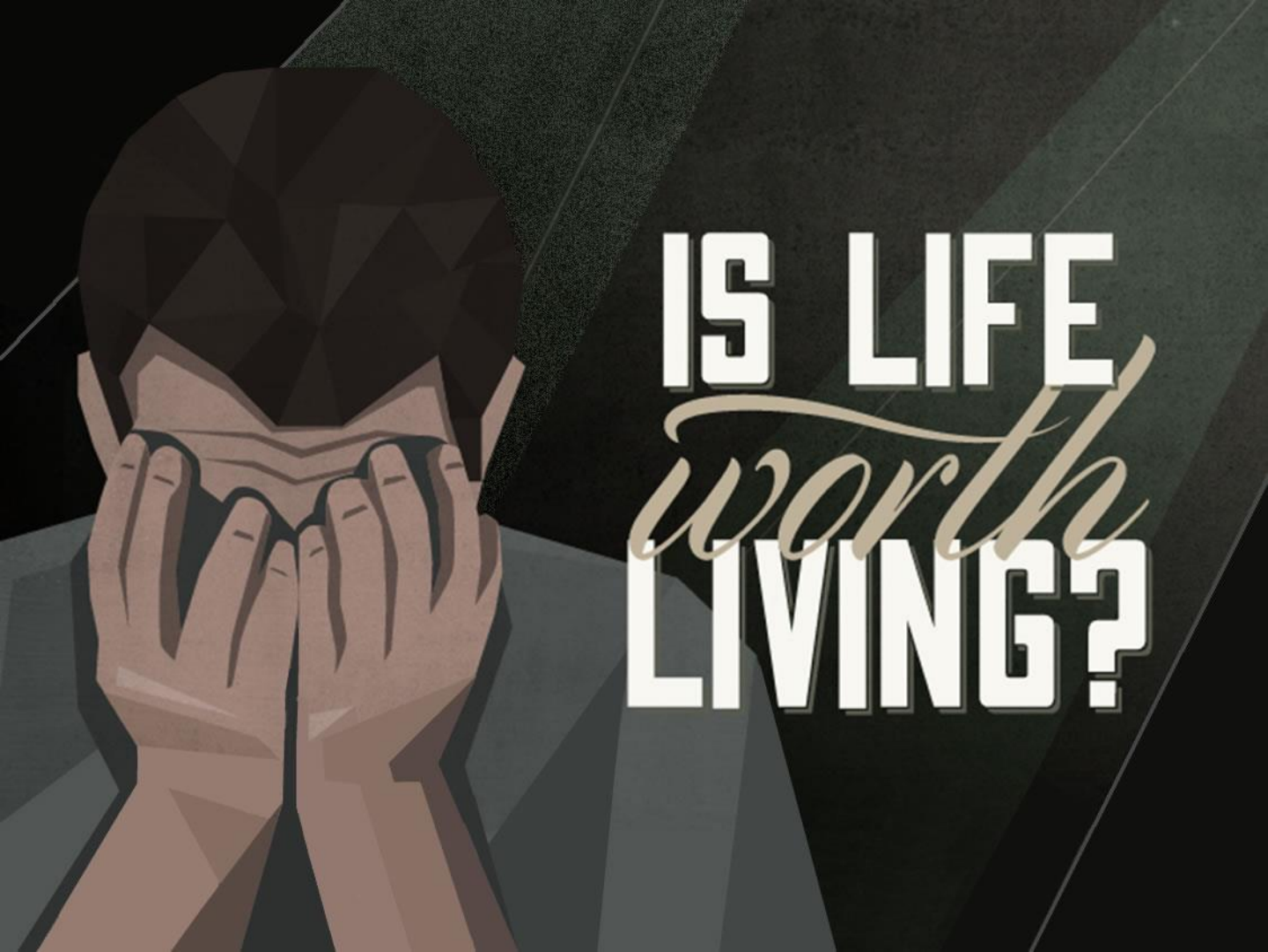


2020  
10  
SESSION

WHAT THE  
BIBLE  
Is ABOUT

The book of

Ecclesiastes



IS LIFE  
*worth*  
LIVING?





What is the meaning of life?

