

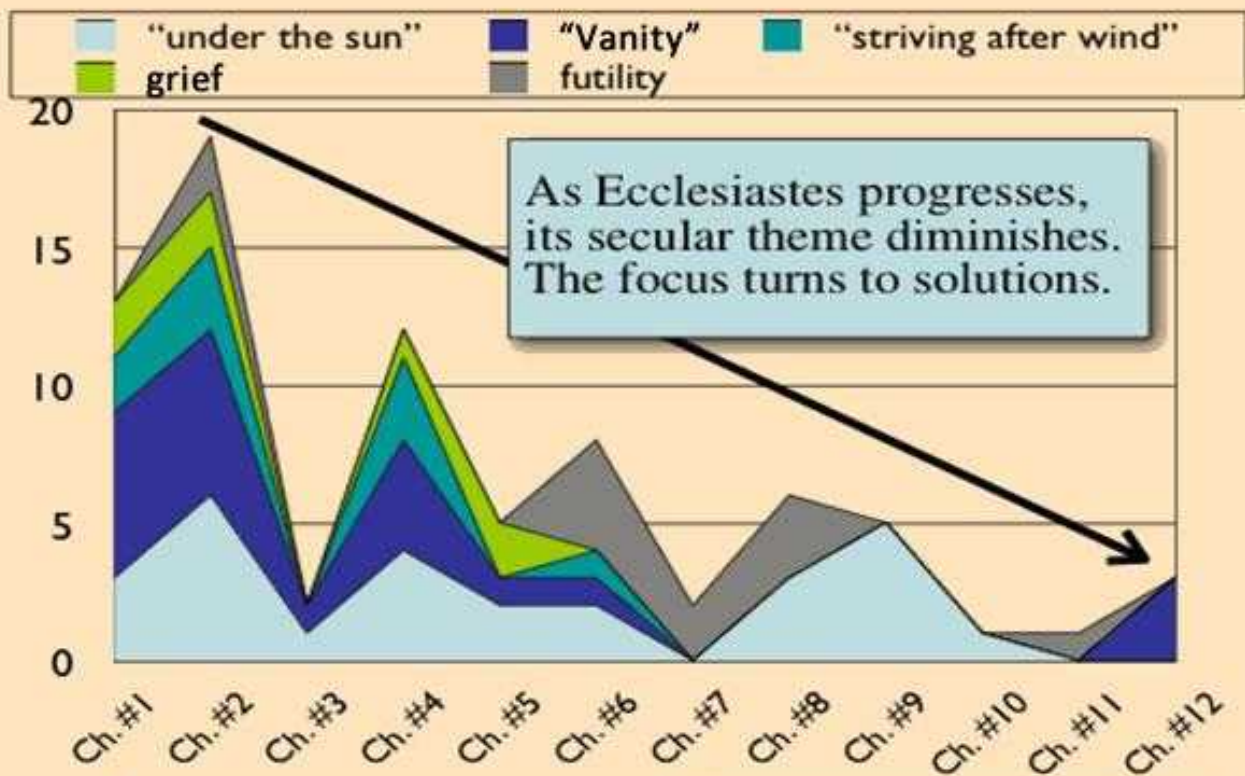


Solomon wrote Ecclesiastes as he was in the feedlot outside the abattoir. His life was well-done, and he had experienced just about everything on Life's menu, but had a beef before meeting his Maker, braying "All under the sun is vanity!" Will he repent? READ ON, DEAR READER...

