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"Then what is life for? To die? To kill myself at once? No, I am afraid. To wait for death till it comes? I fear that even more. Then I must live. But what for? In order to die?" -Leo Tolstoy



"Life is just a dirty trick, a short journey from nothingness to nothingness." - Ernest Hemmingway



"They give birth astride of a grave, the light gleams an instant, then it's night once more." —Samuel Beckett

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"The mass of men live lives of quiet desperation." - Henry David Thoreau



Ecclesiastes 1:2 (NIV)

"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher.

"Utterly meaningless!

Everything is meaningless."



Ecclesiastes 1:16-18 (NIV) 16 I said to myself, "Look, I have increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge.

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"17 Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind.

18 For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief.



Ecclesiastes 2:4-11 (NIV)

4 I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. 5 I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them.



6 I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. 7 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.



8 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. 9 I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me.



10 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.



11 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 5:10 (NIV)

Whoever loves money never has enough;

whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless



Ecclesiastes 12:13 (NIV)
Now all has been heard;
here is the conclusion of the matter:
Fear God and keep his
commandments,
for this is the duty of all mankind.



Life is meaningless without God, but God gives everything meaning



Matthew 6:25-34 (NIV)

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?



26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?



28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.



30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will He not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'



32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.



33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.



Life is meaningless without God, but God gives everything meaning



Ecclesiastes 3:10-14 (NIV)

10 I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.



12 I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. 13 That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.



14 I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear him.

explore JOC Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV)

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



1 John 5:3 (NIV)

In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome



Life is meaningless without God, but God gives everything meaning