

Series "Fixed On 66"
"Ecclesiastes"
Book-21

Key Passage – Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

The Name: "**Ecclesiastes**" comes from the Greek *ekklesia*, which in the NT is translated as "church" or "assembly, called out ones." It carries the idea of a preacher (or debater) speaking to an assembly of people. The preacher here presents a practical problem and discusses it, seeking to come to a conclusion.

We must note right from the beginning that this book is an examination of **secular wisdom** and **knowledge**. The book clearly states at the outset that it is limiting itself to that which is apparent to the natural mind.

One of the key phrases of the book is the continual repetition of the phrase **Ecclesiastes 1:3 "...under the sun?" Ecclesiastes 1:9 under the sun**. That is the limitation put upon this book.

Ecclesiastes is a collection of what man is able to discern under the sun in the visible world. The book does not take into consideration revelation that comes from beyond man's powers of observation and reason. **It is an inspired and accurate book**. It guarantees that what it reports is what people actually believe, but it is an examination of those beliefs.

The Author: No place does it directly say that it is Solomon. It could not be any other. In this book **12 times** he is called "**the king**," Which could be no other than Solomon. He calls himself "The Preacher." **Ecclesiastes 1:1**

Ecclesiastes 1:12 I, the Preacher, have been king over Israel in Jerusalem.

When Written: 935 BC

Where it was Written: Jerusalem

Purpose: From different angles, he asks the question, "**Is life all vanity?**" Life that is viewed apart from God, which is called "**under the sun**," is vanity, but through the eyes of God, life is never in vain.

6 times Solomon says, "**to enjoy life now and be grateful for God's gifts**" This should be the outlook of the believer who accepts life as God's gift to enjoy and employ for His glory.

Theme: "*Is Life Worth Living?*" The answer is "Yes! It is found by putting God first and obeying His Word." **Ecclesiastes 1:1-3**

Key Words: Wisdom, or Wise (52 times) **Man** (47 times) **God** (40 times)
Vanity (38 times) **Labor** (36 times) **Evil** (31 times) **Under the sun** (30 times)

Key Chapter: Ecclesiastes 12 That we need to fear God and keep His commandments.

Key Passage: Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Outline:

Ecclesiastes 1-2	The Problem Declared
Ecclesiastes 3-10	The Problem Discussed
Ecclesiastes 11-12	The Problem Decided

Ecclesiastes 1-2 The Problem Declared: Ecclesiastes 1:1-3

The words of the Preacher: But I think a more accurate English word to translate this would be "**the Searcher**." In his absence from God, he tries to find meaning and seeks an answer.

the son of David, king in Jerusalem. Just like the gospel of John never says that it is John.

"Vanity of vanities - Means "*emptiness*"

Ecclesiastes 1:4-11 The Monotony of life: (4 Cycles)

Cycle #1 That of The Earth: Ecclesiastes 1:4
The endless cycles of life.

Cycle #2 That of The Sun: Ecclesiastes 1:5

Cycle #3 That of The Wind: Ecclesiastes 1:6

Cycle #4 That of The Evaporative Cycle: Ecclesiastes 1:7

Verses 8-11 Nothing Is New: (Solomon as Historian) Ecclesiastes 1:8

All things are wearisome; Man is not able to tell it. Actually, "full of weariness" is one Hebrew word that ought to be translated as "*restless*".

The eye is not satisfied with seeing, Nor is the ear filled with hearing.

Ecclesiastes 1:9-10

Harry Ironside "If it's new, it's not true; if it's true, it's not new."

Ecclesiastes 1:11 There is no remembrance of earlier things; His answer is Man's memory is faulty; we have forgotten things that once were.

Ecclesiastes 1:12-18 The Vanity of Wisdom: Ecclesiastes 1:12

Solomon received all the wealth of his father David. He had peace for 40 years.

Ecclesiastes 1:13

Making reference here to the fall of man. He is recognizing the fact that it is difficult for men to discover answers.

Ecclesiastes 1:15 somehow has a built-in difficulty that prevents him from correcting it.

Ecclesiastes 7:13

Ecclesiastes 1:16 Wisdom and experience will not solve every problem.

Ecclesiastes 1:17-18

1. On this side of heaven, there are no explanations for some things that happen. God is not obligated to tell us. (WHY?)

2. We as Christians are to live on promises, not explanations, but by faith, not sight.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 The Futility of Wealth: Ecclesiastes 2:1

I said to myself, - notice where this course of the journey started at, "himself!"

