

Ecclesiastes

- A. 1:1-11, Qoheleth's Thoughts
- B. 1:12, Autobiographical Introduction
- C. 1:13-2:26, Quest for Meaning
 - a. 1:13-18, Qoheleth's study, search, experience, reflection and general conclusion
 - b. 2:1-11, Pleasure as the source of Meaning
 - c. 2:12-23, Death the great equalizer
 - i. 2:12-17, Death neutralizes Wisdom
 - ii. 2:18-23, Death eclipses Folly
 - d. 2:24-26,
- D. 3:1-6:9, The Quest for the "Right Time" and "Justice"
 - a. 3:1-15, The Reality of the "Right Time"
 - i. 3:1-8, Unfathomable Purpose of God
 - ii. 3:9-15, God's Ways are beyond finding out
 - b. 3:16-17, Where is the Justice?
 - i. 3:16, the world is unfair
 - ii. 3:17, Sometimes the "Right Time" is in eternity where God will settle the
 - c. 3:18-21, Man's life is a test, Man can see nothing more than an animals
 - d. 3:22, Man's best option is to make the most of life where he is at because something bigger is happening than man can see
- E. 4:1-12, Overcoming when Faced with Oppression and Fixing the Odds
- F. 4:13-16, Proper Evaluation of Social Advancement and Political Gain
- G. 5:1-7, Keeping Check on Your Religious Experiences and Prayer Life Before God
- H. 5:8-20, Pursuit of Wealth
- I. 6:1-12, Man Does Not Even Know What is Truly Good in This Life
- J. 7:1-12:7, Qoheleth's Advice and Points of Wisdom
- K. 12:8-14, Epilogue
 - a. 12:8-12, Qoheleth Finished Strong, but Realized Human Limitations
 - i. The cycle is endless
 - ii. Qoheleth did all that he could do and never tired
 - iii. Qoheleth realized he could never finish the work or exhaust his resources
 - b. 12:13-14, Conclusion
 - i. Fear God
 - ii. Obey God
 - iii. God judges everything
 - 1. Known deeds
 - 2. Secret deeds
 - 3. Good deeds
 - 4. Evil deeds

ECCLESIASTES: Life is Vain -- Or is It?

Life Summarized: "All is vanity" 1:1-11	Vanity Proven: From experience and observation 1:12-6:12	Vanity Counseled: Be wise 7:1-12:8	Life Concluded: Fear God and obey Him 12:9-14
Key v. = 1:2	Key vv. = 2:24; 3:12-13	Key vv. = 7:11-12	Key v. = 12:13
Declaration of vanity	Demonstration of vanity	Deliverance from vanity	
Life Questioned		Life Answered	
Theme: Man is unable to find contentment in life through the world around him. Real joy is found in trusting God with the mysteries of life and enjoying life by enjoying Him.			

Key Words: vanity (37x); under the sun (31x)

Author: Solomon
Date: ca. 940-930 B.C.

(Chart from <https://wordsofgrace.files.wordpress.com/2010/07/ecclesiastes-1.jpg>)

The Book of Ecclesiastes

Focus	Exploration						Exhortation				
Divisions	All is Vanity	Vanity of Doing	Vanity of Having	Vanity of Being	Using Life Well	Source of True Living					
	1	1	2	2	3	6	7	9	10	11	12
Topics	Exploring Life's Inconsistencies						Explaining Life's Inconsistencies				
	Fickleness of life vs. Fear of the Lord										
Place	Under the Sun										
Time	Decades of Searching (in the Days of King Solomon)										
Author	King Solomon										

(Chart from <http://www.swartzentrover.com>)

ECCLESIASTES

	Introduction	Investigation and Discoveries <i>I set my mind to seek and explore by wisdom. (1:13)</i>			Admonition	Conclusion
	<u>Writer</u> <u>Theme</u> <u>Questions and illustrations</u>	PERSONAL PURSUITS Knowledge Amusements Possessions Madness and folly Labor Philosophy Riches	V A N I T Y	CONCLUSIONS Without God's help: Humans cannot discover what is good for them to do. Without God's revelation: Humans do not know what will come after them.	<u>A warning to the young</u> <u>A picture of old age</u> <u>A final admission</u>	THE END OF THE SEARCH Fear God! Obey Him! Someday you will face Him!
	CHAPTER 1:1-11	CHAPTERS 1:12-6:12		CHAPTERS 7:1-11:6	CHAPTERS 11:7-12:8	CHAPTERS 12:9-14
Search	Nature	Philosophy	Materialism	Fatalism	Relationships	Theology
Style	Proverbial		Personal		Poetical	
Theme	The meaninglessness of life apart from God					
Key Verses	2:11; 12:13-14					
Christ in Ecclesiastes	The "one Shepherd" (12:11) who offers abundant life					

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(Chart from <http://daily.insight.org/images/content/cms/bible/overview/21%20Ecclesiastes.jpg>)