### BUBLE Is ABOUT

### The book of Ecclesiastes



#### **Fear God**

The remarkable thing about fearing God is that, when you fear God, you fear nothing else; whereas, if you do not fear God, you fear everything else

**Oswald Chambers** 

**Ecclesiastes** is in our Bible because it **tells** where we'll end up if we don't discover His way to live!

POLYGAMY (700 CHARGES), CONCUBINAGE (300 CHARGES), PROFLIGATE SPENDING, HERESY

### WANTED

#### **SOLOMON**, KING OF UNITED ISRAEL

ALIASES: Jedidiah, Kohelet (Koheleth, Qoheleth or Qohelet), Suleiman (Islam).



Left Facing Front (current photograph not available)



#### DESCRIPTION

AGE: b. 990 BC, Jerusalem: d. Age 59, 931 BC, Jerusalem, Israel HEIGHT: 5'9" WEIGHT: 150-180 lbs EYES: brown HAIR: brown BUILD: medium COMPLEXION: swarthy NATIONALITY: Israel OCCUPATION: 3<sup>rd</sup> King of United Israel; Poet; Builder; Songwriter FATHER: David MOTHER: Bathsheba BROTHER: Adonijah WIVES: Ammonite Princess Namaah, Pharaoh's Daughter; +698 KNOWN ASSOCIATES: Queen of Sheba; Zadok the priest; Nathan the prophet; Captain General Benaiah; 300 concubines



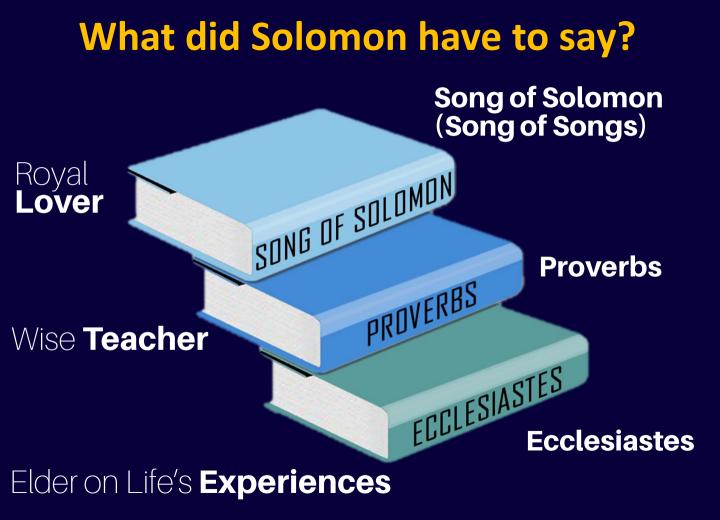
#### David

- David made many mistakes and committed many crimes like adultery and murder.
- Yet he continually repented and "was a man after God's own heart."
- The Bible extols David above all others.



#### Solomon

- Solomon would seem an ideal man, from an earthly perspective.
- But he went away from God and left no record that he returned to God.
- New Testament references to Solomon are derisive.



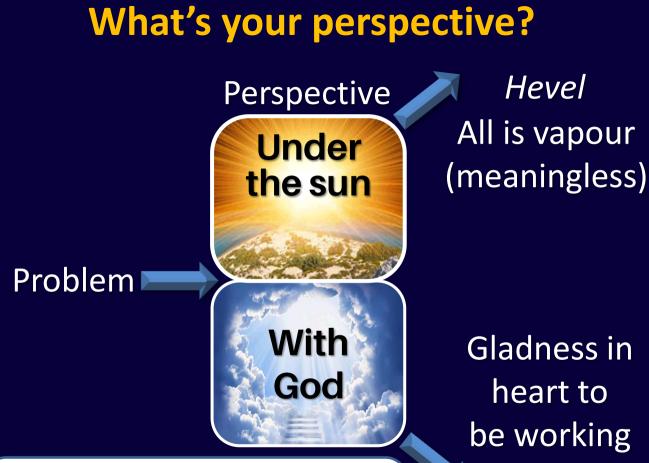
### The theme of Ecclesiastes 'Vanity of vanities,' says the Preacher; 'Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.' What profit has a man from all his labor In which he toils under the sun? One generation passes away, and another generation comes; But the earth abides forever.

The Book of Ecclesiastes Verses 1:2-4

#### Solomon's term for God



Since Solomon is dealing exclusively with what he sees "under the sun" (i.e., the Creation"), he consistently uses *Elohim*.



What you see is all in how you look at it!

with God.



### **Defining the problem**

- Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.
- That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.
- But we all forget the past.
- So is life under the sun really meaningless?
- Solomon applied his heart to know wisdom, but it was not easy. Much wisdom brings much sorrow.



- Solomon asked whether wealth brings satisfaction.
- The richest man in the world tested enjoyment by trying every kind of pleasure; wine, women, song, mirth, all that money can buy. Nothing satisfied.
- He then tested employment, building mega-structures and gardens and becoming even richer and more powerful, and increasing his worries.
- All was meaningless! The wise die like the foolish.
- All we can do is enjoy life while we can. To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness.



