

E2E- Part 86

Ecclesiastes

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1. Solomon's Ecclesiastes is his "magnum opus" – a masterfully crafted reflection written from a dark, yet deeply realistic view of life. It contrasts the wisdom of Proverbs and sets up a powerful case for the Gospel.
2. The central theme of Ecclesiastes is vanity, or emptiness. The word "vanity" is repeated 37 times along with "under the sun" (29 times), symbolizing life without an eternal perspective.
3. When Solomon says there is "nothing new under the sun," it's important to keep context. This statement is not meant to ignore the advances in inventions, but rather it's saying that human nature remains the same. In that sense, there is nothing new.
4. Through Jesus, God created a "new thing." Those in Him become new creations, and they see the world differently because the blinders have been removed. Things we once loved are empty, meaningless, and vain.
5. Despite being the wisest and most accomplished king, Solomon finds that the pursuits of his life are empty. Pleasure, wealth, knowledge, and power fail to satisfy him. This exposes the meaninglessness of life apart from God.
6. Solomon's journey shows that life without eternal perspective, every pursuit – pleasure, work, riches – is futile and like a vapor. Everything "under the sun" will eventually fade.
7. Solomon lands on the ultimate truth: "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man" (Eccl. 12:13). In the end, the Pearl of Great Price is not vanity, but a life rooted in God.

GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

Hebel (heh´bel); -emptiness or vanity; something unsatisfactory; –x altogether empty

Chadash (khaw-dawsh´) new :– fresh, new thing – something never before seen

TODAY'S WORSHIP

His Mercy is More
Banner
Mighty to Save

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Solomon calls everything “vanity” (Hebel) – like a vapor.

- What are some things in your life that may feel important now, but ultimately won't last?
- How does this realization affect your priorities?

Solomon had everything (wealth, wisdom, pleasure, power), yet still felt empty.

- Why do you think worldly success often fails to satisfy the deepest parts of our soul?

Ecclesiastes 1:9 says, “There is nothing new under the sun.”

- In what ways do you see that truth reflected as you look through human history?
- How does God's “new work” through Jesus challenge that idea?

Solomon eventually lands on the conclusion: “Fear God and keep His commandments” (Eccl. 12:13)

- What does it mean to “fear God” in a healthy, biblical way?

Think about a moment when something you once deeply valued turned out to be empty or unsatisfying.

- What shifted your perspective?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17

- What changes have you noticed in your thinking, desires, or outlook since following Christ?
- Are there things that God is bringing to your mind to let go of in order to follow Him more fully?

Reflection: Am I building my life on what lasts?

Ecclesiastes teaches us to live with eternity in mind. Consider how your daily choices in work, relationships, and personal goals reflect eternal values rather than temporary ones.

Application: Write down one tangible way you can prioritize God's purposes in your everyday life – whether that's being more present with loved ones, simplifying your schedule, or deepening your walk with Jesus.