

Ecclesiastes #1

Chapter 1

- 1) What three titles did the writer (who we think is Solomon) give himself here?
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
- 2) The word translated “vanity” here means “emptiness”. What did the preacher say was vanity or emptiness?
- 3) Verse three shows us the perspective that the *preacher* is speaking from. Which is the vantage point that the preacher has? (choose one)
 - a) The whole universe (physical and spiritual) - God’s viewpoint from heaven
 - b) “Under the sun”- man’s viewpoint here on earth
- 4) According to Matthew 6:19 & 20, is everything “vanity” from God’s viewpoint?
- 5) From man’s perspective here on earth, what is temporary and what is lasting?

- 6) Did Solomon know about the wind circuits?
- 7) When this was written by Solomon, most men of science believed in a flat earth and that the rivers flowed into the sea and remained there. They were not aware that the water evaporated and returned to the clouds creating more rain. Did Solomon believe that the waters remained in the sea or did he believe that it returned again to the rivers?
- 8) “The eye is not _____ with seeing, nor is the _____ filled with hearing.”
- 9) Does it sound like we are able to satisfy our senses or are we usually longing for more?
- 10) Does history tend to repeat itself?
- 11) Are you likely to experience things that no one else has ever experienced?
- 12) Can this fact help us to deal with the things we encounter in this life according to 1 Corinthians 10:13?
- 13) The following has become a very famous proverb, “There is nothing new _____ the _____.”
- 14) When you look at things apart from God (“under the sun”), will anyone remember you or the things you have done in the distant future?
- 15) Do you know anything at all about your great, great grandfather or your great, great grandmother?
- 16) Do you expect anyone alive two hundred years from now will know anything about you?
- 17) If God is not in the picture, do you think the thought that nothing you do or say will be remembered gives you the feeling that everything is emptiness (“vanity”)?
- 18) According to verse 13, what did The Preacher seek to explore?
- 19) How did he sum up his findings on this search? (see verse 14)
- 20) According to verse 17, when he finished researching what had “been done”, what did he decide to explore next?
- 21) What did he compare the pursuit of wisdom, madness (celebration) and folly (silliness) to?

- 22) The following statements represent things Solomon found to be true in his research:
“In much wisdom there is much _____,”
“Increasing knowledge results in increasing _____”
- 23) Did you ever feel like you were happier when you were young and didn’t know as much about what life is really like as you do today?

Chapter 2:1-3

- 1) When Solomon pursued pleasure, what was the result?
- 2) How about humor (laughter)?
- 3) What did he try in verse 3?
- 4) According to verse 3, did his research continue to only be about the life of people on earth (“under heaven”)?
- 5) Should we try all the things Solomon did, or should we learn from his research provided here in God’s word?
- 6) Will you find satisfaction in pleasure, humor, or stimulants like wine or drugs?

Ecclesiastes #2

Chapter 2:4-26

- 1) What did Solomon decide to do in verses 4-6 to try to find satisfaction and fulfillment?
- 2) What did he try in verse 7?
- 3) How about verse 8?
- 4) A “concubine” is a mistress with less legal rights than a wife. Was it right for him to collect these women?
- 5) Read I Kings 11:3. How many wives and concubines did Solomon have?
- 6) What affect did these women have on Solomon?
- 7) When you read verse 8, does it sound like Solomon was following the instructions for kings that God gave in Deuteronomy 17:15-17?
- 8) We always say that Solomon was the wisest man that ever lived. The Bible says there are more than one type of wisdom. If you look at what he did here, and read James 3:15-18, what kind of wisdom did he display here? (choose one)
 - a) Wisdom that does not come from above (earthly, natural, demonic) **“under the sun”**
 - b) Wisdom from above (pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy)
- 9) Should we follow Solomon’s example recorded in Ecclesiastes 2:10?
- 10) Looking at verse 11, did he find the satisfaction and fulfillment he was looking for?
- 11) “...behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit _____ the _____.”
- 12) When he compared wisdom and folly, how did they compare?
 - a) About the same (wisdom and folly were equal)
 - b) Like night and day (wisdom excelled folly like light excels darkness)
- 13) Read verses 14-17. What fate will befall the wise man and the fool?
- 14) Did this bother Solomon?
- 15) Will you be remembered after you die if you are wise?
- 16) As you read verse 17 can you expect to be satisfied with this present life?
- 17) Read verses 18-23. What was bothering Solomon here?
- 18) Do you get to enjoy all the fruits of your labor in this life?
- 19) Who does Solomon bring back into the picture in verses 24-26?
- 20) Can you have real lasting enjoyment without God?
- 21) What does verse 26 mean to you?
 - a) Everything is a waste of time
 - b) God will give eternal satisfaction to the saved person (the person who is “good in His sight”- see Philippians 3:9)
 - c) Life has ups and downs

