

# There is nothing new under the sun

*Biblical wisdom to help you avoid common human mistakes at the end of it all.*

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# Introduction

What mistakes would you avoid if you were given a chance to live your life again, in fact not once - but 40 times over?

Maybe you would avoid certain generational sins for example, the love of women which often plagues men. As an example, in the bible: **King David**, anointed as he was ignored God's previous warning about kings having many wives (Deuteronomy 17: 17). He ended up having **8 known wives, not counting concubines**. He had at **least 20 children** (see 1 Chron 3, 2 Samuel 5: 13). His **son King Solomon surpassed him**. Solomon had **700 wives and 300 concubines** (See 1 Kings 11:3). Then **Solomon's son King Rehoboam** followed the sins of his fathers and had **18 wives and 60 concubines, 28 sons and 60 daughters** (See 2 Chron 11: 21). Then **Abijah Rehoboam's son, probably learning from earlier mistakes** had less wives as his fathers, but still he had **14 wives, 22 sons and 16 daughters** (2 Chron 13: 21). Doesn't this bring to mind God's warning: *"I visit the sins of the father down to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation"* (Deut 5: 9)

But what if you could acquire ***biblical wisdom to help you avoid the common mistakes most of us make at the end of it all?***

## Message core content

This message covers: **The biblical wisdom you can find to help you overcome the common mistakes most humans suffer from.** It will in particular show:

- The issues humans faced from all times in common areas of our modern times – for example sex, alcohol, raves/partying, make up and money ; and
- What the bible wisdom tells us about the outcome of each of these areas and how to avoid common mistakes so your life counts for the most important thing at the end.

# About me

**But who am I that God, immortal, invisible the only Wise God** should speak to me and give me his words for you? So, I am not a **superstar preacher or prophet**, infact, I am a regular guy, with a day job, as an accountant. Before I became a devoted Christian, I spent **20 years of my life making all the common mistakes of chasing after women and sex, and alcohol, human wisdom and the love of money**. God however healed me from them all after I became his servant and got baptized in May 2017. He thereafter **commissioned me as a Preacher of righteousness telling me to, go and preach**, telling all *“turn away from your sins, because the kingdom of Heaven is near”*.

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# Wisdom to avoid human mistakes.

## General Introduction

The bible old testament is at least 3,200 years old. Therefore if you read it regularly, you would be learning from 3,200 years of history. Now, the average person lives to 80 years. So learning from the bible history is the equivalent of having 40 life times given to you – to learn from:

**3,200 years/80 years = 40 life times.**

This is what I meant when I asked you the initial question: *What mistakes would you avoid if you were given a chance to live your life again, in fact not once - but 40 times over?*

Your 40 chances at life come when you see how others in the past lived, going through the same things as you.

Knowing these experience should be amazing wisdom right? We would want to learn from wise people right?

Perhaps from the wisest and yet “craziest” party animal known in the bible?

# Everything is meaningless.

King Solomon who is considered the wisest king was inspired to write in the book of Ecclesiastes. He said: “there is nothing new under the sun”. He should have known this well. He was probably the “craziest party animal in the bible”. He enjoyed his life with his 700 wives and 300 concubines as well as having great wealth. He should have been the happiest person right? He instead wrote this in his later years after it all:

*“Meaningless! Meaningless!”*

*says the Teacher.*

*“Utterly meaningless!*

*Everything is meaningless.”*

*What do people gain from all their labors  
at which they toil under the sun?*

***Generations come and generations go,  
but the earth remains forever.***

*What has been will be again,  
what has been done will be done again;  
***there is nothing new under the sun.****

*Is there anything of which one can say,*

*“Look! This is something new”?*

*It was here already, long ago;*

*it was here before our time.*

*No one remembers the former generations,  
and even those yet to come*

*will not be remembered*

*by those who follow them.*

**Ecclesiastes 1: 2-4, 9 - 11**

# Issue 1: Generational sins

## Is everything meaningless as Solomon wrote? Has it all been done before as written?

The bible seems to say that the common things or problems we humans experience are “old”, just that we don’t remember them. Is this true or are they new, being experienced by our generation for the first time? Let’s speak through some of these problem areas one by one.

### Problem area #1: Generational sins.

From the bible we see that problems run in families, cutting across generations, for example:

- Kind David’s **lineage seemed to have the problem of sexual promiscuity**, on account of their many wives and concubines as I narrated earlier. Maybe this is the sin of all men? 😊 Anyway:
- Abraham the father of faith, **his lineage seemed to have a problem of lies**. Abraham in fear of losing his beautiful wife partly lied to Pharaoh, King of Egypt that Sarah was his sister (Gen 20: 2) - She was his half sister. His son Isaac continued the sin, only worse. He told another leader Abimelech that Rebecca his wife was his sister (Gen 26: 7) – she was his cousin. In Jacob, the grandson of Abraham, the generational sin fully matured for he lied to his father Isaac to get his brother’s birth right and as if in repayment, his Uncle Lamech (Rebecca’s father) switched sister Rachel for Leah on his wedding night (Gen 29:23-28). The sins of the father, visited down to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generations.

