

A SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT:

Ecclesiastes

"Godless Life is Vanity"

Title: Ecclesiastes

- The Hebrew title is *Qoheleth*: one who calls the people.
- The Greek and Latin Old Testaments translated the _____ title into their respective languages.
- The English title is a transliteration of the Greek εκκλησιαστης (*ekklesiastes*)
- Thus, the title Ecclesiastes means, "Preacher."
- The author gave himself the title several times (1:1, 2, 12; 7:27; 12:8-10)
 - 1:1-2 _____
 - 1:12 _____

Summary: From personal experience, Solomon teaches that living life apart from God is a complete waste.

Author:

- _____
 - Son of David (1:1)
 - King ruling in Jerusalem (1:1)
 - King ruling over Israel from Jerusalem (1:12)
 - He wrote many proverbs (12:9)
 - "And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs."
 - The progression of the book follows Solomon's life (1 Kings 2-11).
- Solomon, the author, is the key figure in the book of Ecclesiastes.
 - He is the _____.
 - His God-given wisdom allowed him to perceive many difficult truths about life.
 - Solomon's own mistakes later in life allowed him to write with _____ gained from the school of experience.

Date:

- Shortly _____ 931 BC
 - Solomon's reign ended in 931 BC
 - He probably wrote Ecclesiastes after forsaking God later in life

Background: _____

- Son of David and _____
- God gave him wisdom greater than any other man has ever had. It was known around the world.
- God also gave him wealth, long life, and victory over his enemies.
- He became the _____ king in Israel's history.

- His temple is considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.
- He also built a marvelous palace and other impressive building projects.
- His wealth was so great that _____ was not considered valuable in Jerusalem.
- He had around 1000 wives and concubines; many of these were “strange women” who worshipped strange gods.
- As he grew older, he also built high places for his _____ who worshipped other gods; and he worshipped with them.
- Then God delivered judgment and promised to take the united kingdom from his successor.
- God raised up adversaries to trouble the end of Solomon’s reign.
- Solomon died after reigning _____ - years.

Key Word: _____

- From the Hebrew word *hebel* basically meaning “vapor” or “breath.”
- Occurs _____ times in the book
- Job 7:16

- James 4:14

- The Preacher refers to all kinds of pursuits as vanity.
 - Wealth
 - Honor
 - Fame
 - _____

Are all kinds of pursuits truly vanity?

Challenges to Ecclesiastes

- Are all kinds of pursuits in life truly vanity?
 - Solomon is speaking from the perspective of someone who believes _____ is all about these pursuits.
 - He described this worldview accurately because he had lived with it.
 - When we understand the vanity of life without God, we will be motivated to live _____ with eternity in view.

Overview:

- Introduction (1:1-11)
- Investigating Life (1:12-6:9)
 - Vanity of seeking pleasure (2:1-11)
 - Vanity of _____ and folly (2:12-17)
 - Vanity of material gain (2:18-6:9)

- Conclusions (6:10-12:8)
 - Man's wisdom is limited (7:1-8:17)
 - The _____ beyond death (9:1-11:6)
- Solomon's final advice (12:9-14)

Key Doctrines:

- God designed life to be fulfilling only when He is at its _____.
- Because of sin, everyone is born with a gnawing feeling of _____ in his soul.
- This empty feeling drives him to pursue something with all his might.
- Solomon tried unsuccessfully to fill that hole with knowledge, wealth, honor, fame, and pleasure.
- But without _____, life is always vanity.

Application: Let us fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.