Chapter 3:1-8

- 1) “There is an appointed _____ for everything. And there is a time for _____ under Heaven--”
- 2) “A time to give birth, and a time to _____; A time to _____, and a time to uproot what is planted. A time to _____, and a time to heal; A time to tear down, and a time to _____ . A time to weep, and a time to _____; A time to mourn, and a time to _____ . A time to throw stones, and a time to _____; A time to embrace, and a time to _____ . A time to _____, and a time to give up as lost; A time to keep, and a time to _____ . A time to _____ apart, and a time to sew together; A time to be _____, and a time to speak. A time to love, and a time to _____; A time for _____, and a time for peace.”
- 3) When it says there is a time for everything, do you think it is important to do everything at the proper time?
- 4) What part of this passage could help someone who is a compulsive saver (pack rat)?
- 5) Is there ever a time for war? Is there a time to shun embracing?
- 6) Do people who have the joy of the Lord ever have a time to weep?

Ecclesiastes #3

Chapter 3:9-22

- 1) If God is not in the picture, is there really any profit in anything we do?
- 2) Verse 11 tells us that God has, “set eternity in their heart”. Do you think that this means that God has given human beings an awareness of life after death?
- 3) Does this mean that we naturally know what God has done or is doing, or does He have to reveal those things to us in His word?
- 4) Are we supposed to enjoy life or be miserable, according to verses 12 & 13?
- 5) According to I Corinthians 3:11-14, we are told that some of the things we do in life are temporary and some are eternal. How much of what God does is eternal?
- 6) Does verse 14 make us sound pretty insignificant compared to God?
- 7) After reading verse 16, should we expect justice in our life on earth (“under the sun”)?
- 8) Will God ever make things right?
- 9) Read verses 18-22. Why does he say that people are like beasts (animals)?
- 10) Looking at things without reference to God (“under the sun”), is there any advantage to being a human being instead of an animal?
- 11) If there is no God, what happens to human and animal alike?
- 12) If there is no God, what is the answer to this question from verse 21: “Who knows that the breath of man ascends upward and the breath of the beast descends downward to the earth?”
- 13) Which verse sounds a lot like I Corinthians 15:32?
- 14) Aren't you glad that God chose to reveal Himself to us so that we can know that He is there and that our lives have meaning and purpose?

Chapter 4

- 1) Remember, verse 1 refers only to this life (“under the sun”). What did Solomon see that you have also seen and been troubled by?
- 2) “So I congratulated the _____ who are already dead more than the living who are still living. But _____ than both of them is the one who has _____ existed, who has never seen the evil activity that is done _____ the _____.”
- 3) If there was no God, which did the writer say would be preferable?
a) To be alive b) To already be dead c) To never have existed in the first place
- 4) Is it possible for everyone to be successful, or is success based on one person being better than another (i.e. a winner and a loser)?
- 5) Do verses 7 & 8 describe a life with purpose and meaning?
- 6) Verses 9-12 make a great marriage passage. Name 4 reasons why 2 are better than 1.
a)
b)
c)
d)
- 7) “A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.” If we apply this verse to marriage, and the first strand is the husband and the second is the wife, then who is the third strand?
- 8) Wouldn't it be great if we allowed Lord to be intertwined in our marriages?
- 9) What was the biggest problem with the old king he talks about?
- 10) It seems like Solomon is discussing some rulers that he knew but we don't know the history behind it. Does it seem like the lesson he draws is that the popularity of rulers is fragile and often fleeting?

