
BOOK OVERVIEW

Ecclesiastes

Author: King Solomon

Date: 935 B.C.

Recipient: not specifically stated

Key words: wisdom (28 times); wise (21 times); vanity (37 times); under the sun (31 times)

Summary: The writer, who has experienced all that life has to offer, concludes that what matters most is our relationship to God.

Key verses: Ecclesiastes 1:12-14; 2:11; 12:13-14

Notes:

In Proverbs *wisdom* refers to Godly wisdom, but in Ecclesiastes *wisdom* refers to human wisdom.

In Ecclesiastes *vanity* refers to futility or emptiness rather than pride and arrogance.

Solomon refers to himself as “the preacher (teacher).” (Ecclesiastes 1:1)

Ecclesiastes 7:20 reinforces the truth of Romans 3:23 in that everyone is a sinner and in need of a Savior.

One must be cautious when drawing life principles from this book. What is presented must be understood in the context of the whole book. For example, “eat, drink, and be merry” (8:15) is not how God wants us to live.

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