

ECCLESIASTES

Ecclesiastes means _____. Derived from a word that means “one who calls or gathers” the people. It’s used in this book to describe “one who addresses an assembly”. That’s exactly what Solomon did as king, addressed the assembly. However, he was not a preacher in the sense of the New Testament office.

Author:

Evidence points to _____ as the author (v1).

Ecc 1:1 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

The book is filled with things Solomon has witnessed and learned while on the earth. The phrase “_____” appears _____ times in the book because it’s a culmination of what he’s observed up to this point of his life. It’s clear that Solomon spends much of this writing lamenting the emptiness of a life lived by human reasoning and things he has learned about life that seem disheartening. He does so by using the word “_____”. The word implies “_____.”

Date:

If King Solomon is accepted as the author a date of approximately _____ B.C. is generally accepted.

Background and Theme:

Solomon was born into wealth and affluence. He would be the King one day and that was understood. As his administration begins to unfold he is granted _____ from the Lord, like no man before him or after him possessed. This was given him because of his desire to be a wise judge among God's people. Solomon's prosperity and opportunities lead him to explore every desire of the _____ "under the sun" and caused him to conclude that they were all "vanity". In the life of Solomon, the student can get an example of how empty life can end, if one chooses to live outside of the will and guidance of _____. It has been said before concerning living this life in vanity "I am deathly afraid of being successful at something that means nothing to God". Solomon experienced this in many avenues of his life. He indulged in the flesh instead of the Lord and at the end of his days, found himself regretful. Solomon mentions God almost _____ times in the book, but when he does it derives from the word Elohim meaning _____. Not once does he call him Jehovah which means _____, from the word Yahweh. This tells of the lack of intimacy with God that Solomon lived with most of his life.

Chapter 1

The book opens with a statement that identifies the writer and has become a controversial proof text.

Ecc 1:1 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

Why is this verse controversial? The controversy stems from the fact that if Solomon is the writer of the book, here he identifies himself as "the Preacher". Why is that controversial? It's controversial because Solomon was a man who was _____ multiple times. This has become a "proof text" for people who believe a preacher is not bound to be the husband of one wife. A closer study of the Hebrew word that "preacher" is derived from will clear up any confusion. The word preacher here means an _____. The thought is of one who in an assembly speaks to the people. In studying the life of Solomon, many are the passages of scriptures that show him fulfilling this role. God's people would gather, and he would rise and speak to them. It was the role that

_____ played in that culture. Kings, along with prophets would speak to the people for the Lord. The office that Solomon held was that of king, not prophet, and while he may speak to the people at times for the Lord, a prophet he was not. Considering Solomon, a preacher, in the same context as the new testament office because he occasionally spoke to the people for the Lord, is the equivalent of considering a Sunday School teacher or a deacon one as well. The argument for Solomon being proof that a man can be married more than once and still preach is very weak doctrinally.

Ch 1:1-3

Solomon states his _____ with life and the pointlessness of it all.

Ch 1:4-8

He discusses the _____ of life and time.

Ch 1:9-11

He discusses how nothing is new, every generation faces a different _____ of similar things.

Ch 1:12-18

He states how _____ his pursuit was to understand life. He sought for great understanding but did not feel like he found what he was looking for.

Chapter 2

In Chapter 2 Solomon starts to expound on all the things he sought after to fill the _____ in his life. What is most interesting is how these things are the very objects that man thinks will bring him happiness today. Sadly, most live to find out different.

Ch 2:1-3

Solomon states how empty things like money (mirth), laughter and wine had left his life. He _____ them in hopes that they would fill the void, but they did not.

Ch 2:4-11

He pursues great wealth and great works, yet still he claims them to be _____.

Ch 2:12-26

He closes the chapter comparing and contrasting the wise and the foolish. After basically getting everything the heart could possibly desire he wonders if he himself is not a _____.

Chapter 3

Solomon now continues to list the _____ of life?

Ch 3:1-8

He lists the different _____ of life.

Ch 3:9-10

Solomon here seems to take the _____ of a fatalist, wondering what's the use of bothering with life. He even seems to insinuate that God is just messing with men.

Ch 3:11-15

His speech in these verses show forth his backslidden condition, one-minute speaking with a slight toward God and the next, seemingly speaking _____.

Ch 3: 16-22

Solomon here seems to _____ like a man who is very distraught and confused.

Chapter 4

Chapter 4, though inspired is not filled with the wisdom of God, but with the humanistic philosophy of Solomon.

Ch 4:1-3

Solomon talks about the oppression that man faces in this life. He goes as far as praising the dead, in that they have been _____ of living. For a man who has had, what most people would identify as necessary for happiness, he sure has a sour outlook on life. It reiterates the fact that satisfying the flesh is not the prescription for _____.

Ch 4:4-6

Solomon here states in (v4) that even when a man does what is right; his neighbor may not appreciate him for it. He rebounds in (v6) with a statement that mirrors the wisdom of proverbs.

