

# ***Ecclesiastes***

## ***Solomon's Search for Meaning***

By Timothy Sparks

[TimothySparks.com](http://TimothySparks.com)

# ***Title of the Book***

- The title is a Latin transliteration of the Greek translation of the Hebrew *Qohelet*, meaning "Gatherer," but traditionally translated as "Teacher" or "Preacher"

# *Human Author*

- Solomon, “the son of David, king in Jerusalem” (1:1)
- “I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem” (1:12)
- 1:16
- 2:4-9

# “*The Preacher*”

- *Qohelet*, one who speaks in an assembly (1:1-2, 12; 7:27; 12:8-10)
  - God used Solomon to speak words of wisdom (1 Kings 4:32)
  - The assembly in Ecclesiastes refers to God's people—Israel
  - *Qohelet* states what is most important in life—if confuse the priorities, then you will confuse your life (12:9-14)

# *Key Words*

- Time (~41 times)
  - 3:1-8, 11, 17; 7:17 8:5, 6, 8; 9:11, 12; 10:17
- Vanity (~33 times)
  - 1:1-2, 14; 2:1, 11, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 26; 3:19; 4:4, 7-8, 16; 5:10; 6:2—  
(1 Kings 14:25-26; 2 Chron. 12:2, 9-11); 12:8

# *Key Words*

- God, *Elohim* (~40 times)
  - 2:24, 26; 3:10-18
  - Solomon was very well aware of God throughout his life and as he wrote Ecclesiastes; it may be that Solomon ultimately chose not to be obedient to God
  - Neither Lord nor LORD is found in Ecclesiastes

# *Key Words*

- Wisdom, *chokmah* (27 times)
  - 1:13; 2:9, 21; 7:11-12, 19, 23, 25; 8:1; 9:10, 16-18; 10:1-3, 10

# *Key Phrases*

- “vanity of vanities”
  - 1:2; 12:8
- “grasping for the wind”—an expression which means the attempt is as futile as trying to catch the wind
  - 1:14, 17; 2:11, 17, 26; 4:4, 6, 16; 6:9



# *Verses to Remember*

- 1:1-3
- 2:24-25
- 3:11-14
- 5:2, 5
- 7:1-2, 9-10, 29
- 8:11-12
- 10:11-14, 18
- 11:1
- 12:1, 5, 7, 11-14

# ***Chapters to Remember***

- Chapter 7
  - Wisdom & Folly Contrasted
- Chapter 12
  - Remember (v. 1)
  - Fear & keep (v. 13)

# *Overview Outline*

## *Chapters 1-2:*

The problem: Our fleeting life is meaningless without God

## *Chapters 3-11:*

Our attempt to understand life

## *Chapter 12:*

The answer: Fear God and keep his commandments

# *Messages*

- Fame, fortune and people can turn believers away from the Lord—we must realize constant sources of temptation
- Happiness does not come from having things, fame, wealth, education, or power
- Happiness comes through having a right relationship with God—a decision each individual decides—“fear God and keep his commandments”

# *Trivia*

What does the fool view as the answer to everything?

- 10:19

# ***Memory Verse Review (Nehemiah—Proverbs)***

- Neh. 8:8—“So they read distinctly...”
- Esther 4:14b—“Yet who knows...”
- Job 23:12b—“I have treasured...”
- Ps. 119:30—“I have chosen...”
- Prov. 3:5—“Trust in...”

# ***Memory Verse for Ecclesiastes***

12:13

“Let us hear the conclusion of the  
whole matter:

Fear God and keep His  
commandments, for this is man's all”