

ECCLESIASTES

12:1-8 – An alternative interpretation from the New Interpreter's Bible:

1 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years approach of which you will say, I have no pleasure in them;

2 before the sun is darkened and the light, and the moon, and the stars, while the clouds return after the rain (*natural symbols of old age*).

3 When the guardians (*arms*) of the house tremble and the strong men (*legs*) are bent and the grinders (*teeth*) are idle because they are few, and they who look through the windows (*eyes*) grow blind;

4 when the doors (*lips*) to the street are shut, and the sound of the mill (*mastication*) are suppressed;

5 and one fears heights, and perils in the street; when the almond tree blooms (*white hair*) and the locust grows sluggish and the caper berry is without effect (*sexual desire diminishes*) because man goes to his lasting home and mourners go about the streets;

6 before the silver cord is snapped and the golden bowl is broken and the pitcher is shattered at the spring and the broken pulley falls into the well,

7 and the dust returns to the earth as it once was and the life breath returns to God who gave it (*all symbols of loss of life itself*).