

The Book of ECCLESIASTES

Proverbs is about Wisdom. Ecclesiastes is about Foolishness. Song of Solomon is about Love.

Ecclesiastes is from the Latin form of the Greek word for preacher or philosopher.

The Greek word ekklesia in the New Testament means “called out” referring to the assembly, the church.

Solomon is the author. 1:1, 12 and 2:9

1 Kings 3:12 There was not anyone wiser before Solomon and not anyone wiser after Solomon.

1 Kings 11:11-13 11 Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. 12 Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand of your son. 13 However I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen." NKJV

Solomon had it all – and lost it all.

We are all just one decision away from stupid!

The Jewish writer Sholom Aleichem once described life as "a blister on top of a tumor, and a boil on top of that." Poet Carl Sandburg compared life to "an onion — you peel it off one layer at a time, and sometimes you weep."

Human philosophy apart from God, Hopelessness.

Ecclesiastes is a favorite book of atheists and, quoted and misquoted by atheists.

It's about the emptiness of everything apart from God.

Man has tried many things to be happy without God. Not just foolish pride.

The key word is vanity, which occurs 37 times.

The key phrase is “under the sun”, which occurs 29 times.
and, “I said in my heart.”

1 John 2:15-17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK

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- I. The Problem stated: “All is vanity,” Chapter 1:1-3 empty, purposeless
- II. Experiment made, Chapters 1:4 — 12:12
(Seeking satisfaction in the following:)
 - A. Science (the laws of nature), Chapter 1:4-11
 - B. Wisdom and philosophy, Chapter 1:12-18
 - C. Pleasure, Chapter 2:1-11
 - D. Materialism (living for the “now”), Chapter 2:12-26
 - E. Fatalism, Chapter 3:1-15 -“a time for everything under the sun.”
 - F. Egoism, Chapters 3:16 — 4:16
 - G. Religion, Chapter 5:1-8
 - H. Wealth, Chapters 5:9 — 6:12
 - I. Morality (the “good life”), Chapters 7:1 — 12:12
- III. Result of Experiment, Chapter 12:13 – 14
All things under the sun are vanity. Wise and foolish both die.

THE TEN VANITIES OF ECCLESIASTES

1. Ch 2:14-16 Vanity of human wisdom. Wise and foolish die alike.
2. Ch 2:19-21 Vanity of human labor. Laborer and the wise die alike.
Someone else will get your stuff.
3. Ch 2:26 Vanity of human purpose Man proposes, God disposes. "grasping the wind"
3:20 Dust to dust All return to dust.
4. Ch 4:4 Vanity of envy Success brings envy, not joy.
5. Ch 4:7-8 Vanity of greed Get more and remain empty.
6. Ch 4:16 Vanity of fame One day popular, then forgotten.
"15 minutes of fame"
7. Ch 5:10 Vanity of wealth Money does not satisfy.
8. Ch 6:9 Vanity of coveting Wanting breeds more wanting.
9. Ch 7:6 Vanity of frivolity Time wasted brings a sad end.
Trying to cook by burning briars
10. Ch 8:10-14 Vanity of recognition Bad are often honored by men, then forgotten.

SOLOMON'S CONCLUSION

Chapter 12

- :1 Remember your creator in the days of your youth. While you still can. Later may be too late.
- :2 While you can still see. Your eyes grow dim.
- :3 before you are old and bent over, while you have your teeth, before your vision fails.
- :4 Before you get hard of hearing, and you hear a noise and worry about what it is.
- :5 Almond tree blossoms- white hair, picking up a grasshopper is a burden.
- :6 Spinal cord, head, lungs, and heart
- :7 dust returns to dust 3:20
Gen 3:19 For out of the dust you were taken, dust you are, and to dust you shall return.
- :8 Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, All is vanity.
- :13-14 The Conclusion Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all.
For God will bring every work into judgement.
Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

Prayer of Moses Psalm 90:12 Teach us to number our days.

Matt 6:19-21 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. NKJV