**Biblical Narrative on Qohelet 12:1-8**

**Allegorical—**Since ancient times, this narrative has been read as an allegory, namely, an encoded narrative of the degeneration of the aging body. Each image is identified with a body part and its deterioration. Is this arbitrary? An interpreter must identify an image with one or several parts of the body or a process of bodily deterioration without providing a way to control the decoding. Nor do all the image seem strong symbols of bodily deterioration.

**Literal—**This narrative describes an estate falling into disrepair. The event as a whole, rather than the individual elements then represents human deterioration and death. Or it describes the funeral procession, pointing to the coming of death processing down your street into your life.

**Eschatological—**This reading of the narrative pictures the death and funeral of a person which is also suggestive of a day of vast calamity or even the destruction of the world. Qohelet is not describing the actual day of judgment or the world’s end; but describing rather the death of an individual human that has the overtones of cosmic disaster. When you die, a world is ending—yours!