

# Ecclesiastes Bible Study Notes

Tyrannus Korean Baptist Church EM – Arlington Heights, IL

06/16/2021

## What was Chapter 1:1-11 about?

- Vanities of Vanities, All is Vanity (vv.1-3)
  - Qohelet, the Preacher (v.1)
  - Motto/Theme of the book (v.2)
    - “Vanity of Vanities”
  - Programmatic Question (v.3)
    - “What does a man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?”
- The Restlessness of Life (vv.4-11)
  - People come and go, but the earth stays the same. (v.4)
  - Aimless sun and wind (v.5-6)
  - The sea, seeing, and hearing never satisfied (v.7-8)
  - “there is nothing new under the sun” (v.9-10)
  - Everyone will be forgotten (v.11)
- **Main Idea: Life is an enigma in which human beings have no advantage in all their toil/efforts under the sun; the laws of earth are unmoved and unaffected by the efforts of the generations of man.**

## What was Chapter 1:12-2:11 about?

- Vanity of Every Work Done on Earth (vv.12-15)
  - So many things to do in this world, and none of them are satisfying something deep in him.
    - Chasing the wind, it just keeps on going.
    - Not something that can be grasped.
  - All the works of man does not fill the lack of this world nor corrects the wrongs of this world.
- The Vanity of Wisdom and Pleasure/Greatness (1:16-2:11)
  - Striving after wisdom is striving after wind.
    - Ignorance is bliss.
  - Striving after unending, great pleasure is striving after wind.
    - No ultimate meaning to be found there.
    - There is nothing to be gained under the sun.
- **Main Idea: Every work, wisdom, and pleasure/greatness maxed out to the fullest under the sun is still “vanity and a striving after wind,” and there is nothing transcendent about it.**

## Ecclesiastes 2:12-17

### Part 1 – Vanity of Wisdom (2:12-17)

- **\*\*Qohelet continues his quest to search for meaning/significance of life.**
- What is main theme/exploration/question in Ecclesiastes 2:12-17?
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Where do you see that? (What verses?)
  - 
  - What are the important words/phrases in this text that helped you identify that theme?
  -
- Why is this a concern for him?
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Where do you see that? (What verses?)
  -
- What is the difference between wisdom and folly?
  -
- What is the conclusion of his quest in Ecclesiastes 2:12-17?
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Where do you see that? (What verses?)
  -
- *“I hated life” נִשְׂטִי - hate*
  - Only time this verb “hate” is used in Ecclesiastes (2:17, 2:18)
- Why does he express his life/experience with such strong words?
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Have you felt like this before? If so, when?
  -
- **Theme of the book of Ecclesiastes: “Vanities of Vanities, All is Vanity (1:2)”**
  - How does Ecclesiastes 2:12-17 relate and contribute to the overall theme of the book?
  - \_\_\_\_\_

*How would you articulate the main idea of Ecclesiastes 2:12-17?*

Main Idea

---

### Application for Our Faith and Life

1. What does this passage reveal about God?
2. What does this passage reveal about this world?
3. What does this passage reveal about your own life?
4. How do you think God wants us to feel about this area of life (living wisely)?