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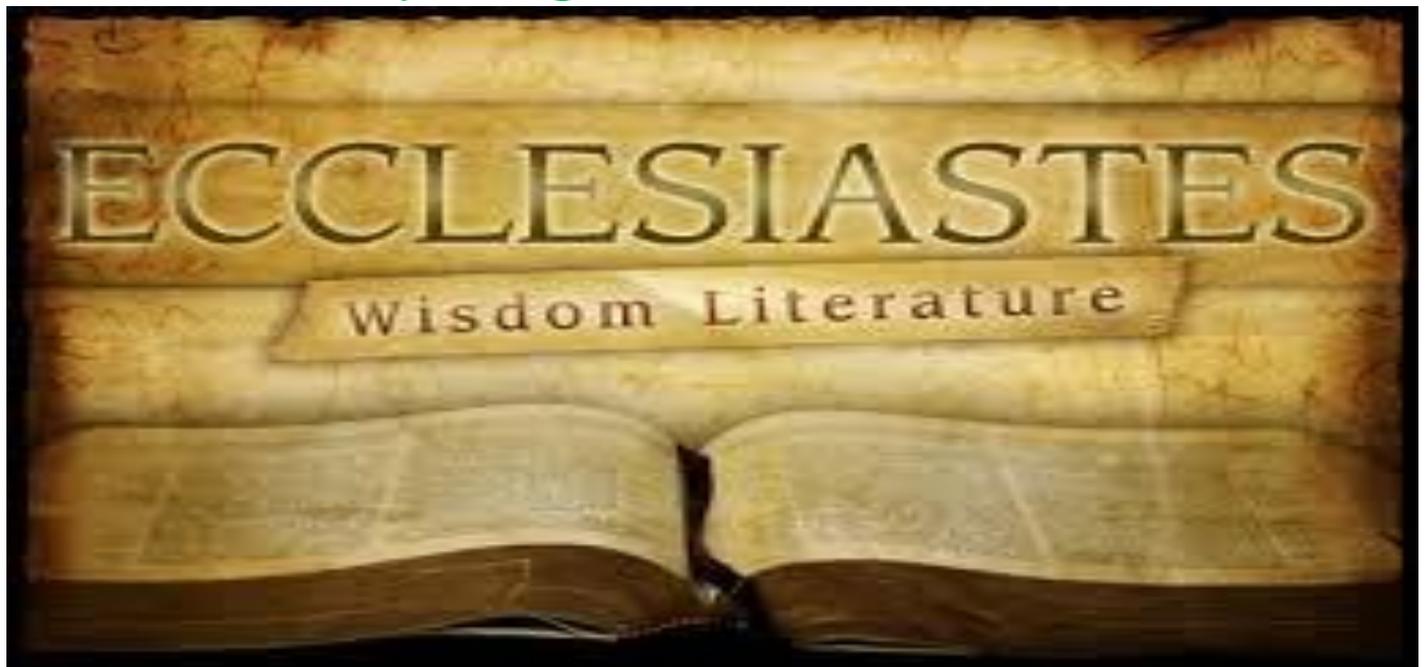
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## Pastor's Bible Study



**“Almost” Everything You Need to Know About..”**



**Tuesday, February 23, 2021**  
**6:30 pm Online**

## I. WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO (SONG OF SOLOMON)

## II. QUICK LOOK BACK AT SOLOMON

- A. Third king of Israel, David's chosen heir (second son to him and Bathsheba)
- B. Built the first temple on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem, a seven year task.
- C. Regarded as the wisest man who ever lived. 1 Kings 3. "Qoheleth" – The Teacher
- D. Author of Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs (Solomon), many proverbs, a couple of Psalms (wisdom literature)
- E. Solomon had issues
  - 1. Loved pagan women, money, luxury. Allowed his wives to affect his loyalty to God.
  - 2. Was overbearing on his people. Overtaxed them.
  - 3. Failed to obey God; **learned repentance late in life.**