Chapter 5:1-7

- 1) What is one thing we need to remember to do when we go to the house of God?
- 2) Does Solomon advise us to very thoughtful in our prayers?
- 3) Does Solomon advise us to have lengthy prayers?
- 4) Are the promises (vows) you make to God serious?
- 5) What should you do if you are not absolutely sure you can keep a promise to God?
- 6) What will you find “in many words”?

Ecclesiastes #4

Chapter 5:8-20

- 1) Should it shock you when you see, “oppression of the poor and denial of justice”?
- 2) Fallow land is left alone. Cultivated land is tended to. With this in mind, what do you think verse 9 is saying?
- 3) Will a money lover ever have enough money?
- 4) Which verse talks about consumers?
- 5) Who sleeps better? The hardworking man who only eats a little or the rich man who has a big feast?
- 6) What is the grievous evil Solomon sees mentioned in verse 13?
- 7) Read Proverbs 23:4&5. Should you be surprised by what takes place in Eccl.5:14?
- 8) Which verse is often quoted in funeral services?
- 9) The modern translation of this is, “You can’t _____ it with you!”
- 10) Is there any value any value to work really hard to accumulate great wealth?
- 11) Read verses 18-20. Does it sound like God does not want us to enjoy life?
- 12) What does Luke 12:15 teach you about this?
- 13) Should we be thankful and enjoy our blessings?
- 14) 1 Tim 6:17&18 says “Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to _____ their hope on the _____ of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to _____. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and _____ to _____.”

Chapter 6

- 1) Read verses 1-6. In this world, do we sometimes see a hard working person lose everything and see someone else enjoying it?
- 2) Did that bother Solomon?
- 3) Solomon is speaking only about this life (“under the sun”). What does he say about a person who has a hundred kids but doesn’t get to enjoy his possessions or have a good funeral?
- 4) Remember verse 6 is speaking about human beings in this life only (“under the sun”). Where does everyone go if there is just this life? a) Heaven b) Hell c) Just to the grave
- 5) Life without God is pretty empty and cynical isn’t it?
- 6) Read verses 7-9. Do you ever find real satisfaction in this world?
- 7) Without God is there an advantage to be wise? Any advantage to be poor?
- 8) Can a person catch the wind?
- 9) What will increase futility?
- 10) What else do “many words” produce, according to Proverbs 10:19?
- 11) “For _____ what is good for a man during his lifetime, during the few years of his futile life? He will spend them like a _____. For who can tell a man what will be after him _____ the _____?”
- 12) Once again, what phrase means to refer to this life only apart from God?

Chapter 7:1-8

- 1) Is a good name (reputation) important?
- 2) Why could verse only be true for a believer?
- 3) Read verses 2-6. Which is better? To go to a dinner banquet or to go to the funeral home?
- 4) Why?
- 5) Does a fool think much about death?
- 6) Will you get more out of a challenging Bible message that really speaks to some of your problems, or a silly feel good song?
- 7) Do we usually spend more time listening to the songs of fools or rebukes of the wise?
- 8) Solomon was the wisest man. Do you think oppression really bothered him?
- 9) “Patience of spirit is better than haughtiness of spirit.” Isn’t that a cool statement?

