

Introduction to Ecclesiastes

"He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also put eternity in their hearts, but no one can discover the work God has done from beginning to end."

-Ecclesiastes 3:11

What books in the Bible are classified as Wisdom Literature?

*J____: Deals with the problem of evil and the justice of God.

*P____: A collection of 150 examples of wisdom literature in the form of prayers and or songs of worship.

*P____: A collection of short, pithy saying about how the world works. Simple common sense solutions to lifes problems.

*E____: Deals with the problem of life without God. Everything is meaningless.

*S____ of S____: A poetic picture of marriage and practical ways to express your love.

□ These are also known as the books of p_____.

"Proverbs is known as the book of wisdom, and Ecclesiastes is known as the book of foolishness."-J Vernon McGee

● Introduction to Ecclesiastes

Who was the author of Ecclesiastes? King _____ Ecc. 1:1

Also know as the t_____, p_____ or p_____.

Hebrew word Qoheleth: Preacher, assembler, lecturer

King Solomon is writing from the perspective that he has experienced and possessed everything there is to experience in life. Now he is able to say without any reservation or hesitation, trust God.

□ 2 Chronicles 9:23; 1 Kings 4:22-28; Ecc. 12:9-11

Timeline:

*1010-971 B.C.	*971-931 B.C.	*586 B.C.
Reign of David	Reign of Solomon	Fall of Judah

Who is this book primarily written to?

✓ The y____; Ecc. 12:1

Which young person will you invite to join you in this Bible study?

“The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow.”

- **What are some key themes of Ecclesiastes?**

- The tragic reality of the f____. The preacher is aware that the creation has been damaged by s____. Ecc. 7:29
- The v____ of life. The book begins and ends with the exclamation, v____ of v____! All is v____. This is to say everything has a limit; wisdom, pleasure, work, wealth, and even time. Ecc. 1:2; 12:8
- S____ and D____. By sinning, humans forfeited the righteousness they originally had before God, and as a result a____ people are s____. Ecc. 7:20
- The joy and frustration of w____. God gave Adam work to accomplish prior to the fall, but part of the punishment of his sin was that his work would become difficult. Ecc. 2:10; 2:18-23
- The grateful enjoyment of God’s good g____. Although the teacher comments a lot on the twisted realities of the fall, he also talks about the beauty of God’s world. In it we have human relationships, food, drink, and satisfying labor. These are to be received humbly and enjoyed fully as blessing from God. Ecc. 5:18-20
- The f____ of God. The fact that all is vanity should encourage people to take refuge in God, f____ and revering Him. Ecc. 7:18

Out of all the themes which one are you excited about learning and why?

- **What is a good Outline?**

Introduction: 1:1-11

Solomon’s Investigation: 1-12-6:9

Solomon’s Conclusion: 6:10-12:8

Solomon’s Final Advice: 12:9-14

□ 1 Kings 10:1-13

“King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the world in riches and in wisdom. The whole world wanted an audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom that God had put in his heart.” -1 Kings 10:23-24

Why is important to study the book of Ecclesiastes?

*It teaches us how to t_____ God when life doesn't make sense.

*It confronts the r_____ of the fall.

*It exposes the emptiness of life without God.

*It prepares you to face d_____ with wisdom.

*It gives a balanced view of work.

*It teaches us to enjoy God's gifts without w_____ them.

*It anchors you in the fear of the Lord.

*It strengthens our f_____ for confusing seasons.

*It forms a mature, realistic spirituality

*It leads us to the books final life-shaping conclusion

□ 1 Kings 4:29; 11:4; 9-13

What is one thing you have learned that you are willing to share with someone else?

“Any fool can know, but the point is to understand.”