Ch 4:7-8

Solomon here gives us an illustration of something he has witnessed in life. Men never have enough, those with plenty seek more. This type of selfishness usually leads that individual to care only for _____. The drive to gain more, causes this individual to rarely enjoy the fruit of his labor.

Ch 4:9-12

Solomon now flips the coin and gives the reader the value of having people in your life.

Ch 4:13-14

Who is Solomon talking about here? Himself, his father, or Saul?
Whomever it is, Solomon is clear that the individual in their old age would not receive admonishment.

Ch 4:15-16

Solomon here exposes the desire of a young man to experience promotion in his life. Once that promotion had been experienced, with the _____ that follow, it was not all that he hoped for.

Chapter 5

Chapter 5 is more of Solomon's proverbial type advice.

Ch 5:1-7

Instructions for going to the _____ of God, being more inclined to listen than to speak, and being very careful in making _____.

Ch 5:8-9

The counsel is to not take matters of _____ injustice into one's hand. It is vitally important to rely on the judgement of God to handle such matters. The wheels of Gods judgement may turn slowly, but they do turn.

Ch 5:10-15

The lesson is about _____. When a man increases his wealth, he also increases in areas to deplete that wealth. Sometimes it's the people that will want to associate with him because of his wealth, or keeping up with a lifestyle.

Ch 5:16-20

Solomon here actually tells on himself, in that he confesses that he has spent his life laboring only for the temporal. Because of this he feels like all his labor is _____, and it was. If he would have spent his life laboring for eternal things, he would not have felt this way. His conclusion is that man should eat, drink and be merry, for that is all life has to offer.

Chapter 6

Chapter 6 is a continuation of Solomon's rhetoric.

Ch 6:1-2

In Solomon's estimation it is a _____ for a man to have wealth that he does not get to enjoy.

Ch 6:3-6

Solomon here discusses the sad estate of a man who does not have a proper burial. In his estimation it would be better for that man to have not been _____.

Ch 6:7-8

Solomon here expresses that he is not convinced that _____ will advance a man. His outlook was very dim.

Ch 6:9-10

Solomon actually speaks valuable words here. The thought is that appreciating what we have is better than _____ for what we don't have.

Ch 6:11-12

Solomon ends this chapter with a very _____ attitude, but what can one expect from a man who walks far away from God.

Chapter 7

Chapter 7 is more of the same from Solomon. Some truth mingled with the view of a very _____ man.

Ch 7:1-6

The first part of (v1) is true, the last part is more of Solomon expressing his depressive state. He continues in (v2) insinuating that a _____ was better than a wedding. He continues in this way of thinking for several

verses. He does mingle in some sound wisdom, in condemning the fool for partying thru life and not paying attention while death touches those around him

Ch 7:7-10

In (v7) he talks about how oppression makes a wise man mad and a _____ distorts good judgement. Some good statements follow, ending with an exhortation to not consider the good old days to be better than they were.

Ch 7:11-14

Solomon deals with wisdom in (v11-12) and the creative power of God in (v13)

Ch 7:15-18

The next several verses Solomon discusses some things he has witnessed in his life.

Ch 7:19-26

He gives more discussion on wisdom.

Ch 7:27-29

He ends the chapter commenting on the scarcity of a chaste and virtuous woman, and though God made man sinless, man has sought ways to sin since the fall.

Chapter 8

Chapter 8 is another chapter filled with the wisdom of Solomon. Some of the wisdom is from the Lord and some is humanistic.

Ch 8:1-5

Solomon gives advice about an individual's relationship with the _____.

Ch 8:6-13

Solomon here makes a few comments about _____.

Ch 8:14-15

Solomon discusses the tragedy of the wicked receiving good, while the good receive at time _____.

Ch 8:16-17

Solomon ends this chapter with the thought that regardless of how wise a man is, or how much he studies the things of the world, he will not be able to figure life out.

Chapter 9

Chapter 9 is more humanistic wisdom from Solomon

Ch 9:1-10

Solomon proposes that good and bad people fair _____ in the world so live for the present because it's all there is.

Ch 9:11-12

Life is nothing but happenstance and _____.

Ch 9:13-18

Solomon ends the chapter with his estimation of wisdom and its benefits.

Chapter 10

Chapter 10 may be the chapter that contains the most truth in the entire book.

Ch 10:1-3

Solomon presents an illustration of how a man with a _____ is perceived when he falls into folly. Also gives some instruction on the foolish man.

Ch 10:4-7

Instructions concerning people in _____.

Ch 10:8-10

Instruction on some _____ situations in life.

Ch 10:11-15

Solomon now gives advice concerning a man using his words.

Ch 10:16-17

More instruction about _____.

Ch 10:18-20

An assortment of true statements

Chapter 11

Getting closer to the end of the book, Solomon's advice and wisdom seems to become more solid.

Ch 11:1-8

Good advice about _____.

Ch 11:9-10

Instruction for the _____ man.

Chapter 12

Chapter 12 is the culmination of Solomon's conclusion of a life lived under the sun mostly by the _____ and away from God. He starts out with the exhortation to get serious with God as a young person.