

A Series "Route 66" "Ecclesiastes" Book-21

Ecclesiastes – The Name: "Ecclesiastes" comes from the Greek ekklesia, which in the NT is translated "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, "under the sun." • Eccl. 1:3 • Eccl. 1:9 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, an 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 12X he is called "the king." Which could be no other than Solomon. He calls himself "The Preacher." • Eccl. 1:1 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king 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 thru the eyes of God life is never in vain.

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

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

Key Chapter – Eccl. 12

Key Passage – • Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Outline –

Eccl. 1-2 The Problem Declared

Eccl. 3-10 The Problem Discussed: Detail's about monotony of life, futility of wealth, vanity of wisdom, certainty of death.

Eccl. 11-12 The Problem Decided

Eccl. 1-2 The Problem Declared:

- Eccl. 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 try's to find meaning and seeks an answer.

"Vanity of vanities - Means "emptiness."

Eccl. 1:4-11 The Monotony of life:

1. Cycle 1# That of the earth: 4
2. Cycle 2# That of the Sun: 5
3. Cycle 3# That of the Wind: 6
4. Cycle 4# That of the Evaporative Cycle: 7

Verses 8-11 Nothing is New: (Solomon as Historian)

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

Eccl. 1:12-18 The Vanity of Wisdom:

- Eccl. 1:12-18
- Eccl 7:13

Eccl. 2:1-11 The Futility of Wealth:

- Eccl. 2:1

I said to myself or literally "I said in my heart," "I resolved."

- Eccl. 2:2-11

Eccl. 2:12-17 Wisdom Better than Folly:

- Eccl. 2:17

Eccl. 2:18-26 The Certainty of Death:

- Eccl. 2:18-19

Eccl. 3-10 The Problem Discussed:

Eccl. 3:1-8 Appointed Time: • Eccl. 3:1-8

Eccl. 3:9-14 Eternity: • Eccl. 3:14

Eccl. 3:15-22 Death: • Eccl. 3:19-21

Ecclesiastes 4:1-16 Why does God Allow This? The Courtroom, The Office, The Street, The Palace:

- Eccl. 4:9-12

Eccl. 5:1-20 The Value of Life:

- Eccl. 5:1
- Eccl. 5:2
- Eccl. 5:4

Eccl. 6:1-6 Wealth Without Pleasure:

- Eccl. 6:2
- Eccl. 5:19

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

- Eccl. 7:20

Eccl. 8:11-12 What About The Wicked?

- Eccl. 8:11-12

Eccl. 9:9 Enjoy Your Marriage: • Eccl. 9:9

Eccl. 9:10 Enjoy Your Work: • Eccl. 9:10

Eccl. 9:12 The Appointment With Death: • Eccl. 9:12

Eccl. 10:1-20 The Path To Destruction:

- Eccl. 10:2-3

- Eccl. 10:8

Eccl. 11-12 The Problem Decided: A Life Worth Living

Solomon the author has been attempting to answer the question: "Is life worth living?" That was the question the Preacher (Seeker) raised when he began the discourse that we call Ecclesiastes. After experimenting and investigating "life under the sun," he concluded, "No, life is not worth living!"

He gave four 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

- Eccl. 11:1

"Cast your bread on the surface of the waters" may be paraphrased, "Send out your grain in ships." Solomon himself was involved in various kinds of trade, so it was natural for him to use this illustration (• 1 Kings 10:15, 22). 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.

- Eccl. 12:1

Eccl. 12:13-14 Life Is A Stewardship: Fear God:

- Eccl. 12:13

The conclusion, when all has been heard, is:

We don't own our lives, because life is the gift of God. We are stewards of our lives, and one day we must give an account to

God of what we have done with His gift. Some people are only spending their lives; others are wasting their lives; a few are investing their lives.

If our lives are to count, we must fulfill three obligations.

1. # Verse-13 Fear God:

fear God - Ecclesiastes ends where the Book of Proverbs begins (• Prov. 1:7), with an admonition for us to fear the Lord. The "fear of the Lord" 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. He wrote the "manual of instructions" and wise is the person who reads and obeys. "When all else fails, read the instructions!"

The fear of the Lord must result in obedient living, otherwise that "fear" is only a sham. The dedicated believer will want to spend time daily in Scripture, getting to know the Father better and discovering His will. (• Prov. 1:7)

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

• Eccl. 12:14

3. # Verse-14 Prepare For Final Judgment:

For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, Man may seem to get away with sin, but their sins will eventually be exposed and judged righteously. Those who have not trusted the Lord Jesus Christ will be doomed forever.