

Reading Ecclesiastes

Vanity of Vanities?

Smoky Hill church of Christ

FALL
2023

7. WHAT GOOD IS WISDOM? (7.14-8.17)

ANOTHER QUESTION:

What kind of God?

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Wisdom's Limit

ECCLESIASTES 7.14–20

WHAT COMES AFTER (7.14)

cf. 3.22; 6.12; 7.14; 8.17

I'VE SEEN IT ALL (7.15–18)

cf. Prv 11.8, 21; 13.22; Psa 73

WISDOM OR...? (7.19–20)

cf. Prv 21.22; 29.8; Eccl 4.13–16; 9.15

Limited Conclusions (7.21–8.1)

IGNORE THINGS (7.21–24)

cf. Job 28

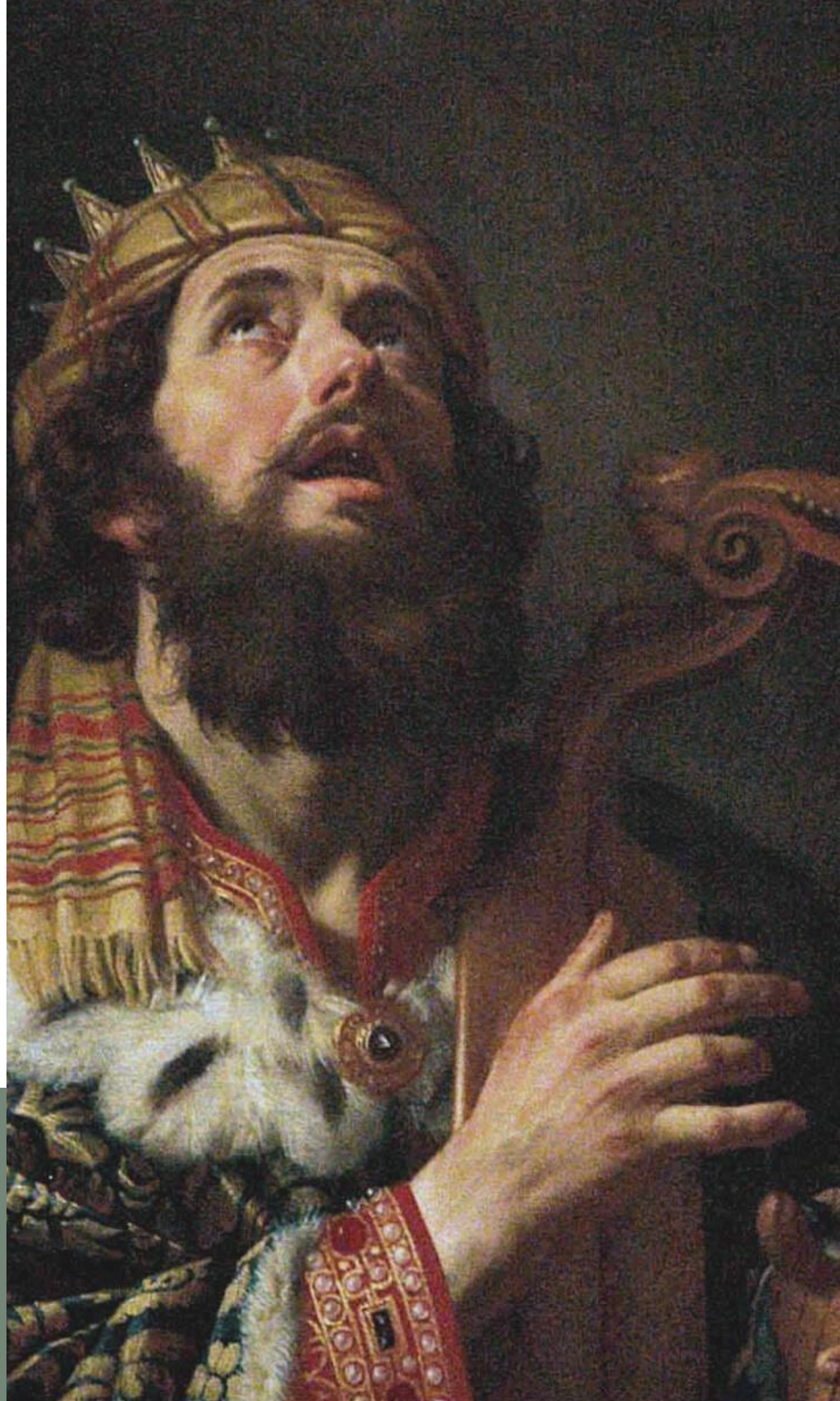
BETTER THAN (7.25–29)

cf. Prv 1–9 (1 Kgs 3–11?)