God mercifully intervened when he broke Jacob and thereafter changed his name from Jacob which meant “supplanter” perhaps “stealer” to “Israel” - one who wrestles with God and wins. This new name brought a new identity – he became a father of the nation, a new generation.

Nothing is new under the sun and therefore as it was in David and Abraham’s lineage, there might be generational sins your lineage fights with.

**So the solution is that now that you can see this pattern**, you need to likewise identify the specific sins that run in your family, wrestle with God in prayer and fasting and eventually God will let the sin end with you as he intervened with Jacob!

# Issue 2: Alcohol/partying/orgies

## Problem#2: Alcohol fueled parties/raves, orgies

Meet any young person today and they often live their lives to rave to party. They eat, sleep (with others), drink and repeat (As a popular song says). If an adult tells them to grow up or stop, they act as if they are the first to party, refuse to listen and tell the “old timers” to leave them alone. Cyndi Lauper’s “Girls just want to have fun” captures this teen spirit well. Part of it goes:

*The phone rings in the middle of the night  
My father yells what you gonna do with your life  
Oh daddy dear you know you're still number one  
But girls they want to have fun  
Oh girls just want to have....*

But nothing is new under the sun, the bible shows us examples of likely alcohol fuelled parties, raves and orgies. For example:

- **In a desert rave after the Israelites had made a golden bull**, the bible says: *“Early the next day the people sacrificed burnt offerings and brought fellowship offerings. Afterward, they sat down to a feast, which turned into an orgy.” Exodus 32:6 (GWT).*
- **Job’s children used to have parties lasting many days.** The bible says: *Job’s sons would take turns preparing feasts in their homes, and they would also invite their three sisters to celebrate with them. When these celebrations ended—sometimes after several days—Job would purify his children. Job: 1: 4 – 5 (NLT).*

# Issue 3: Women as temptresses

**Problem #3: Women have always wanted to look Sexy (maybe temptresses).** For example:

*The LORD says, The women of Zion are haughty, walking along with outstretched necks, flirting with their eyes, strutting along with swaying hips, with ornaments jingling on their ankles. Isaiah 3:16.*

Here we see women who flirt with their eyes and walk with swaying hips. Is this not unlike the large eye lashes many women today wear, perhaps to enhance butting the eye lids in flirtation? Isn't this swaying of hips similar to what you would see on the cat walk in London, Paris and New York? How about ornaments jingling on their ankles. Aren't these the anklets and chains modern women wear on all the reality TV shows?

Another example is this: Queen Jezebel was applying eye makeup (kohl) and brushing her hair, just as she was about to be thrown down and killed (2 Kings 9: 30). This was likely so she could lure her captor Jehu a man. Brushing hair was a form of flirting in Hebraic thinking.

There is indeed nothing new under the sun. In ancient times, humans knew how to drink and party, how to flirt and be sexy and even how to have orgies perhaps like today's Bunga Bunga sex parties.

**So we see that these things we do aren't modern, they are ancient.**



# Issue 4: Human wisdom/talent/gifts

## Problem#4: Putting trust in wisdom/knowledge/talents/gifts

We praise people like Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawkins and Steve Jobs for being wise and many of us who are intelligent are puffed up with pride as if the world revolves around us, but there have always been wise people and we are not the first. The bible gives examples of wise people like:

- **Ahithopel the wise:** *“Absalom followed Ahithophel’s advice, just as David had done. For every word Ahithophel spoke seemed as wise as though it had come directly from the mouth of God. 2 Samuel 16: 23 (NLT).*
- **Wise king Solomon :** *“He composed some 3,000 proverbs and wrote 1,005 songs.” 1 Kings 4: 32 (NLT).*

How many of us can compose 1 song? 1 proverb? Let alone 3,000 proverbs and 1,000 songs! That’s wisdom, that’s giftedness.

# Issue 5: Money

## Problem#5: Putting trust in money

When we read the bible and it says someone was wealthy in cows and goats and other livestock, in our modern world, we just can't comprehend how that is wealth. But let me give you an example of a wealthy man the bible spoke about. A man called Job is described as follows in Job 1: 3 (NLT).

*“There once was a man named Job who lived in the land of Uz. He was blameless—a man of complete integrity. He feared God and stayed away from evil. He had seven sons and three daughters. He owned 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 teams of oxen, and 500 female donkeys. He also had many servants. He was, in fact, the richest person in that entire area.”*

Being an accountant, I estimated his wealth in today's terms based on prices from Saudi Arabia in the middle East which would have been in the region in which Job lived. This is what I found:

Animal	Number	Unit Price (SAR)	Unit price (\$)	Total (\$)
Sheep	7,000	1,275	250	1,750,000
Camel	3,000	5,475	1,760	5,280,000
Oxen	500	4,800	1,480	740,000
Donkeys	500		700	350,000
<b>Total</b>				<b>8,120,000</b>

source: <https://hajjsolutions.com/prices>

The average American's net worth is about \$750,000. So Job was at 10 times+ wealthier than an American today. Even a lot more wealthier if you think of the average person in the developing world.

