

P.T. BIBLE SURVEY

The Book of Ecclesiastes

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

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- ◎ Who wrote it?
 - Credited to Solomon.
 - The author is identified as “the son of David” in Eccl. 1:1.

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◎ Timing of Events:

- Observations of Solomon during his lifetime.
- Most probably in Jerusalem.

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

◎ Key Term: **Vanity**

- **Vanity (also futility) means uselessness or absurdity. The Hebrew term hebel literally meant “breath” or “vapor”. It referred to something without meaning or something absurd or useless. The term occurs more than 30 times in the book.**

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◎ Location of Events:

- **The Universe: “Under the Sun”**

OUTLINE OF ECCLESIASTES

- ◎ **Part 1 - The Thesis that “All is Vanity” (Chap. 1:1-11)**
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 - Proof from both experience and observation
- ◎ **Part 3 - The Counsel for Living with Vanity (Chaps. 7-12)**
 - Coping in a wicked world

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

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- ◎ Summary in 10 words or less:
 - Apart from God, life is empty and unsatisfying.

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

- ◎ Cast of Characters:
 - **God:** all things are in His hands
 - **The Preacher:** or the Teacher, in other translations
 - **A man all alone:** an example of how it is good to have a companion
 - **The wise man:** who knows the explanation of all things
 - **The king:** who is to be obeyed

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◎ Cast of Characters:

- **The poor but wise man: saved his city through his wisdom alone**
- **The young man: who should be aware of his Creator**
- **The one Shepherd: the imparter of wisdom**

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◎ Where is the work of Christ?

- Ecclesiastes gives a graphic picture of life's emptiness and futility apart from God. Jesus uses the image of a vine with branches to underscore this truth: “The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me” (John 15:5).
- In Eccl. 12:11 the words of the wise are “given by one Shepherd”. Jesus said “I am the good shepherd” (John 10:11).

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Verse to Remember

- ◎ The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

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◉ Interesting Facts:

- The book's generally negative tone makes some believe that Solomon wrote it late in life, after his hundreds of wives led him to stray from God. (See 1 Kings 11)

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- What is my take away?
 - Reverence for and obedience to God, along with not putting too much stock in what you have accomplished or attained, is a good way to live one's life.

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◎ Home Study

- Read a chapter daily in Ecclesiastes this week.
- Study the One Sentence Summary.
- Recite your memory verses daily.