LIKE THE WISE? (8.1)

A Transitional Stage in the Book





The Command Over Death (8.2–17)

THE **KING'S** COMMAND

Ecccl 8.2–9 (cf. 5.8–9; 7.8)

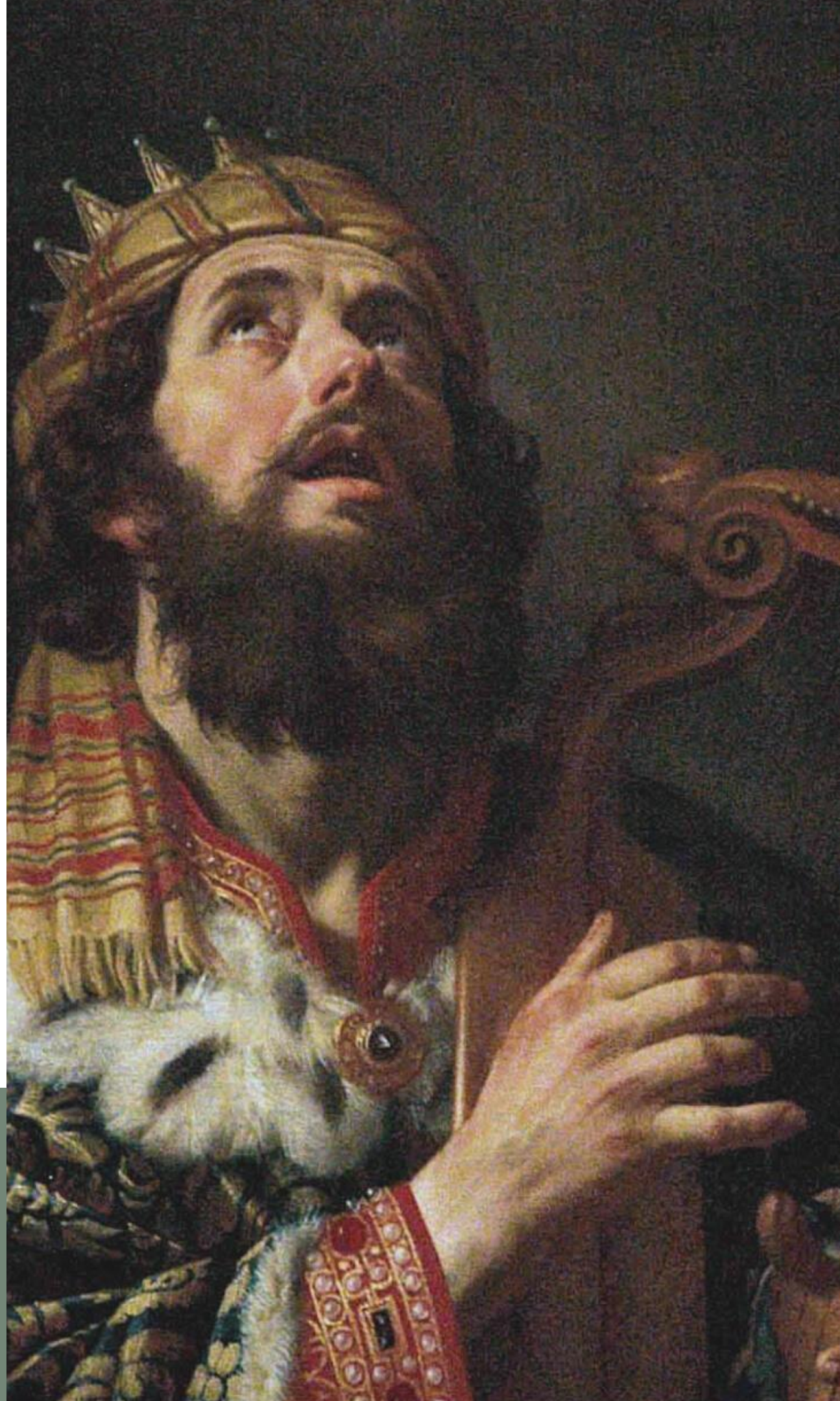
NOT FOR THE **WICKED**

Ecccl 8.10–13 (cf. 7.15–18)



There are few things more obnoxious than the sight of wicked men flourishing and complacent. Yet wickedness respected and given the blessing of religion [Ecl 8.10ff] is even more sickening. The villains are being honoured at the very scene of their misdeeds--and they are no longer alive to cast their spell of fear or favour over anyone. so, incredibly enough, the admiration must be genuine, making it very clear that popular moral judgments can be totally astray, swayed by the evidence of success or failure, and construing heaven's patience as its approval. The dictator or the corrupt tycoon may have bent the rules, it will be said; but after all, they got things done, they had flair, they lived in style...

DEREK KIDNER, *ECCLESIASTES*, 77



The Command Over Death (8.2–17)

VANITY ON **EARTH**

Ecccl 8.14–15

UNDER THE **SUN**

Ecccl 8.16–17



ANOTHER QUESTION:

What kind of God?

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READ

Ecclesiastes 9.1–17



QUESTIONS

- 1) Does the author think there are different ends for the righteous and wicked? If not, why not?
- 2) How does his conclusion change his advice?
- 3) What do we think about it?
- 4) How is this related to the effects of time and chance?
- 5) When/how have we experienced time and chance?

Next Class

8. WISDOM AND DEATH (9.1-17)