QUEENSLAND

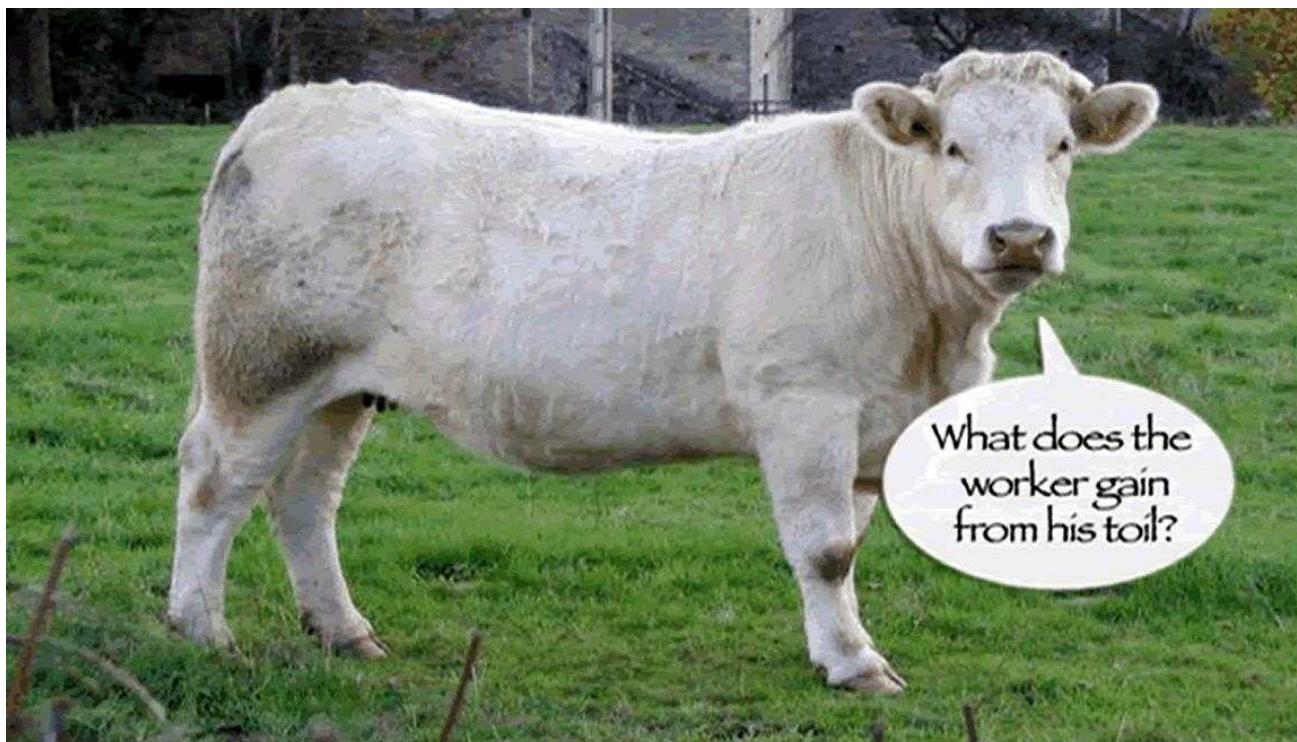
# The 2021 Ecclesiastes Cowlander

## Book of Ecclesiastes



ANALYSIS

SOLUTION



# January 2021

## Ecclesiastes 1: Is Life Worth Living?

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

### Holidays and Observances:

1: New Year's Day

26: Australia Day

הַבַּל הַבָּלִים אָמַר קִהְלַת הַבַּל הַבָּלִים הַכֹּל הַבָּל:  
מִהֲיִתְרוֹן לָאָדָם בְּכָל-עֲמָלוֹ שֶׁיַּעֲמֹל תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ:

"Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher; "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity." What profit has a man from all his labor In which he toils under the sun?

(Ecclesiastes 1:2-3)

1. The author
2. The aim of the book: Ecclesiastes 1:2-3  
(Vanity of vanities / Under the sun)

### Living in circles

3. Nothing is changed (1:4-7)
  - a. The earth (v 4)
  - b. The sun (v 5)
  - c. The wind (v 6)
  - d. The sea (v 7)
4. Nothing is new (1:8-11)
  - a. Man wants something new (v 8)
  - b. The world provides nothing new (vv 9-10)
  - c. Why we think things are new (v 11)
5. Nothing is understood (1:12-18)
  - a. Life is tough, but it is the gift of God (v 13)
  - b. Life doesn't get easier if you try to run away from it (v 14)
  - c. Not everything can be changed (v 15)
6. Wisdom and experience won't solve every problem. (vv 16-18)





# February 2021

## Ecclesiastes 2: Disgusted With Life?

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

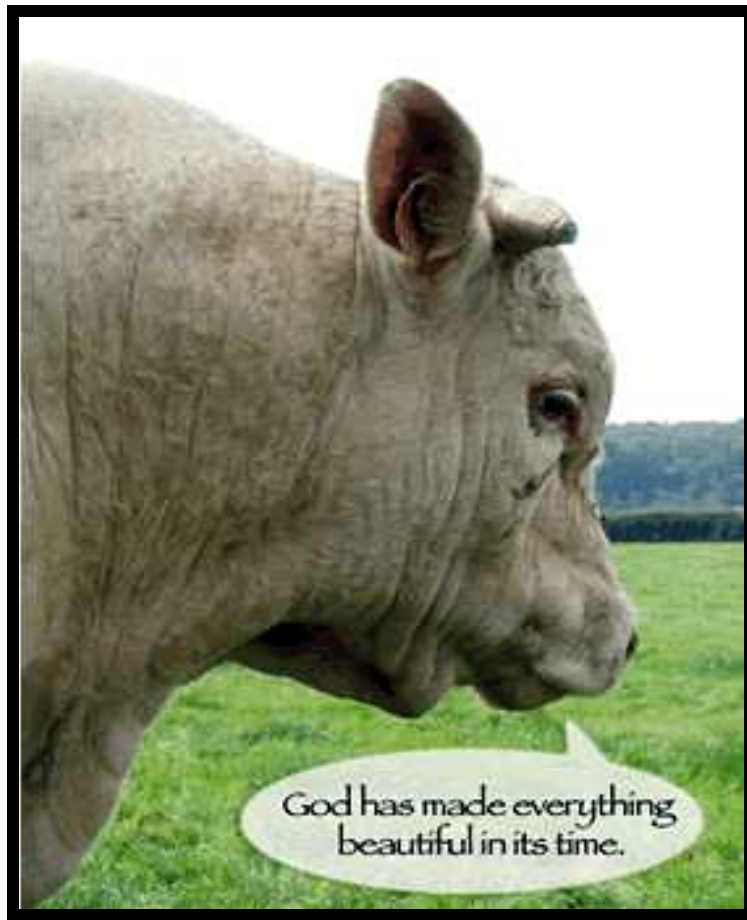
### Holidays and Observances:

Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.

(Ecclesiastes 2:24)

- Solomon tested life (2:1-11)
  - Enjoyment (vv 1-3)
    - Wine
    - Entertainment
    - Laughter
  - Employment (vv 4-11)
    - Great works (vv 4-6)
    - Management (v 7)
    - Wealth in flocks and herds (vv 7b-8a)
- Solomon hated life (2:12-23)
  - He considered his wisdom (vv 12-17)
  - He considered his wealth (vv 18-23)
- Solomon accepted life (2:24-26)
 

"Thank God for what you have and enjoy it to the glory of God."



## March 2021

### Ecclesiastes 3: Time and Toil

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

#### Holidays and Observances:

8: Adelaide Cup Day (South Australia),  
 11: Labor Day / May Day (Victoria),

**To everything there is a season, A  
 time for every purpose  
 under heaven:**

(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

1. Look up: God orders time (3:1–8)
  - a. Birth and death
  - b. Planting and plucking
  - c. Killing and healing
  - d. Casting away stones and gathering stones
  - e. Embracing and refraining from embracing
  - f. Getting and losing
  - g. Tearing and mending
  - h. Loving and hating
2. Look within: eternity is in your heart (3:9–14)
  - a. Life is a gift from God (v10)
  - b. Man's life is linked to eternity (v 12-14)
  - c. Man's life can be enjoyable now (v 13-14)
3. Look ahead: death is coming to all (3:15–22)





# April 2021

## Ecclesiastes 4: Life Just Isn't Fair

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

### Holidays and Observances:

2: Good Friday, 3: Easter Saturday  
 4: Easter Sunday, 5: Easter Monday,  
 25: Anzac Day, 26: Substitute day

Two are better than one.... For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.

(Ecclesiastes 4:9a-5)

### 4. Look around (4:1–5:9)

#### a. In the courtroom (4:1–3)

POLITICS, n. "A strife of interests masquerading as a contest of principles. The conduct of public affairs for private advantage."