# The book of Ecclesiastes

♥ There is a time for everything, &

a season for every matter under Heaven ♥ ECCLESIASTES 3:1

Janet Tru ♥

## 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

Scottish Evangelist, WWI Chaplain

(1874-1917)

**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).

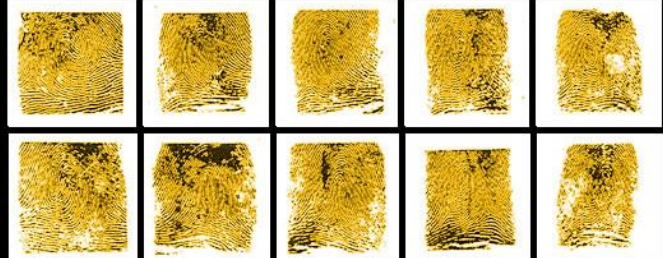


Left Facing



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; Benaiah the captain of the army;





## David

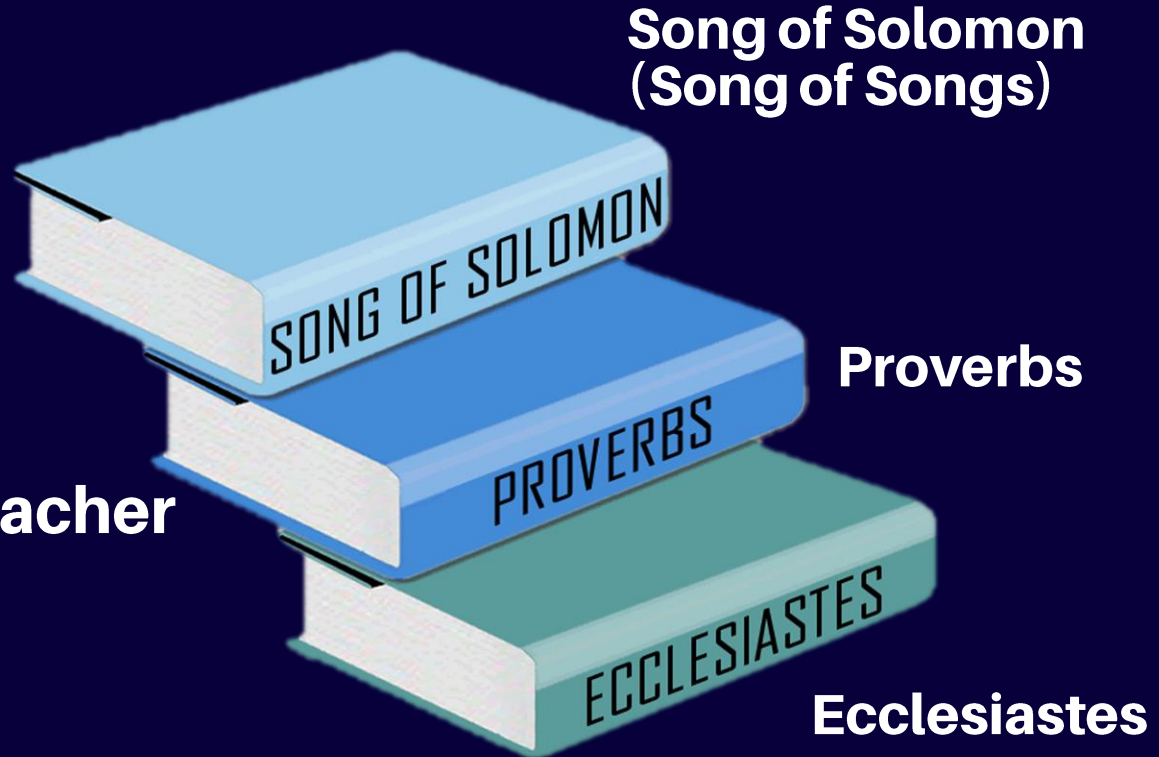
- David made many mistakes and committed many crimes like adultery and murder.
- Yet he continually repented and “was a man after God’s own heart.”
- The Bible extols David above all others.



## 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.

# What did Solomon have to say?



Song of Solomon  
(Song of Songs)

Royal  
**Lover**

**Proverbs**

Wise **Teacher**

**Ecclesiastes**

Elder on Life's **Experiences**



# 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

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength."

