

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, maybe a later king.

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.

Purpose

To explore the questions: *What is the meaning of life?*

What is the point of working and everything we do “under the sun?” (1:2-11)

Structure

Prologue / Introduction - Ecclesiastes 1:1-2:23 - Vanity of Vanities

The Search for Meaning - Ecclesiastes 2:1-23 - Self Indulgence

Thesis / Main Idea - Ecclesiastes 2:24-26 - All is From the Hand of God

Objection - Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:16 - The Problem of Evil

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 – Answer 1: Who are you created one to challenge the creator?

Ecclesiastes 5:8-7:14 – Answer 2 What is good/prosperity? Those who have it don’t necessarily have a blessing from God, nor do those without it necessarily have a curse from God.

Ecclesiastes 7:15-29 – Answer 3 “Bad” things happen to “good” people because no one is good.

Epilogue / Conclusion - Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 - Fear the Lord

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.

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

Takeaways

- Use Ecclesiastes to fight cynicism
- Use Ecclesiastes for evangelism & discipleship with people wrestling with the questions it explores
- Use Ecclesiastes to highlight the treasure of the gospel in your heart