

Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs



St. Rose Community Church EQUIP



Ecclesiastes

How could a deep understanding of the “preacher’s” wrestling help us in our evangelism of the lost?

How does our faith in God deepen our joy in simple things like a cup of coffee or a cool breeze on a hot day?

How will the future promised in Revelation 21-22 reverse the problems wrestled with in Ecclesiastes?

Author

“The words of the Preacher, A son of David, king in Jerusalem” (1:1)

- 2 People: The Preacher (1st person) & The Narrator (3rd Person)
- Preacher is from the Hebrew word *Qoheleth*, meaning someone who addresses an assembly. It can also be translated as “teacher”.
- The Teacher is David’s son, possibly King Solomon, or maybe a later king.

The Problem

1:2-3 “Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.” “What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?”

1:11 “There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be among those who come after.”

The Problem

All is Vanity (1:2-3)

Vanity - the Hebrew word *hebel* meaning breath, smoke, vapor. It can also be translated as meaningless or futile.

The Purpose

The Teacher is Exploring the Questions:

What is the meaning of life?

Is everything meaningless?

Is everything vanity?

And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 2:10

So I **hated life**, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind. I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity.

Ecclesiastes 2:17-18

“There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is **from the hand of God**, for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.”

Ecclesiastes 2:24-26

I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man. I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him.”

Ecclesiastes 3:12-14

The Message / Solution

All is meaningful because all is ordered by an eternal, sovereign, and purposeful God. Therefore, we should fear God and rejoice in all that He has given us to do and to have.

(Ecc. 2:24-26, 3:12-14, 5:18-20, 8:15, and 9:7-10)

The Objection

The Problem of Evil

Ecclesiastes 3:16 - 4:16

The Objection

The Problem of Evil

1. *Who are you, created one, to challenge the creator?*

“God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few.” (5:2b).

The Objection

The Problem of Evil

2. What is good / prosperity?

Part of the problem of evil is a misunderstanding of what really is good. Those who have it don't necessarily have a blessing from God, nor do those without it necessarily have a curse from God.

The Objection

The Problem of Evil

3. Why do good people suffer?

“God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.” 7:29

No one is Good. Bad things happen to good people because no one is good, everyone is under the curse of sin in the fallen world.

Takeaways from Ecclesiastes

Use it to fight cynicism

Use it for evangelism and discipleship

Use it to highlight the treasure of the gospel in your heart

Song of Songs

Context

Title : The Greatest Song or The Best Song
→ The Song of all Songs

Genre : Wisdom Literature, ancient love poetry

Context

Young Woman - main speaker, betrothed to be married

Young Man - a shepherd, probably not Solomon

Daughters of Jerusalem - other young virgins

Purpose

- God's design for our good and his glory in the covenant of marriage

Genesis 2	Genesis 3	Song of Songs
Man & Woman in perfect relationship with God & each other according to his good design	Man & Woman's relationship with God & one another broken	Man & Woman pursuing relationship with God & each other according to his good design
Man & Woman in the Garden of Eden with God	Man & Woman thrown out of the Garden	Man & Woman in a garden
Man & Woman glorifying God & enjoying one another	Man & Woman at odds, inclined to act selfishly not glorifying God	Man & Woman glorifying God & enjoying one another

The Purpose

- A picture of God's love for and covenant with His people

“As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.”

Isaiah 62:5

Outline

The Courtship - Song of Songs 1:1 - 3:5

The Wedding - Song of Songs 3:6 - 5:1

The Marriage - Song of Songs 5:2 - 8:14

“I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the does of the field, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.”

Song of Songs 2:7

Eat, friends, drink, and be drunk with love!

Song of Songs 5:1

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“I am my beloved's, and his desire is for me.”

Song of Songs 7:10

The Message

Song of Songs 8:6-10

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death, jealousy is fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the Lord. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.

The Message

Song of Songs 8:6-10

The biblical covenant of marriage is intended to promote love that is rock solid, deeply intimate, one that endures hardship, resists temptation, and brings peace.

The Message

Song of Songs 8:6-10

Rock Solid Commitment

“set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm”

- Emotionally (heart)
- Physically (arm)

“The wife’s body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband’s body does not belong to him but to his wife.”

1 Corinthians 1:7

The Message

Song of Songs 8:6-10

Rock Solid Commitment

“for love is as strong as death,
jealousy as fierce as the grave”

The Message

Song of Songs 8:6-10

- This type of love should be deeply intimate.

“Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the Lord.”

“Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time that you may devote yourselves to prayer, but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self control.”

1 Corinthians 7:4-5

The Message

Song of Songs 8:6-10

- This type of love endures hardship

“Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.”

The Message

Song of Songs 8:6-10

- This type of love promotes satisfaction & peace

“...then I was in his eyes, as one who finds peace.”

This type of love is meant to be protected because it promotes peace in this life and points to the peace God's people will have forever in a covenant relationship with him!

Takeaways

- Seek Purity

In marriage - commitment & intimacy to protect against trials & temptations

In singleness - *“do not stir up or awaken love until it pleases” (2:7)*

- See God’s Great Love for His People

To Do for Next Week

Watch the Bible Project Overview of 1 and 2 Kings

Memorize 1 Kings 9:5