יְהוָה  
Yĕhovah

אֱלֹהִים  
'elohiym

**Elohim** ("God" in the English Bible) is the Mighty God, the glorious God of **creation** who exercises sovereign power.

**YHWH** ("LORD" in the English Bible) is the God of the **covenant**, the God of revelation who is eternally self-existent and yet graciously **relates Himself to sinful man**.

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

# What's your perspective?

Perspective

*Hevel*



All is vapour  
(meaningless)

Problem



Gladness in  
heart to  
be working  
with God.

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

# Is life worth living?



## Defining the problem

# Ecclesiastes Chapter 1

- 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.

MEANINGLESS



# Ecclesiastes Chapter 2

- 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.

MEANINGLESS

# Is life worth living?

**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)

# Is life worth living?



## Issue 1: The monotony of life

# Ecclesiastes Chapter 3

- 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.

MONOTONY

# Ecclesiastes Chapter 3

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  - 🕒 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?

MONOTONY



## Ecclesiastes Chapter 4

- 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.

MONOTONY

# Is life worth living?



## Issue 2: The futility of wealth

# Ecclesiastes Chapter 5

- 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.

FUTILE WEALTH

# Ecclesiastes Chapter 6

- 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?

FUTILE WEALTH



# Is life worth living?



## Issue 3: The vanity of wisdom



# Ecclesiastes Chapter 7

- 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 WISDOM

# Is life worth living?



## Issue 4: The certainty of death

# The last enemy - death

## Meet Your Last Enemy



# Ecclesiastes Chapter 9

- 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 not 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.**

CERTAIN DEATH

# Ecclesiastes Chapter 10

- 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.