— Ambrose Bierce

#### b. In the marketplace (4:4–8)

- The industrious man
- The idle man
- The integrated man
- The independent man

#### c. On the highway (4:9–12)

#### d. In the palace (4:13–16)



# May 2021

## Ecclesiastes 5: Stop, Thief!

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

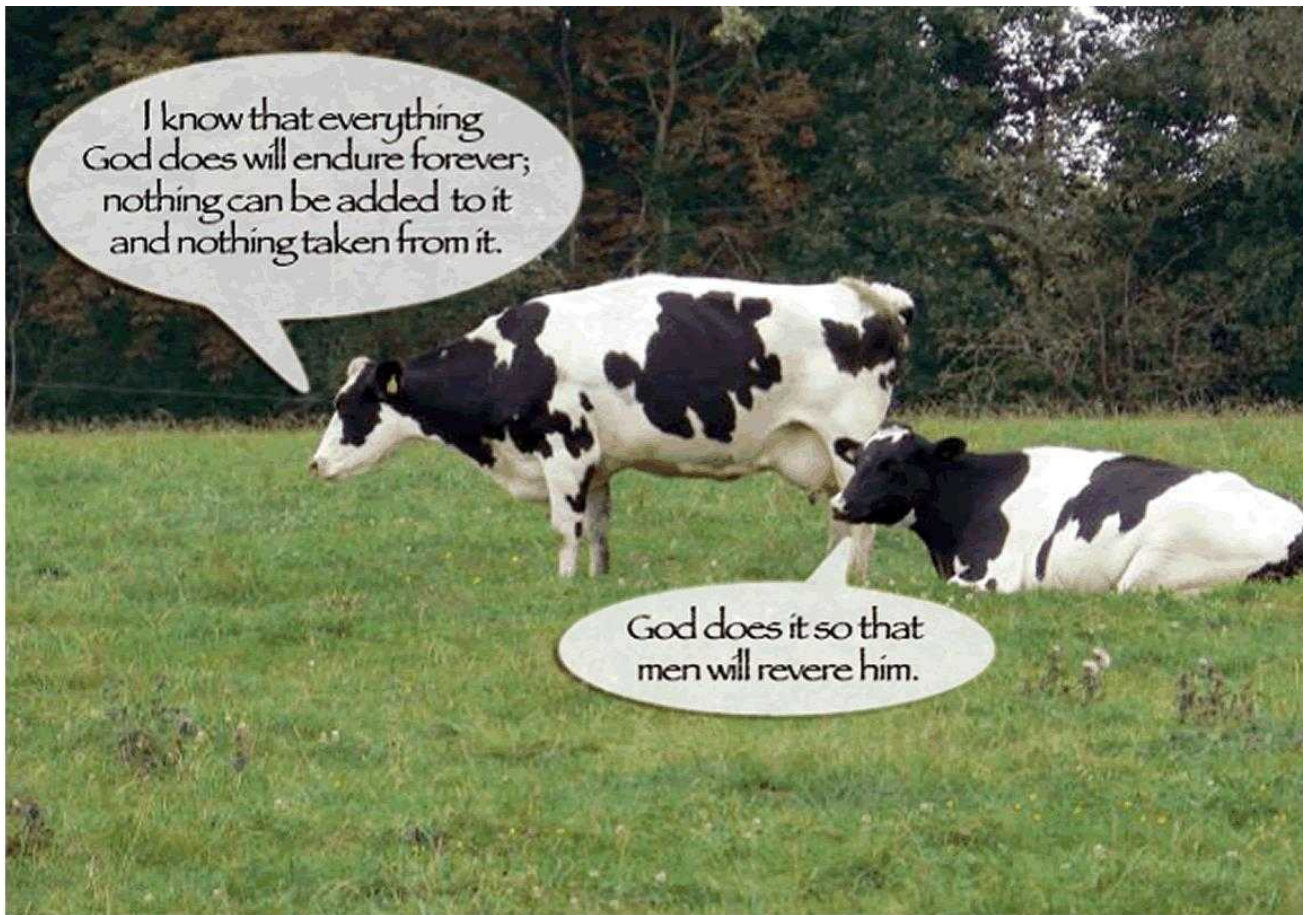
### Holidays and Observances:

3: Labour Day (Queensland)

Here is what I have seen:  
It is good and fitting to eat  
and drink, and to enjoy the good of  
all his labor in which he toils under  
the sun all the days of his life which  
God gives him; for it is his heritage.  
(Ecclesiastes. 5:18)

- 1) Don't rob the Lord (5:1-7)
  - a) Offering of (spiritual) sacrifices (5:1)
    - i) our bodies (Rom 12:1-2);
    - ii) people won to Jesus (Rom 15:16);
    - iii) money (Phil 4:18);
    - iv) praise & good work (Heb 13:15-16);
    - v) a broken heart (Ps 51:17); and
    - vi) our prayers of faith (Ps 141:1-2).
  - b) Careless prayer (5:2-3)
  - c) Making vows (5:4-7)
- 2) Don't rob others (5:8-9)
  - a) red tape and bureaucracy
  - b) corruption of power
  - c) *Solomon* says that's the human heart.
- 3) Don't rob yourself (5:10-20)
  - a) Illusion 1: Wealth gives satisfaction (v 10)
  - b) Illusion 2: Money solves every problem (v 11)
  - c) Illusion 3: Wealth gives peace of mind (v 12)
  - d) Illusion 4: Wealth gives security (v13-17)





