His Wisdom**
2. **His Strength**
3. **His Resources**

C. God's Favor (2 Chr 25:8; 1 Cor 1:26-31; 2 Cor 12:9)—our confidence & comfort. We have nothing to fear!

1. His **plans** are good. (Jer 29:11)
2. His **promises** are sure. (1 Kin 8:56; Ps 145:13; Rom 4:21)
3. His **attention** is guaranteed. (Ps 33:18-19; Isa 64:4)
4. He **can handle** anything that comes! (Ps 16:8; 18:29; 27:3; Jer 20:11; Zec 4:6)

**LISTEN TO “Whom Shall I Fear?” (Chris Tomlin). https://youtu.be/by6no4QTU_g
“Fear Is a Liar” (Zach Williams) <https://youtu.be/1srs1YoTVzs>**