

Ecclesiastes 4:1-8 **The Oppressed Have No Comforter – Vanity of Toil Folly In Toil Of The Lonely Without Heir**

¹ Then I returned and considered all the oppression that is done under the sun:
And look! The tears of the oppressed, But they have no comforter –
On the side of their oppressors *there is* power, But they have no comforter.

² Therefore I praised the dead who were already dead, More than the living who are still alive.

³ Yet, better than both *is he* who has never existed, Who has not seen the evil work that is done under the sun.

⁴ Again, I saw that for all toil and every skillful work a man is envied by his neighbor. This also *is* vanity and grasping for the wind.

⁵ The fool folds his hands And consumes his own flesh.

⁶ Better a handful *with* quietness Than both hands full, *together with* toil and grasping for the wind.

⁷ Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun:

⁸ There is one alone, without companion: He has neither son nor brother.
Yet *there is* no end to all his labors, Nor is his eye satisfied with riches.
But he never asks, "For whom do I toil and deprive myself of good?"
This also *is* vanity and a grave misfortune.

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Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Then I returned and considered all the oppression that is done under the sun:
And look! The tears of the oppressed, But they have no comforter –
On the side of their oppressors *there is* power, But they have no comforter.
[\[Ecclesiastes 4:1\]](#)
- ✧ The oppressors have power, the oppressed have no comforter.
- ✧ Therefore I praised the dead who were already dead, More than the living who are still alive.
Yet, better than both *is he* who has never existed, Who has not seen the evil work that is done under the sun. [\[Ecclesiastes 4:2-3\]](#)
- ✧ The despair of the eye of flesh without knowledge of God.
- ✧ Solomon as an old man in his fallen state saw only through the eye of flesh. [\[1 Kings 11:1-13\]](#)
- ✧ From the perspective of the flesh, the dead are viewed as in an enviable situation not aware the evil around them.
- ✧ Those who have never been even more enviable having never been exposed to oppression.

- ☆ Again, I saw that for all toil and every skillful work a man is envied by his neighbor.
This also *is* vanity and grasping for the wind. [Ecclesiastes 4:4]
 - ◇ People tend to envy the worker who is gifted and talented.
 - ◇ Solomon saw that also as vanity and grasping for the wind.
- ☆ The fool folds his hands And consumes his own flesh.
Better a handful *with* quietness Than both hands full, *together with* toil and grasping for the wind. [Ecclesiastes 4:5-6]
 - ◇ The laziness of a fool is self destructive.
 - ◇ A handful of quietness is worth more than both hands grasping for the wind.
- ☆ Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun:
There is one alone, without companion: He has neither son nor brother.
Yet *there is* no end to all his labors, Nor is his eye satisfied with riches.
But he never asks, "For whom do I toil and deprive myself of good?"
This also *is* vanity and a grave misfortune. [Ecclesiastes 4:7-8]
 - ◇ The labor of one without companion, son or brother is never ended.
 - ◇ He is not satisfied with riches not does he consider to whom he will leave his wealth.
 - ◇ Jesus spoke of a rich man ready to retire and called him a fool whose soul God required that very night, not rich toward God. [Luke 12:16-21]
 - ◇ Solomon called it vanity, a grave misfortune.