**NO!** Life **under the sun** is **not** worth living: the monotony of life (1:4-11) the vanity of wisdom (1:12-18) the futility of wealth (2:1-11) • the certainty of death (2:12-23)



#### Issue 1: The monotony of life

- To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven:
  - A time to live, and a time to die.
    A time to mourn, and a time to dance.
    A time to love, a time to hate.
    A time of war, and a time of peace.

# MONDIONY

- To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven:
  - A time to live, and a time to die.
    A time to mourn, and a time to dance.
    A time to love, a time to hate.
    A time of war, and a time of peace.
- It is the gift of God that man should find pleasure in his work.
- For who can bring them to see what will happen after them?

# MONDIONY

- I saw the tears of the oppressed, who have no comforter under the sun.
- Two have a good reward for their toil. And a three-fold cord is not soon broken.
- I saw everyone follow a new king, yet those who come later will not rejoice in him. Meaningless!
- I declared that the dead, who had already died, are happier than the living, who are still alive.

# MONDIONY



#### **Issue 2: The futility of wealth**

- Do not make rash vows before God. Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.
- The lover of money never has enough. They will take nothing away by hand at the end of their days.
- Eat and drink and enjoy the good of your labor under the sun all the days God has given you.
- Wise seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them busy with the joy of his heart.

## ENTILE MEALTH

- Here is an evil: to have wealth and honour but not to enjoy them.
- What do the wise gain over fools? Better the sight of the eyes than the wandering of desire.
- The more the words, the less the meaning, and how does that profit anyone?
- Many things increase vanity. How does that help?
- Who can tell a man what will happen after him under the sun?

## ENTILE MEALTH



#### Issue 3: The vanity of wisdom

- A good name is far better than vast wealth.
- The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning.
- Sorrow is better than laughter, because we can learn from it.
- Search out wisdom and the reason of things to know the wickedness of foolishness and folly.
- Do not be too righteous, or too wicked.
- God made man upright but they seek many schemes.

## MAIN MISDOM

- Obey authorities for God's sake. A wise heart discerns both time and judgment.
- Though sinners do evil even if not speedily punished, it will be well for those who fear God.
- No one can know all that goes on under the sun.
- Who is like the wise? Who knows the explanation of things? Even if the wise claim they know, they cannot really comprehend it.

So I commended enjoyment for all days God gives.



#### **Issue 4: The certainty of death**

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- Death comes to all under the sun.
- The living have hope; a living dog is better than a dead lion.
- Wisdom is better than strength or weapons or folly.
- Man does know know his time, death will fall suddenly, so enjoy the days of your ephemeral life.
- The same fate come to all .... But God's "fate for us" should not be measured by just what happens under the sun. Christians measure it by what Jesus did at the cross.

### CERTAINDEATH

- Like flies, a little folly spoils wisdom and honor.
- Whoever digs a pit will fall into it.
- Words of the wise are gracious, but the lips of a fool consume him. A babbler multiplies words.
- Calmness can lay great offences to rest.
- The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left.

- Watch your thoughts, for a bird of the air may hear.
- Because of laziness buildings decay and roofs leak.



### The problem decided

- Whoever watches the clouds will never reap.
- You do not know what will prosper.
- As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.
- Enjoy your youth, but know that God will judge you.

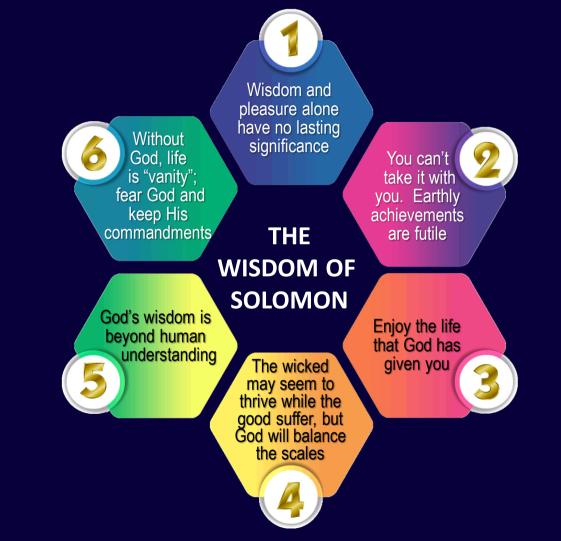


- Remember your Creator in your youth, before the days of trouble come.
- Vanity of vanities. Everything under the sun is vanity!
- Fear God and keep his commandments.
- For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.



Is life worth living? YES! Life under God is worth living:

- Life is an ADVENTURE live by faith (Ecclesiastes 11:1-6)
- Life is a GIFT enjoy it (Ecclesiastes 11:7–12:8)
- Life is a SCHOOL learn your lessons (Ecclesiastes 12:9–12)
- Life is a STEWARDSHIP fear God (Ecclesiastes 12:13–14)



Key point:

#### Conclusion

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