# June 2021

## Ecclesiastes 6: Is Life a Dead-end Street?

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

### Holidays and Observances:

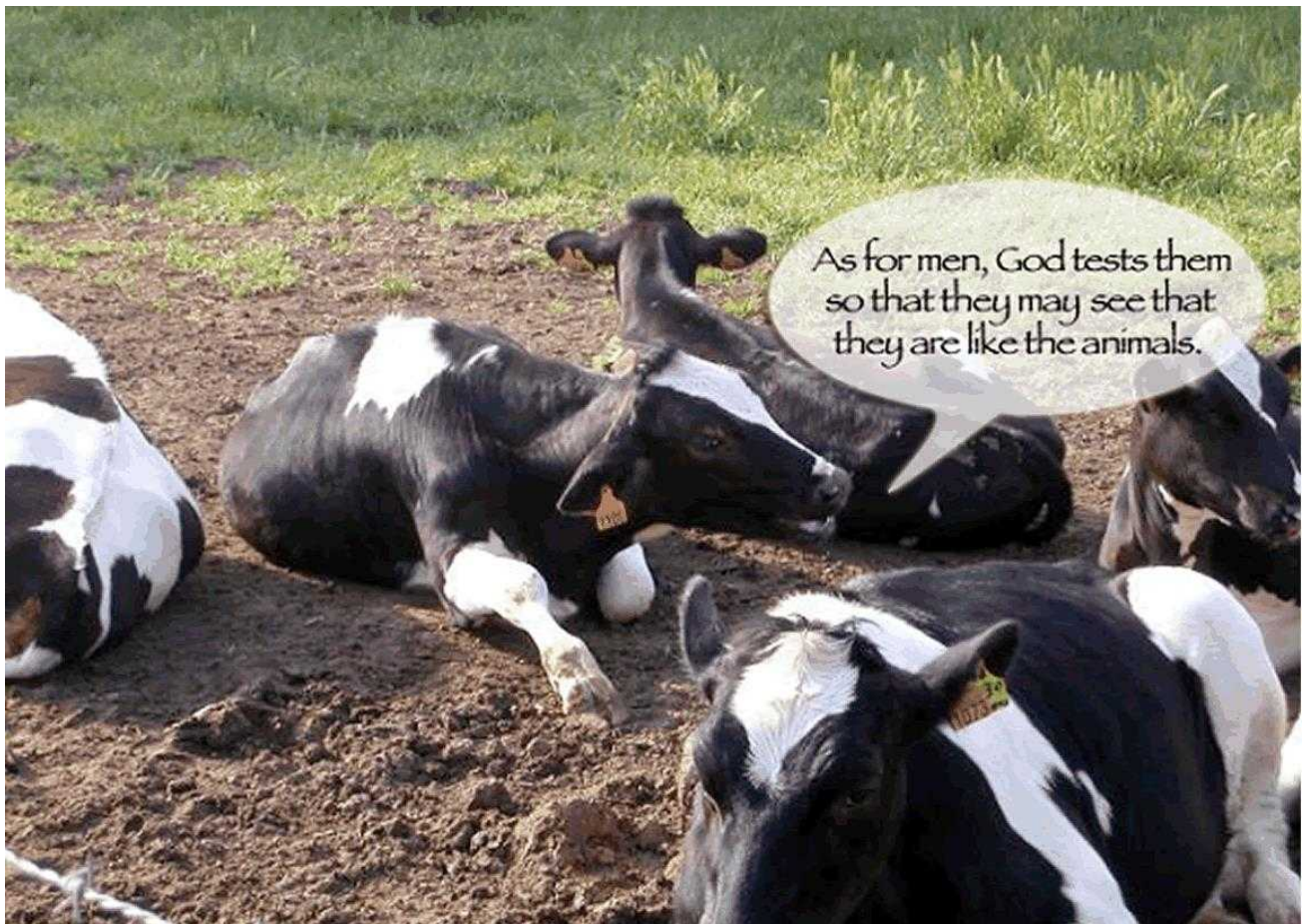
14: Queen's Birthday (Most other regions)

Whatever one is, he has been named already, For it is known that he is man; And he cannot contend with Him who is mightier than he.

(Ecclesiastes 6:10)

1. Riches without enjoyment (6:1–6)
2. Labor without satisfaction (6:7–9)
3. Questions without answers (6:10–12)
  - a. Life is a dead-end street for:
    - i. Those who have riches but no enjoyment
    - ii. Those who labor but have no satisfaction
    - iii. The person who required answers to all of life's questions
  - b. Five questions:
    - i) *Since "what's going to be is going to be," why bother to make decisions? Isn't it all predestined anyway?*
    - ii) *Why disagree with God? We can't oppose Him and win, can we?*
    - iii) *What do we accomplish with all these words? Does talking about it solve the problem? "*
    - iv) *Who knows what is good for us?*
    - v) *Does anybody know what's coming next?*