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Ecclesiastes #5

Chapter 7:9-29

- 1) “Do not be eager in your heart to be _____, for anger resides in the bosom of _____.”
- 2) This verse on anger has been very helpful to me personally. What does it say about me if I allow anger to reside in my heart?
- 3) Read verse 10. Is it wise to talk about “the good old days”?
- 4) What are two things parents can pass down to their children?
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
- 5) Which of these two things will give you better protection from danger?
- 6) Read verses 13 & 14. Who is ultimately in control of everything?
- 7) Does God keep us from adversity?
- 8) Do wicked people always get their just punishment in this life?
- 9) Reading verses 16-18. Do you think you can excess about righteousness and become too legalistic?
- 10) Is it healthy to have no concern for sin in your life?
- 11) Who is the one who has the right balance in life?
- 12) Is wisdom a good source for strength in your life?
- 13) “Indeed, there is not a _____ man on earth who continually does good and who _____ sins.”
- 14) Is anyone able to say that they are not a sinner?
- 15) This verse reminds me of Romans 3:23. What is also true about someone who “has sinned”?
- 16) What is the just punishment for that sin, according to Romans 6:23?
- 17) If the “wages of sin is death”, what is the “gift of God”?
- 18) John 3:16 tells us how we can have this gift. Who is the one who will not perish from sin according to that verse?
- 19) Go back to Eccl. 7 and read verses 21 & 22. Should you overreact when you overhear someone say something bad about you?
- 20) Why not?
- 21) Did even Solomon have a hard time attaining wisdom?
- 22) As a man, can you find yourself ensnared by a relationship with the wrong woman?
- 23) Is this true for women as well?
- 24) “One who is pleasing to God will _____ from her, but the sinner will be _____ by her.”
- 25) Did “the Preacher” have all the answers?
- 26) 1 Kings 11:3 says this about Solomon. “And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives turned his heart away.” Does it sound like he was real careful to find a Godly wife?
- 27) As you read verse 28, does it sound like he had found a Godly wife by the time he wrote this?
- 28) Did God create men as sinners?

Chapter 8:1-15

- 1) Read James 3:13-18. What kind of wisdom is being referred to in Eccl. 8:1?
- 2) Why do you think this wisdom would make a person’s face beam?
- 3) People would often swear allegiance to the king. Were they to take that oath seriously?
- 4) As you read verse 5, who should we remember is our king?
- 5) Put into your own words some of the truisms in verses 7 & 8.

- 6) When you read verses 10 & 11, does it sound like swift punishment can be a deterrent for crime?
- 7) What did Solomon have to keep reminding himself in verses 12 & 13?
- 8) What bothered Solomon in verse 14?
- 9) Does it bother you? _____ Is life in this world (“under the sun”) fair?
- 10) Why should we not be envious of those who live evil lives and seem to get away with it according to Proverbs 23:17&18?
- 11) Solomon decided in response to his frustration to just commend pleasure. Do you think that is the right course to pursue, or do you think that this is only true if you think of this life apart from God (“under the sun”)? See also II Timothy 3:4

Ecclesiastes #6

Chapter 8:16-17

- 1) Solomon tried to look into everything to expand his knowledge, but when God came into the picture, what did he conclude?
- 2) When people say they “know” how the universe was created, or how the mind works, does that seem a little ridiculous?
- 3) Discovery is fun and is one of the things God has given us to enjoy, but do we “know” as much as we think we do, or should we be a little more humble about our knowledge?

Chapter 9

- 1) When you read verse 1, do you get the idea that you can control what you will face in this life?
- 2) What is the one fate that everyone faces? Did this bother Solomon?
- 3) Looking at verses 1-3, do you get the idea that life is fair?
- 4) “A live _____ is better than a _____ lion.”
- 5) What do you think that statement means?
- 6) Speaking of the dead it says, “Indeed their love, their hate, and their zeal have already perished.” Doesn’t that sound empty?
- 7) Read verses 5 & 6. Are the things mentioned true if God is in the picture or are they true if you only consider this life (“under the son”).
- 8) In verses 7-9, does it seem like this emphasis on the life here on this earth is turning a little self centered?
- 9) I like this next statement: “Whatever your hand finds to do, verily, do it with all your _____.”
- 10) What is the reason he gives for that statement?
- 11) What reason is given in I Corinthians 10:31, to do your utmost in your efforts?
- 12) Which should be the greatest motivator?
 - a) The desire to do you best for the glory of God
 - b) To do your best, because you’ll be dead soon and dead people can’t do anything?
- 13) Some people say that the best team will always win. Is that true?
- 14) This statement explains why life is not fair and why we cannot be sure of anything in the future apart from God: “Time and _____ overtake them _____.”
- 15) After reading this, would betting on sports be a wise decision?
- 16) What is verse 12 saying?
- 17) Would it be wise to have the eternity question settled for yourself?
- 18) How can you make sure you have eternal life instead of facing eternal death? (John 5:24 &6:40)
- 19) Read verses 13-18. What story really impressed Solomon?
- 20) If you do something great for people, will they always remember it?
- 21) Read Hebrews 6:10. When you do something for the Lord, who will never forget?
- 22) Apart from God, can anyone make a lasting difference in this world?
- 23) Which would be better, to be powerful or to be wise?
- 24) “Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner _____ much good.”