*Just As Proverbs Provides  
Principles*

**Ecclesiastes Exalts  
Experiences**

## III. A FEW THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THIS BOOK

- A. A great book for a pessimist.
  - <sup>2</sup> "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless." – 1:2
  - <sup>14</sup> I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind. – 1:14

B. Ten things in life that are meaningless:

1. Human wisdom (without God) - (2:14–16)

<sup>14</sup> The wise have eyes in their heads, while the fool walks in the darkness; but I came to realize that the same fate overtakes them both. <sup>15</sup> Then I said to myself, "The fate of the fool will overtake me also. What then do I gain by being wise?" I said to myself, "This too is meaningless." <sup>16</sup> For the wise, like the fool, will not be long remembered; the days have already come when both have been forgotten. Like the fool, the wise too must die!

2. Labor (2:18–23)

<sup>18</sup> I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. <sup>19</sup> And who knows whether that person will be wise or foolish? Yet they will have control over all the fruit of my toil into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless. <sup>20</sup> So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun. <sup>21</sup> For a person may labor with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then they must leave all they own to another who has not toiled for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune. <sup>22</sup> What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving with which they labor under the sun? <sup>23</sup> All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless.

3. Amassing things (2:26)

<sup>26</sup> To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

4. Life itself (3:18–22)

<sup>18</sup> I also said to myself, "As for humans, God tests them so that they may see that they are like the animals. <sup>19</sup> Surely the fate of human beings is like that of the animals; the same fate awaits them both: As one dies, so dies the other. All have the same breath<sup>[c]</sup>; humans have no advantage over animals. Everything is meaningless. <sup>20</sup> All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return. <sup>21</sup> Who knows if the human spirit rises upward and if the spirit of the animal goes down into the earth?" <sup>22</sup> So I saw that there is nothing better for a

person than to enjoy their work, because that is their lot. For who can bring them to see what will happen after them?

5. Competition (4:4)

<sup>4</sup> And I saw that all toil and all achievement spring from one person's envy of another. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

6. Selfish overwork (4:7–8)

<sup>7</sup> Again I saw something meaningless under the sun: <sup>8</sup> There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. "For whom am I toiling," he asked, "and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?" This too is meaningless—a miserable business!

7. Power and authority (4:16)

<sup>16</sup> There was no end to all the people who were before them. But those who came later were not pleased with the successor. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

8. Greed (5:10)

Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.

9. Wealth and accolades (6:1–2)

I have seen another evil under the sun, and it weighs heavily on mankind: <sup>2</sup> God gives some people wealth, possessions and honor, so that they lack nothing their hearts desire, but God does not grant them the ability to enjoy them, and strangers enjoy them instead. This is meaningless, a grievous evil.

10. Perfunctory religion (8:10–14).

<sup>10</sup> Then too, I saw the wicked buried—those who used to come and go from the holy place and receive praise<sup>[c]</sup> in the city where they did this. This too is meaningless. <sup>11</sup> When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, people's hearts are filled with schemes to do wrong. <sup>12</sup> Although a wicked person who commits a hundred crimes may live a long time, I know that it will go better with those who fear God, who are reverent before him. <sup>13</sup> Yet because the wicked do not fear God, it will not go well with them, and their days will not

lengthen like a shadow. <sup>14</sup> There is something else meaningless that occurs on earth: the righteous who get what the wicked deserve, and the wicked who get what the righteous deserve. This too, I say, is meaningless.

C. The Main Questions:



D. We must consider what is “under the sun.”

**“At least twenty-six times in the book of Ecclesiastes the phrase “under the sun” appears. This phrase indicates a life lived for this world; a life that does not have God as its focus, but lives for some other thrill, accomplishment, experience, or goal.”**

- **Human wisdom vs. Godly wisdom**

E. The Answer

<sup>9</sup> Not only was the Teacher wise, but he also imparted knowledge to the people. He pondered and searched out and set in order many proverbs. <sup>10</sup> The Teacher searched to find just the right words, and what he wrote was upright and true. <sup>11</sup> The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails—given by one shepherd.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>12</sup> Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them. Of making many books there is no end, and