CERTAIN DEATH



**Is life worth living?**



**The problem decided**



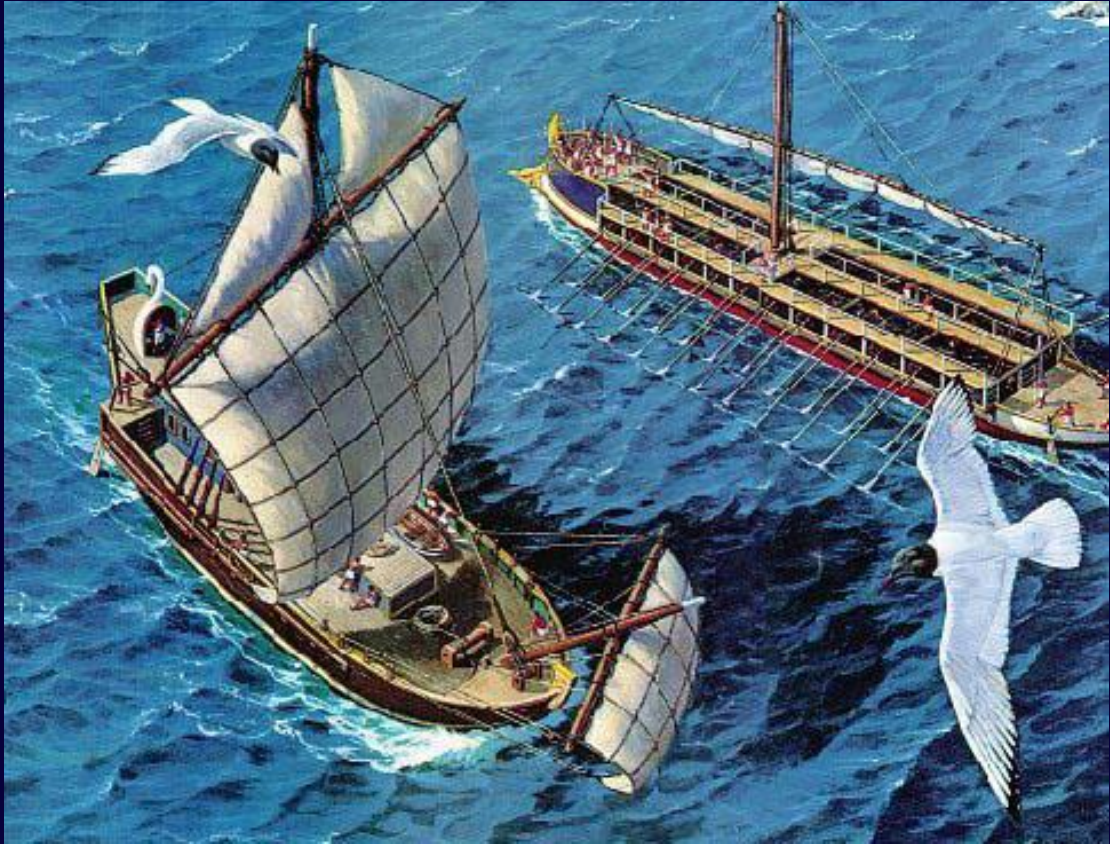
# Ecclesiastes

Life Under the Sun

## Chapter 11

# Life is an adventure

1. Cast your bread upon the waters,  
For you will find it after many days.



1. Cast your bread upon the waters,  
For you will find it after many days.
2. Give a serving to seven, and also to eight,  
For you do not know what evil will be on the earth.
3. If the clouds are full of rain,  
They empty themselves upon the earth;  
And if a tree falls to the south or the north,  
In the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie.
4. He who observes the wind will not sow,  
And he who regards the clouds will not reap.



Life is an adventure





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In the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie.
4. He who observes the wind will not sow,  
And he who regards the clouds will not reap.
5. As you do not know what is the way of the wind, Or  
how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with  
child, So you do not know the works of God who makes  
everything.

Just as we don't  
know how the spirit  
pervades the body in  
a mother's womb,  
neither will we  
understand  
the work of God,  
Creator of all things.

Ecclesiastes 11:5



6. In the morning sow your seed,  
And in the evening do not withhold your hand;  
For you do not know which will prosper,  
Either this or that,  
Or whether both alike will be good.

**Live by Faith!**

7. Truly the light is sweet,  
And it is pleasant for the eyes to behold the sun;
8. But if a man lives many years  
And rejoices in them all,  
Yet let him remember the days of darkness,  
For they will be many.  
All that is coming is vanity.



9. Rejoice, O young man, in your youth,  
And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth;  
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.

10. Therefore remove sorrow  
from your heart,  
And put away evil from  
your flesh,  
For childhood and youth  
are vanity.



**Enjoy life!**





# Ecclesiastes

Life Under the Sun

## Chapter 12

## Enjoy life now (cont.)

1. Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them":
2. While the sun and the light, the moon and the stars, are not darkened, and the clouds do not return after the rain;



## A description of Old Age

3. In the day when the keepers of the house tremble, And the strong men bow down; When the grinders cease because they are few, And those that look through the windows grow dim;
4. When the doors are shut in the streets, And the sound of grinding is low; When one rises up at the sound of a bird, And all the daughters of music are brought low.
5. Also they are afraid of height, And of terrors in the way; When the almond tree blossoms, The grasshopper is a burden, And desire fails. For man goes to his eternal home, And the mourners go about the streets.

# A description of Old Age

<b>Keepers of house</b>	Your arms and hands tremble.
<b>Strong men</b>	Your legs, knees, and shoulders weaken; you walk bent over.
<b>Grinders</b>	You start to lose your teeth.
<b>Windows</b>	Your vision begins to deteriorate.
<b>Doors</b>	Either your hearing starts to fail, or you close your mouth because you've lost your teeth.
<b>Grinding</b>	You can't chew your food, or your ears can't pick up the sounds outdoors.
<b>Rise up</b>	You wake up with the birds early each morning, and wish you could sleep longer.
<b>Music</b>	Your voice starts to quaver and weaken.
<b>Afraid</b>	You are terrified of heights and afraid of falling while you walk down the street.
<b>Almond tree</b>	If you have any hair left, it turns white, like almond blossoms.
<b>Grasshopper</b>	You just drag yourself along, like a grasshopper at the close of the summer season.
<b>Desire</b>	You lose your appetite, or perhaps your sexual desire.
<b>Home</b>	You go to your eternal home and people mourn your death.

# A description of Old Age that Solomon missed...

**Age** has its  
**advantages!**

I just can't remember  
what they are.

Memory starts playing tricks.





It's windy  
today!