# July 2021

## Ecclesiastes 7: How to be Better Off

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

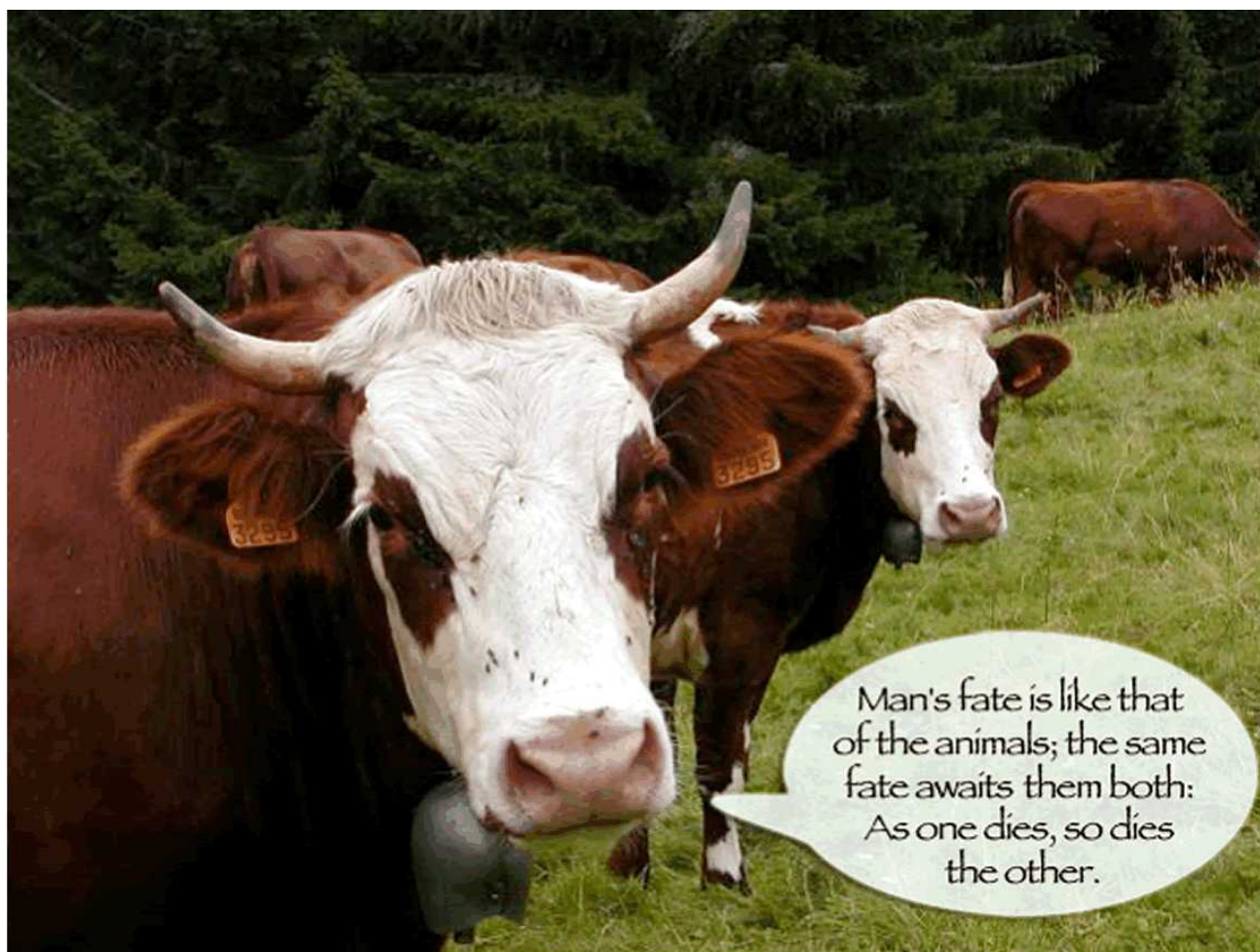
### Holidays and Observances:

"Here is what I have found...: One man among a thousand I have found, But a woman among all these I have not found. Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, But they have sought out many schemes."

(Ecclesiastes 7:27-29)

- 1) Wisdom can make life better (7:1-10)
  - a) Sorrow is better than laughter (7:1-4)
  - b) Rebuke is better than praise. 7:5-6
  - c) The long haul is better than the shortcut (7:7-9)
  - d) Today is better than yesterday (7:10)
- 2) Wisdom helps us see life clearly (7:11-18)
  - a) Wealth (7:11-12)
  - b) Providence (8:13)
  - c) Adversity and prosperity (7:14)
  - d) Righteousness and sin (7:15-18)
- 3) Wisdom helps us face life stronger (7:18-29)
  - a) Overcome sin (7:20)
  - b) What people say about us (7:21-22)
  - c) Our inability to grasp the meaning of all that God is doing in this world (7:23-25)
  - d) The sinfulness of humanity in general (7:26-29)





# August 2021

## Ecclesiastes 8: What about the Wicked?

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### Holidays and Observances:

11: Royal Queensland Show (Brisbane)

When I applied my heart to know wisdom and to see the business that is done on earth ... Then I saw all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun.

(Ecclesiastes 8:16a-17a)

### 1) Authority (8:1-9)

- a) Disobedience
- b) Desertion
- c) Defiance
- d) Discernment

### 2) Inequity (8:10-14)

- a) The long life of the wicked man is a prelude to eternal darkness

### 3) Mystery (8:15-17)

- a) We cannot explain everything. We do not live by explanations, we live by promises (and hope through faith).
- b) "Our knowledge is a receding mirage in an expanding desert of ignorance."

