

Ecclesiastes

1. **Titles:**
A. Ecclesiastes = the preacher B. The Book of Vanity C. The Book of Human Wisdom
2. **Author:**
Written by The Preacher who many have understood to be a reference to Solomon.
3. **Date:** Possibly written about 935 B.C. during Solomon's old age.
4. **Key Words:**
A. Wise (ly), Wisdom - 54 C. Vanity (ies) - 37
B. Heart - 40 D. Fool (s, ish), Folly - 32
Key Phrases:
A. "under the sun (heaven)" - 31
B. "vexation of spirit" - 10
5. **Key Verses: 1:13-14; 12:13-14**
6. **Purpose:**
A. To solicit trust in God by discounting trust in any other.
B. To disillusion those who would put their trust in the things of this world by pointing out the vanity of all earthly things.
C. To comfort the godly, showing them how to face the difficulties of life.
7. **Message:**
A. Apart from God, life is full of weariness and disappointment.
B. Men who know the vanity of all things are well prepared for the trials of depressing times.
C. The whole duty of man is to fear God, and keep His commandments (Ch. 12:13).
8. **Outline:**
I. Introduction Ch. 1:1-11
II. The Vanity of All Things Ch. 1:12-6:12
III. Counsel Concerning Wisdom Ch. 7:1-12:7
IV. Conclusion Ch. 12:8-14
9. **Summary:**
King Solomon, being in a position to satisfy his every desire, attempted to do so materially, sensually, emotionally, and intellectually. He soon discovered that life without the fear of God was empty and futile. Whether Solomon wrote this book or someone else authored it using his experiences, the message comes through loud and clear that the whole duty of man is to fear God and keep His commandments (12:13). "The Preacher" constructed his sermon very wisely first pointing out the vanity of all things "under the sun" (in the earthly realm) and showing the folly of human wisdom apart from the Divine Wisdom. Then he leads us to the conclusion that only God can bring fulfillment and thus our hope and trust must be in Him alone.
NOTE: Relate James 2:13, 17, 18 to Proverbs and James 2:14-16 to Ecclesiastes.
10. **Christ Seen:**
Christ is seen as The Preacher, the Son of David, the Wisdom of God, and the king of the Jerusalem "from above" (Ecclesiastes 1:1; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Galatians 4:26).