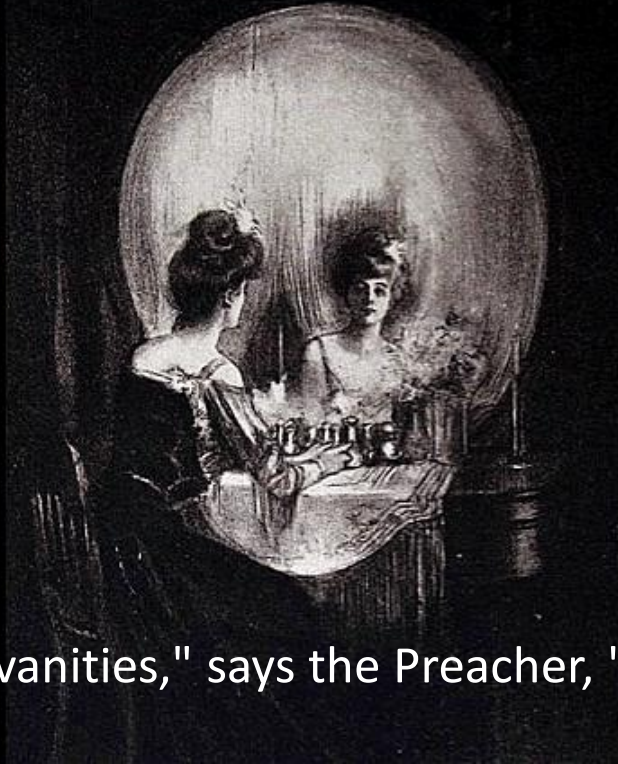
No, it's Thursday!

I'm thirsty, too.  
Let's get a beer!



# Life is a gift - Enjoy it!

6. Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed,  
Or the golden bowl is broken, Or the pitcher shattered at  
the fountain, Or the wheel broken at the well.
7. Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the  
spirit will return to God who gave it.



8. "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher, "All is vanity."

9. And moreover, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out and set in order many proverbs.
10. The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright--words of truth.

9. And moreover, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out and set in order many proverbs.
10. The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright--words of truth.
11. The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd.
12. And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh.

*Don't go beyond what God has written in His Word.  
Don't let men's truths rob you of God's wisdom.*

**Learn your lessons!**

13. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.

*The answer to whether life is worth living comes from one's perspective (or worldview).*

- *Life under the sun, from Man's perspective, is not.*
- *But life from a Godly worldview is worth living.*

*"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." (1 John 5:12)*



13. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.

FEAR GOD AND KEEP HIS  
COMMANDMENTS,  
FOR THIS IS THE WHOLE  
DUTY OF MAN.

ECCLESIASTES 12:13

14. For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.



**Fear God!**

Ecclesiastes 12:14

An ornate, symmetrical decorative border in a light gray or silver color frames the entire image. It features intricate scrollwork and floral motifs at the corners and along the top and bottom edges.

*The*  
END

# Summary

- Remember God, fear Him, and study His way to live. Ecclesiastes tells you where we'll finish up if we don't discover and follow God's way to live.
- Whoever doesn't understand the meaning of life from heaven's angle and from the angle of the next world, will finish up a disillusioned, disappointed, depressed person saying, "Well, the whole lot was pointless, where has it got me?"
- Life under the sun is meaningless, but when God is considered it makes sense from a heavenly worldview.
- "Whatever we do in the Lord, our labour is not in vain."  
1 Corinthians 15:58

# The problem defined: is life worth living?

**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)



## 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 points



**“Love not the world,  
neither the things  
that are in the world.”**

1 John 2:15

**“The blessing of the Lord  
makes one rich, and He  
adds no sorrow with it.”**

Proverb 10:22, NKJV

# Solomon's Ten Vanities

1. **Human wisdom** – wise and fools come to the same end, death.
2. **Human labour** – workers fare no better than shirkers in the end
3. **Human purpose** – man proposes, God disposes
4. **Human rivalry** – success brings more envy than joy
5. **Human avarice** – much feeds lust for more; never satisfied
6. **Human fame** - brief, uncertain, soon forgotten
7. **Human in satiety** – money does not satisfy, feeds other passions
8. **Human coveting** – gain cannot be enjoyed, despite desire
9. **Human frivolity** – it only camouflages inevitable sad end
10. **Human rewards** – good and bad often get the wrong deserts

## 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.”