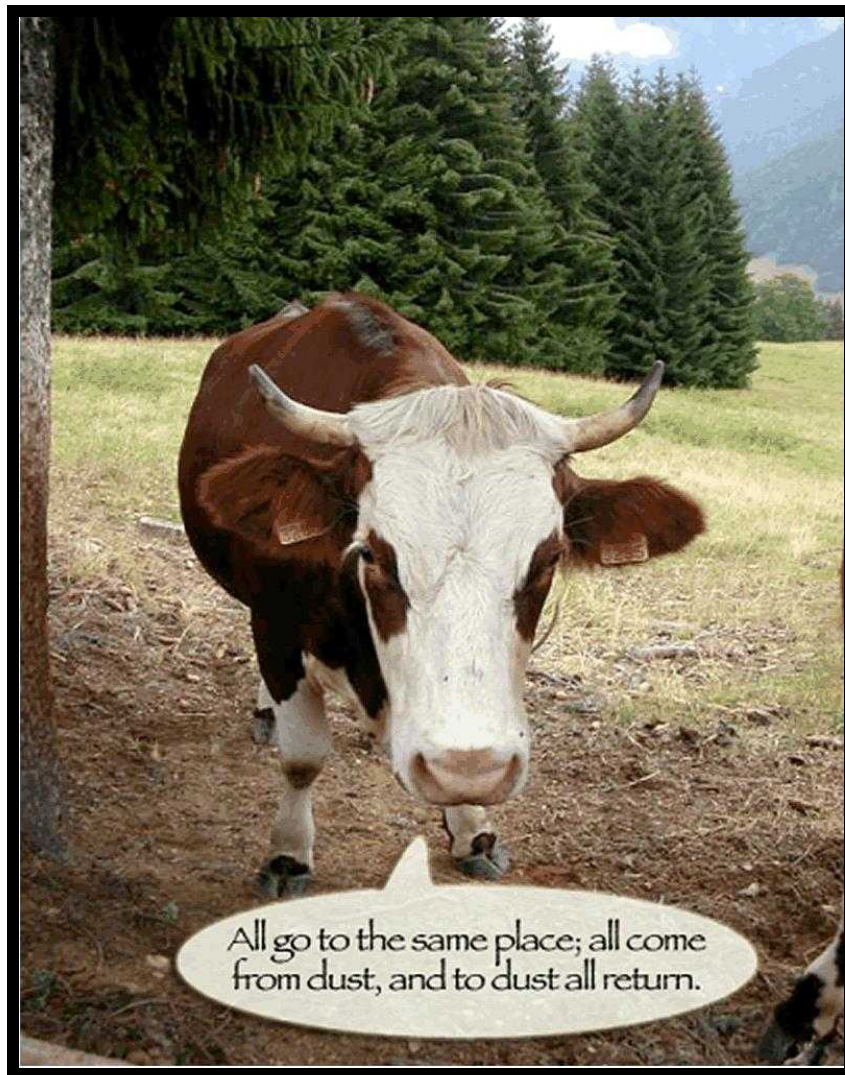


# September 2021

## Ecclesiastes 9: Meeting Your Last Enemy

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
			1	2	3	4	1. Death is unavoidable (9:1-10)
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	a. Life and death are in the hand of God (v 1)
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	b. As it is with the good man, so with the sinner (v 2)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	c. Escape (v 3)
26	27	28	29	30			d. Endurance (vv 4-6)
Holidays and Observances:							e. Enjoyment (vv 7-10)
But time and chance happen to them all. For man also does not know his time: (Ecclesiastes 9:11b-12a)							i. Enjoy your meals (v 7)
							ii. Enjoy every occasion (v 8)
							iii. Enjoy your marriage (v 9)
							iv. Enjoy your work (v 10)
							2. Life is unpredictable (9:11-18)
							a. Our ability is no guarantee of success (vv 11-12)
							b. Our opportunities are no guarantee of success (vv 13-18)





# October 2021

## Ecclesiastes 10: A Little Folly Is Dangerous

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

### Holidays and Observances:

4: Queen's Birthday

For a bird of the air may carry your voice, And a bird in flight may tell the matter. (Eccl 10:20b)

- The foolish ruler (10:4–7)
  - Proud (v4)
  - Pliable (5-8)
- Foolish workers (10:8–11)
  - Some people perform their work but suffer *because they are foolish*.
- Foolish talkers (10:12–15)
  - Destructive words (v 12)
  - Unreasonable words (v. 13)
  - Uncontrolled words (v. 14)
  - Boastful words (14b-15).
- Foolish officers (10:16–20) “
  - Indulgence (vv. 16–17)
  - Incompetence (v. 18).
  - Indifference (v. 19).
  - Indiscretion (v. 20)



# November 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

2: Melbourne Cup (not a holiday)

11: Remembrance Day (not a holiday)

Walk in the ways of your heart,  
And in the sight of your eyes; But  
know that for all these God will  
bring you into judgment.

