

“Is there Life Before Death?”

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

March 4, 2026

- I. Many people look for life before death in _____ and/or _____.

(Ecclesiastes 1:12-18)

- II. Many people look for life before death in _____.

(Ecclesiastes 2:1-11)

1. Solomon sought satisfaction through the pleasure of _____.

“Laughter,” I said, “is madness. And what does pleasure accomplish?”

Ecclesiastes 2:2 (NIV)

- ❖ A life geared only around _____ and _____ will not bring lasting satisfaction.

“They sing to the music of timbrel and lyre; they make merry to the sound of the pipe...”

Yet they say to God, ‘Leave us alone! We have no desire to know your ways.’”

Job 21:12, 14 (NIV)

2. Solomon sought satisfaction through the pleasure of _____ and _____.

“I tried cheering myself with wine and embracing folly—my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was good for people to do under the heavens during the few days of their lives.

Ecclesiastes 2:3 (NIV)

“Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise.”

Proverbs 20:1 (NIV)

“It is not for kings, Lemuel— it is not for kings to drink wine, not for rulers to crave beer, lest they drink and forget what has been decreed, and deprive all the oppressed of their rights. Let beer be for those who are perishing, wine for those who are in anguish!”

Proverbs 31:4-6 (NIV)

- ❖ God wants us to live with _____.

“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”

Psalms 90:12 (NIV)

“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,”

Ephesians 5:15-18 (NIV)

3. Solomon sought satisfaction through the pleasure of _____ and _____.

“I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards.”

Ecclesiastes 2:4 (NIV)

“And Solomon rebuilt Gezer. He built up Lower Beth Horon, Baalath, and Tadmor in the desert, within his land, as well as all his store cities and the towns for his chariots and for his horses—whatever he desired to build in Jerusalem, in Lebanon and throughout all the territory he ruled.”

1 Kings 9:17-19 (NIV)

4. Solomon sought satisfaction through the pleasure of _____.

“The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises.”

Ecclesiastes 1:5 (NIV)

“They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.”

Romans 1:25 (NIV)

5. Solomon sought satisfaction through _____ doing the work.

“I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me.”

Ecclesiastes 2:7 (NIV)

6. Solomon sought satisfaction through _____ and _____.

“I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces.”

Ecclesiastes 2:8a (NIV)

“Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.”

Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NIV)

7. Solomon sought satisfaction through _____.

“I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well—the delights of a man’s heart.”

Ecclesiastes 2:8b (NIV)

Conclusions:

- ❖ **It’s not that sensual pleasures are not gratifying but the thrill they produce _____.**

“He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value

than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.”

Hebrews 11:25-26 (NIV)

“You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”

Psalms 16:11 (NIV)

“I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my labor, and this was the reward for all my toil.”

Ecclesiastes 2:10 (NIV)

❖ **Our eyes and our desires can be _____.**

“But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

❖ **The world urges us to follow our urges and desires but a lifestyle of self-gratification _____ truly satisfy.**