Chapter 10:1-10

- 1) What do you get from verse 1?
- 2) Can you just tell some people are foolish by observing them?
- 3) Should we ever call someone a “fool” when we do see the evidence? (see Matthew 5:22)
- 4) Will it influence people’s reaction to you when you keep your composure?
- 5) As you read verses 5 -7. Is Solomon frustrated because he sees that it seems like the wrong person has success or is in leadership?
- 6) Does it seem to you that there seem to be many people who are in positions they don’t deserve, while those who are more deserving are not recognized? Is this life fair?
- 7) Do the things we do sometimes have far reaching and unexpected consequences?
- 8) What does verse 10 teach us? (choose one) a) You can make work easier if you work smart b) Lots of people are dull c) If you are not making progress, just try harder.

Ecclesiastes #7

Chapter 10:11-20

- 1) Do our plans sometimes fall apart before we can see them fulfilled?
- 2) Read verses 12 & 13. What is it that usually gets us into trouble?
- 3) Can we be sure about things in the future?
- 4) What is the best way to refer to our plans for the future according to James 4:13-15?
- 5) Is there any advantage to having mature leadership in government?
- 6) What does verse 17 consider to be important in a leader? a) Money b) Experience c) Discipline d) Good looks e) Great PR
- 7) What happens if you don't keep up with maintenance of a building?
- 8) Is the same thing true about relationships, your spiritual life and your job?
- 9) Read verse 19. Would food, wine and money, be so prominent if you were not just looking at life in this world apart from God ("under the sun")?
- 10) Where do you think the phrase, "A little bird told me." Came from?
- 11) Do you just have to be careful about what you say when you think you are in public?

Chapter 11

- 1) Does verse 1 make a case for the fact that when you give to others it is not wasted? (hint-look at Proverbs 11:24&25 and Psalm 41:1)
- 2) Which verse shows the wisdom of diversifying investments?
- 3) What does verse 4 teach you?
- 4) Scientists think they know a lot. Do you think God agrees with that according to verse 5?
- 5) Do we know how a seed germinates?
- 6) Do we know how babies are formed or how God works?
- 7) Read I Corinthians 3:5-9. Now read Ecclesiastes 11:6. Do you think this verse only applies to farming?
- 8) What lessons can we learn about witnessing from verses 4-6?
- 9) Read verses 8-10. Do we always need to keep in mind that life is short?
- 10) "Everything that is to come will be _____."
- 11) This is true, "under the sun". Is it true when God is in the picture?
- 12) Solomon says to enjoy your life while you are young, but what reminder does he give?

Chapter 12

- 1) "Remember also _____ in the days of your _____,..."
- 2) This is a very important verse. The last chapter was talking about enjoying your youth, but what does the fact that you have a "Creator" remind you of? (choose one)
 - a) God created you to have fun and please yourself
 - b) God created you for His purposes
- 3) Do people who put off thinking about their Creator when they are young, tend to find pleasure in those thoughts when they are older?
- 4) Read verses 2-7. This passage gives a picturesque description of aging. What do you think the following descriptions refer to? (remember, we are talking about an aging person)
 - a) "...the sun, the light, the moon, and the stars are darkened"
 - b) "...and mighty men stoop,"
 - c) "... the grinding ones stand idle because they are few"
 - d) "...the sound of the grinding mill is low, and one will arise at the sound of the bird, and all the daughters of song will sing softly."
 - e) "...the almond tree blossoms,"
 - f) "the grasshopper drags himself along"
- 5) We are to, "Remember Him" before it's too late. What events do you think are described here?
- 6) What book in the Bible do we think "the Preacher" put together?
- 7) "Goads" were sharp sticks used to push animals in a certain direction. Does God's word do this?
- 8) Who, in the New Testament, was being bothered by these "goads"? (see Acts 26:14)
- 9) What item is used to describe ideas you can hang your life on?
- 10) Life in this world is summed up in verse 8. How does he sum it up when you include God?