

Never Satisfied

**Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied,
Nor are the eyes of man ever satisfied.**

--Proverbs 27:20

We get this one, no mystery: *In general, people always desire more.*

Yep, that's it. Got it. What's next?

Wait!

This proverb is easily understood, but why use Sheol and Abaddon as parallel ideas?

Sheol is a Hebrew term used for 'the place of the dead,' and sometimes, for 'death' itself. *Abaddon*, another Hebrew word, comes from a root word meaning 'to perish.' Abaddon means 'place of destruction' or simply, 'destruction.' In the Bible, Abaddon is most often paired with death. When used together Sheol and Abaddon represent 'death and destruction.'

Solomon personified Sheol and Abaddon by saying that they are never satisfied. It is a way of saying that there is no end to death and destruction. There will never be a time when a sign is posted outside Sheol, "No Vacancy." Abaddon never turns anyone away. More death; more destruction. Never satisfied.

By using Sheol and Abaddon to make his point, Solomon paints a rather dark, grim scene. The reality of death and destruction is oppressive.

Once our heart is sufficiently heavy with the thoughts of Sheol and Abaddon; once we feel the oppressive sickness and dread of *death and destruction*, then we are in the right frame of mind to hear the second half of the proverb:

Nor are the eyes of man ever satisfied.

It is a repulsive reality that people, in general, have little discipline, little contentment, little understanding. People are just like Sheol and Abaddon: Never satisfied.

Solomon did not merely 'observe' reality. He painted a repulsive picture for the purpose of communicating an oppressive truth about man...about all of us. So...

- Wisdom cries out for us to control our appetites.
- Wisdom begs that we apply discipline, use discretion.
- Wisdom pleads for contentment.

From time to time perhaps we should stop 'looking' and just close our eyes and choose to be content. Perhaps it is time to reevaluate the things we desire/pursue.

What are you chasing in life!?

What are you really lacking?

Why are you not satisfied?

Be wise.