I said to myself - or literally, "*I said in my heart!*" "*I resolved!*"

"Come now, I will test you with pleasure. Solomon used this word **8 times,** - so he believed that God wanted to bring enjoyment.

So, enjoy yourself." And behold, it too was futility. Hedonism, "*the pursuit of pleasure.*" All of us instinctively feel that if we can just have fun, we will find happiness.

Ecclesiastes 2:2 I said of laughter, "It is madness," and of pleasure, "What does it accomplish?"

I said of laughter, "It is madness," and of pleasure, "What does it accomplish?" That you can only laugh so much.

Ecclesiastes 2:3-11

Ecclesiastes 2:12-17 Wisdom Better Than Folly: Ecclesiastes 2:17

Ecclesiastes 2:18-26 The Certainty of Death: Ecclesiastes 2:18-19

Ecclesiastes 3-10 The Problem Discussed:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 Appointed Time: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Ecclesiastes 3:9-14 Eternity: Ecclesiastes 3:14

Ecclesiastes 3:15-22 Death: Ecclesiastes 3:19-21

Ecclesiastes 4:1-16 Why Does God Allow This? Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Ecclesiastes 5:1-20 The Value of Life: Solomon had visited the **courtroom**, the **marketplace**, the **highway**, and the **palace**. Now he paid a **visit to the temple**,

Ecclesiastes 5:1 Guard your steps as you go to the house of God

“Familiarity breeds contempt!” Don’t turn God off! God wants us to listen, learn and practice.

Ecclesiastes 5:2, 4

Ecclesiastes 6:1-6 Wealth Without Pleasure: Ecclesiastes 6:2

The key to all of this is in the words, "God has not empowered him to eat from them," That lesson is pounded home to our hearts over and over again throughout this book. **Enjoyment does not reside in increased possessions; it is a gift that God must give.**

Ecclesiastes 5:19 Without God, it is impossible! You can have it all, but God makes it enjoyable.

Ecclesiastes 7:1-29 A Word From The Wise: (Wisdom brings life, balance, and strength) Ecclesiastes 7:20

Ecclesiastes 8:11-12 What About The Wicked? Ecclesiastes 8:11-12

Ecclesiastes 9:9 Enjoy Your Marriage:

Ecclesiastes 9:10 Enjoy Your Work:

Ecclesiastes 9:12 The Appointment With Death:

Ecclesiastes 10:1-20 The Path To Destruction: Ecclesiastes 10:2-3

Ecclesiastes 10:8 I believe Solomon was describing people who attempted to do their work and suffered *because they were foolish*.

Ecclesiastes 11-12 The Problem Decided: A Life Worth Living

Solomon, the author, has been attempting to answer the question: **"Is life worth living?"** he concluded, **"No, life is *not* worth living!"**

Solomon gave 4 arguments to support his conclusion:

- 1. The Monotony of Life**
- 2. The Vanity of Wisdom**
- 3. The Futility of Wealth**
- 4. The Certainty of Death**

Ecclesiastes 11:1 **"Cast your bread on the surface of the waters"** - may be paraphrased, *"Send out your grain in ships."* It would be months before the ships would return with their precious cargo, but when they did, the merchant's faith and patience would be rewarded.

Ecclesiastes 12:1 **Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth,**

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 Life Is A Stewardship: (Fear God)
Ecclesiastes 12:13

If our lives are to count, we must fulfill **3 obligations:**

#1. Verse 13 Fear God: fear God - Ecclesiastes ends where the Book of Proverbs begins (**Proverbs 1:7**): With an admonition for us to fear the Lord.

#2. Verse 13 Keep His Commandments: and keep His commandments, God created life, and He alone knows how it should be managed. He wrote the **"manual of instructions" (Bible)**

because this applies to every person. *"This is the end of man"* (his purpose in life), or *"this is for all men."*

#3. Verse 14 Prepare For Final Judgment: For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

Application:

When Solomon looked at life “under the sun,” everything was fragmented, and he could see no pattern. But when he looked at life from God’s point of view, everything came together into one whole. If man wants to have wholeness, he must begin with God.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

#1. Verse 13 Fear God: fear God - is that attitude of reverence and awe that His people show to Him because they love Him and respect His power and His greatness.

#2. Verse 13 Keep His Commandments: and keep His commandments, God created life, and He alone knows how it should be managed.

#3. Verse 14 Prepare For Final Judgment: For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.