

Walk Through the Poetic Books

Part 4: Ecclesiastes



*Sorrow is better than laughter,
because a sad face is good for the
heart.—Ecclesiastes 7:3 (NIV)*



The dead know nothing; they have no further reward.– Ecclesiastes 9:5
(NIV)

*A feast is made for
laughter, and wine makes
life merry, but money is
the answer for
everything.– Ecclesiastes
10:19 (NIV)*



Title & Author

- ◆ Ecclesiastes is a Latin term meaning, “speaker before and assembly.”
- ◆ Solomon was in the unique position described by the author of having the money, leisure, power, etc., to investigate life’s ultimate meaning.

Content

- ◆ Ecclesiastes 1:1-1:11–thesis:
“Everything is meaningless”
- ◆ Ecclesiastes 1:12-6:12–illustrations
of meaninglessness
- ◆ Ecclesiastes 7-12–conclusion: We
should fear God

Structure

- 1) Analysis—the statement of a proposition followed by an investigation of it.

2) Repetition of terms:

1. Meaninglessness : empty, seemingly without purpose
2. Under the Sun: from a human/secular perspective, through human senses and reason
3. Chasing after Wind: futility, useless effort

Theme

- ◆ The futile emptiness of trying to make sense out of life apart from God.



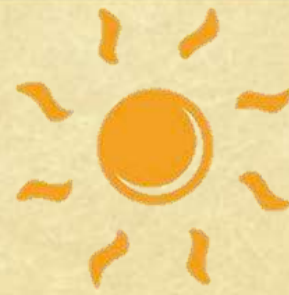
Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.—Ecclesiastes 12:13-4 (NIV)

**What can we learn about
God and ourselves from
Ecclesiastes?**

- Seeking fulfillment, happiness, or meaning without God leads to cynicism and dejection.

- Real hope, joy, and purpose are found in our relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

“Under the sun”



*What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.—
Ecclesiastes 1:9 (NIV)*

“Under the Son”



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!—2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

“Under the sun”



I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.— Ecclesiastes 1:14 (NIV)

“Under the Son”



*Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.—
1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)*

“Under the sun”



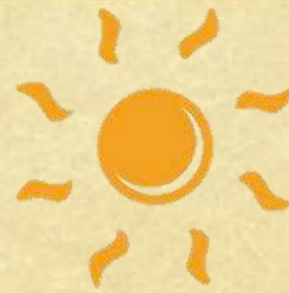
Again I looked and saw all the oppression that was taking place under the sun: I saw the tears of the oppressed—and they have no comforter; power was on the side of their oppressors—and they have no comforter.—Ecclesiastes 4:1 (NIV)

“Under the Son”



“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” – Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)

“Under the sun”



I have seen another evil under the sun, and it weighs heavily on men: God gives a man wealth, possessions and honor, so that he lacks nothing his heart desires, but God does not enable him to enjoy them, and a stranger enjoys them instead. This is meaningless, a grievous evil.—Ecclesiastes 6:1-2 (NIV)

“Under the Son”



My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.—Colossians 2:2-3 (NIV)

“Under the sun”



This is the evil in everything that happens under the sun: The same destiny overtakes all. The hearts of men, moreover, are full of evil and there is madness in their hearts while they live, and afterward they join the dead.— Ecclesiastes 9:3 (NIV)

“Under the Son”



And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.—1 John 5:11-12 (NIV)



- Without God, life is an absurd ordeal with an awful end.



- In Christ, life is an orchestrated blessing, and the end is just the beginning.