(Ecclesiastes 11:9b)

## SUMMARY OF CHAPTERS 11 AND 12

LIFE is an **ADVENTURE** –

### Live by faith (11:1-6)

LIFE is a **GIFT** –

Enjoy it (11:7-12:8)

LIFE is a **SCHOOL** –

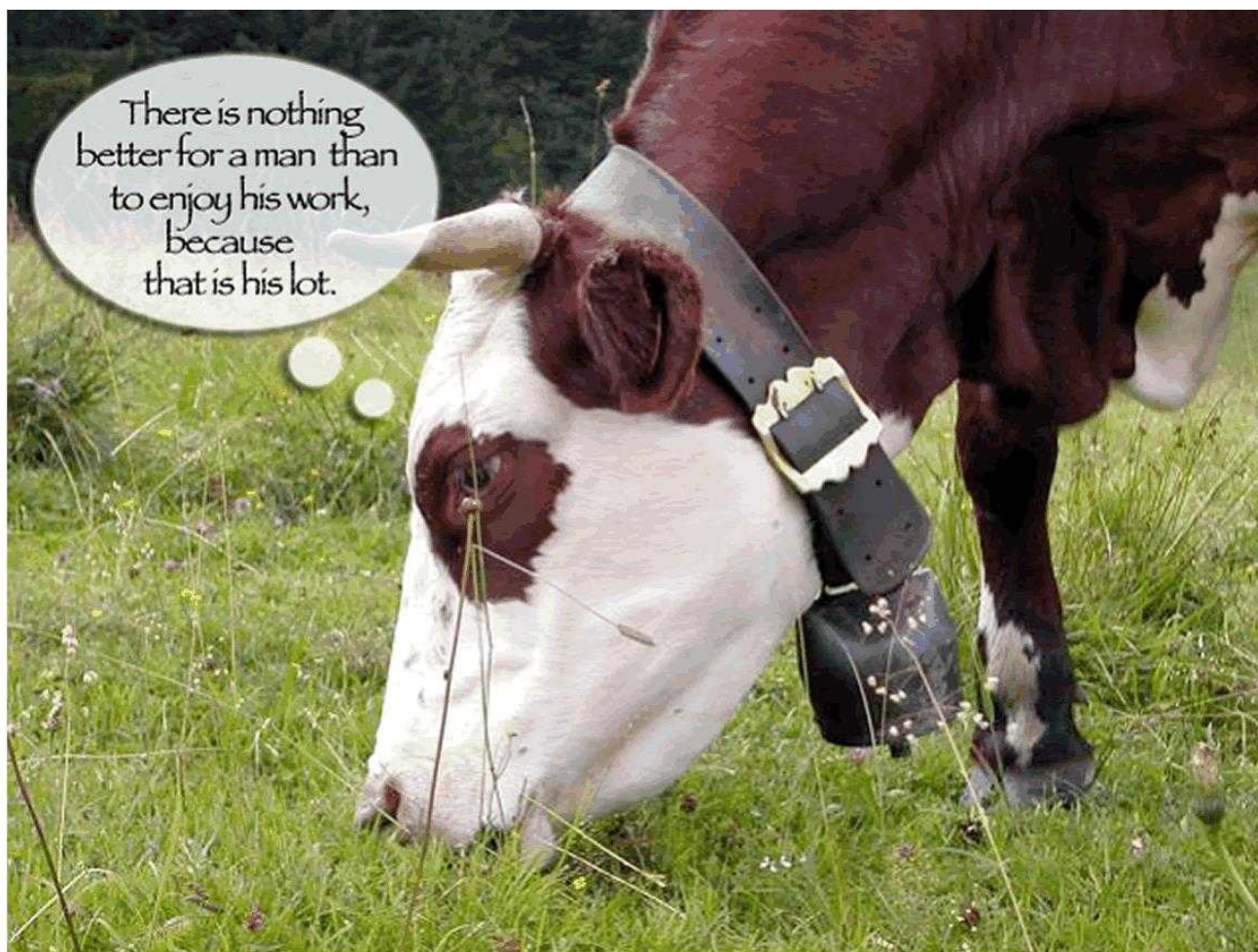
### Learn your lessons (12:9-12)

LIFE is a **STEWARDSHIP** –

## Fear God (12:13-14)

- 1) Life Is an Adventure: Live by Faith (11:1–6)
  - a) The Merchant (vv1-2)
  - b) The Farmer (vv3-6)
- 2) Life Is a Gift: Enjoy It (11:7–12:8)
  - a) Rejoice (vv7-9)
  - b) Remove (v 10)
  - c) Remember (v 12:1-8)





# December 2021

## Ecclesiastes 12: Solomon's Final Conclusions

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
			1	2	3	4	3) Life Is a School: Learn your Lessons (12:9–12)
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	a) Wise (v 9)
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	b) Orderly (v 9)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	c) Inspired (v 9)
26	27	28	29	30	31		4) Life Is a Stewardship: Fear God (12:13–14)
<b>Holidays and Observances:</b> 24: Christmas Eve (6pm to midnight) 25: Christmas Day 26: Boxing Day 27 and 28: Substitute days 31: New Year's Eve (not a holiday)							a) Fear God (v 13)
							b) Keep His commandments (v 13)
							c) Prepare for final judgment (v 14)

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

(Ecclesiastes 12 : 13-14)