# The end of Human concerns.

**Having seen that all we do today isn't new indeed, the bible then shows what happens when we pursue only human concerns. For example:**

**#1 About seeking wisdom/knowledge/human wisdom** – the bible shows the end for those who make human wisdom/knowledge king:  
For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief. **Eccl 1: 18** Human wisdom ends in grief. This is the sorrow of those who trust in their smartness/intelligent/wisdom.

**#2 About those who seek pleasure – from alcohol, from partying, beauty, sex and from empire building** - the bible shows the end of those who make hedonism the main thing:

*I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly—my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was good for people to do under the heavens during the few days of their lives. I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well—the delights of a man's heart. I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me. I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my labor, and this was the reward for all my toil.*

*Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun. Ecclesiastes 2: 3- 11*

**#3 Money too is meaningless – the bible confirms this for billionaires of this world - they will never be satisfied.**

*Whoever loves money will never have enough money. Whoever loves luxury will not be content with abundance. This also is pointless. Ecclesiastes 5:10.*

# What's the point of it all?

**Why do we have many bible stories in the Old Testament?**

*These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. 1 Corinthians 10: 11*

The bible has numerous stories particularly in the old testament, so that those of us in the end days do not repeat the mistakes of ages past. These last days by the way is all Christians in the 2,000 years since Jesus' resurrection.

**So, how to live your life in light of this**

You are supposed to learn from these examples and change your life accordingly. Unlike human wisdom which focuses on the "here and now", the bible takes the "eternal view." Your death and the legacy. If you grasp that you are a visitor, passing through, experiencing what other generations saw as well, you become wiser. It says:

- *What use is it to gain the whole world and lose your soul? (Matthew 16: 26)*
- *Teach us to number our days that we may gain wisdom. (Psalms 90: 12)*

When you know that "nothing is new under the sun", then you will know that pursuing human pleasures or things of this world will come to an end and then what will become of you? It is why at the end of Ecclesiastes, after calling everything "Meaningless" the teacher understands the most important thing required and gives a very important conclusion on the whole point of human existence.

*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. Ecclesiastes 12: 13*

# Conclusion: biblical wisdom for you

The Summary of the matter as we have discussed is this:

**Every generation thinks it's the first, the most "modern" or "advanced"**. Thinking this, they then pursue temporary things: money, sex, power, knowledge, beauty. If you however had 40 life times, which come from reading the bible's wisdom then you will recognise that "there is nothing new under the sun". You thereafter recognise that your own day to depart will come and then what? The solution is to "fear God and keep his commandments".

## Practical steps to overcome the issue

To ensure that you translate today's lesson into daily living, consider the following practical steps:

- If you suffer from any of the problems narrated. The first step is to recognise them. Identify your big weakness. Mine for example was women. I prayed and God helped me to start breaking the stronghold, but this did not come except by much prayer, fasting and reading the word. **Make these three part of your daily routine.** That's how God has helped me overcome in all the areas. It's how I learnt his wisdom.

If you do these things, God promises, you too will overcome as one of my favourite passages, Psalms 1 says:

# Final verse of encouragement

*Blessed is the man  
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,  
Nor stands in the path of sinners,  
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;  
But his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
And in His law he meditates day and night.  
He shall be like a tree  
Planted by the rivers of water,  
That brings forth its fruit in its season,  
Whose leaf also shall not wither;  
And whatever he does shall prosper.*

*The ungodly are not so,  
But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.*

Psalms 1: 1- 4 (NKJV)

The wicked - those who live their lives for their own pleasure, in promiscuous sex and drunkenness, lovers of money and chasers of evil pleasure. These will be driven away, like chaff in the wind. Chaff is what's left after wheat is sifted.

By comparison, the godly will flourish, when the wind blows on them, they stand strong, like a tree planted by rivers of living water. These living waters being the Holy Spirit of Jesus. Amen!

# Prayer

How can I pray for you? You might be at a different place in your journey:

- ***You are faithfully serving God**– but you have been distracted. The wisdom of God is reminding you to return to the ancient paths of living waters. Fear God again*
- ***You used to be saved but now you are a prodigal son/daughter**– you have been snared by the very things Jesus saved you from. The Lord Jesus says, repent before it's too late and something worse happens; or*
- ***You have never received the gift of Christ**, being eternal life and neither have you received Jesus' Holy Spirit, the one who will give you living waters to help you prosper where you previously failed in sin.*

Write to me so I can pray further for you: [dwasake@shaweleroad.com](mailto:dwasake@shaweleroad.com).

# Next steps

## **Getting saved:**

If you want to know even more about what you must do to get saved and experience amazing grace, the Lord says, come and see. Visit our getting saved page for more information:

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