**Ecclesiastes, 12:1-8**

**The Wycliffe Bible (Later Version, 1388?)** 1 Haue thou mynde on thi creatour in the daies of thi yongthe, bifore that the tyme of thi turment come, and the yeris of thi deth neiye, of whiche thou schalt seie, Tho plesen not me. 2 `Haue thou mynde on thi creatour, bifor that the sunne be derk, and the liyt, and sterrys, and the mone; and cloude turne ayen after reyn. 3 Whanne the keperis of the hous schulen be mouyd, and strongeste men schulen tremble; and grynderis schulen be idel, whanne the noumbre schal be maad lesse, and seeris bi the hoolis schulen wexe derk; 4 and schulen close the doris in the street, in the lownesse of vois of a gryndere; and thei schulen rise at the vois of a brid, and alle the douytris of song schulen wexe deef. 5 And hiy thingis schulen drede, and schulen be aferd in the weie; an alemaunde tre schal floure, a locuste schal be maad fat, and capparis schal be distried; for a man schal go in to the hous of his euerlastyngnesse, and weileris schulen go aboute in the street. 6 Haue thou mynde on thi creatour, byfore that a siluerne roop be brokun, and a goldun lace renne ayen, and a watir pot be al to-brokun on the welle, and a wheele be brokun togidere on the cisterne; 7 and dust turne ayen in to his erthe, wherof it was, and the spirit turne ayen to God, that yaf it. 8 The vanyte of vanytees, seide Ecclesiastes, the vanyte of vanytees, and alle thingis ben vanyte.

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| **The Geneva Bible (1560)**  Remember now thy Creator in the daies of thy youth, whiles the evil daies come not, nor the yeres approche, wherein thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them:  2 Whiles thу sunne is not darke, not the light, nor the moone, nor the strarres, nor the cloudes returne after the raine:  3 When the kepers of the house shal tremble, and the strong men shal bowe themselves, and the gronders shal cease, because thei are fewe, and they waxe darke that loke out by the windows:  4 And the dores shal be shut without by the base sound of the grinding, and he shal rise up at the voice of the birde: and all the daughters of the singing shalbe a-based.  5 Also thei shalbe afraied of the hie thing, and feare shalbe in the way, and the almond tre shal florish and the grasshopper shalbe a burden, and concupiscence shalbe driven away: for man goeth to the house of his age, and the mourners go about in the street.  6 Whiles the silver corde is not lengthened, nor the golden ewer broken, nor the pitcher broke at the well, nor the whele broken at the cisterne:  7 And dust returne to the earth as it was, and the spirit returne to God that gave it.  8 Vanitie of vanities, saith the Preacher, all is vanitie. | **The King James Bible (1611)**  **(the Authorized Version)**  **Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;**  **2 While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain.**  **3 In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened,**  **4 And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low;**  **5 Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets.**  **6 Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.**  **7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.**  **8 Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity.** |

**The Good News Bible (1976)**

So remember your Creator while you are still young, before those dismal days and years come when you will say, "I don't enjoy life!" 2 That is when the light of the sun, the moon, and the stars will grow dim for you, and the rain clouds will never pass away. 3 Then your arms, that have protected you, will tremble, and your legs, now strong, will grow weak. Your teeth will be too few to chew your food, and your eyes too dim to see clearly. 4 Your ears will be deaf to the noise of the street. You will barely be able to hear the mill as it grinds or music as it plays, but even the song of a bird will wake you from sleep. 5 You will be afraid of high places, and walking will be dangerous. You hair will turn white; you will hardly be able to drag yourself along, and all desire will have gone. We are going to our final resting place, and then there will be mourning in the streets. 6 The silver chain will snap, and the golden lamp will fall and break; the rope at the well will break, and the water jar will be shattered. 7 Our bodies will return to the dust of the earth, and the breath of life will go back to God who gave it to us. 8 Useless, useless, said the Philosopher. It is all useless.

**From The Twelve Conclusions of the Lollards**

 We poor men, treasurers of Christ and his Apostles, denounce to the Lords and the Commons of the Parliament certain conclusions and truth for the reformation of the Holy Church of England, the which has been blind and leprous many years by the maintenance of the proud prelacy, borne up with flattering of private religion, the which is multiplied to a great charge and onerous [to] people here in England.

**The First Conclusion:  
State of The Church**

When the Church of England began to dote in temporality after her stepmother, the great Church of Rome, and churches were slain by appropriation to diverse places. Faith, Hope, and Charity began for to flee out of our Church. For Pride with his sorry genealogy of deadly sins challengeth it by title of heritage. This conclusion is general and proved by experience, custom, and manner, as you shall after hear.

**The Second Conclusion:  
The Priesthood**

The Second Conclusion is this: Our usual priesthood, the which began in Rome feigned of a power higher than angels, is not the priesthood the which Christ ordained to his Apostles. This conclusion is proved: for the priesthood of Rome is made with signs, rites, and bishops' blessings, and that is of little virtue. nowhere ensampled in the Holy Scripture, for the bishops ordinals in the New Testament be little of record. And we can not see that the Holy Ghost, for any such signs, gives any gifts, for he and his noble gifts may not stand with deadly sin in no matter person. The corollary of this conclusion is that it is full uncouth to many that be wise to see bishops play with the holy ghost in making of their orders, for they give crowns in characters in stead of white harts, and that is the livery of Antichrist, brought into Holy Church to color idleness.

**The Third Conclusion:  
Clerical Celibacy**

The Third Conclusion, sorrowful to hear, is: That the law of continence annexed to priesthood, that in prejudice of women was first ordained, induces sodomy in Holy Church; but we excuse us by the Bible, for the suspect decree that says we should not name it. Reason and experience prove this conclusion. For delicious meats and drinks of men of Holy Church will have needful purgation or worse. Experience for the privy assay of such men is that they like not women. The corollary of this conclusion is that the private religions. beginners of this sin, were most worthy to be annulled but God, for his might, of privy sin send open vengeance.