

gohelith
{ Preacher
Speaker
Philosopher
Teacher

Ecclesiastes - Hebrew word for
Assembling

The Book of Ecclesiastes

Under the sun
(Earthbound frame
of reference)

Author → The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem: 2 "Meaningless!

Title → "Meaningless!" says the Teacher "Utterly meaningless! Everything is

Thesis ? → meaningless." 3 What does man gain from all his labor at which he toils under

the sun? 4 ¹Generations come and generations go, but the ²earth remains forever. 5 ³The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises. 6 ⁴The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course. 7 All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again. 8 All things are wearisome, more than one can say. The eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing. 9 What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. 10 Is there anything of which one can say, "Look! This is something new"? It was here already, long ago; it was (here before our time). 11 There is no remembrance of men of old, and even those who are yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow. 12 I, the Teacher was king over Israel in Jerusalem. 13 I

man can't change these -
NO control

treadmill feel
every state
temporary

INTRODUCTION

emphasis by repeating 2 ways
Never enough
1) eye 2) ear

1) Nothing new
2) is something new?
1) no rem of old
2) no rem of those to come

II Chron. 1: 8-12
under heaven
(God oriented
frame of ref.)

Early Conclusions
- God's given heavy burden
- things are messed up beyond fixing.

wearisome (circular)
- generations
- sun
- wind
- streams (round & round) again

What's man gain?
- never enough (filled)
- nothing new
- no remembrance past or future

Again -
fads / style
movements / causes

→ ie obituary
Charles Lindberg
famous 1920's
now?

Quest Purpose statement

↓
Credentials for Quest
- seen all things done
- increased in wisdom more than anyone
- experienced much of wisdom & knowledge

devoted myself to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under
heaven. What a heavy burden God has laid on men! 14 I have seen all the things
that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the
wind. 15 What is twisted cannot be straightened; what is lacking cannot be
counted. 16 I thought to myself, "Look, I have grown and increased in wisdom
more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me. I have experienced

HOW Studied & explored (v13)

- applied myself to understanding
- test w/ pleasure
- tried cheering w/wine/ folly
- undertook great projects
- acquired much
- BECAME GREATER THAN ANY
- denied myself nothing

PURPOSE QUEST (take 2)

35000 people attending to him (Kings)

4 pursuits (pleasure, wealth, power, wisdom) to find meaning

Answer to posed - pg 1

No one can do more than me to test this?

17 Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind. 18 For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief. 2:1 I thought in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good." But that also proved to be meaningless. 2 "Laughter," I said, "is foolish. And what does pleasure accomplish?" 3 I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly—my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was worthwhile for men to do under heaven during the few days of their lives. 4 I undertook great projects; I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. 5 I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. 6 I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. 7 I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. 8 I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired men and women singers, and a harem as well—the delights of the heart of man. 9 I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me. 10 I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor. 11 Yet when I surveyed all that applied myself to my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun. 12 Then I turned my thoughts to consider wisdom, and also madness and folly. What more can the king's successor do than what has already been done? 13 I

tested tried undertook acquired became desired

Seeking by Doing / Experience

Conclusion ← parable

Seeking ← pleasure

Conclusion easy about this endeavor.

- WISDOM -
- grown; increased
 - applied to understanding
 - still guiding mind w/wine & folly
 - wisdom stayed w/during acquiring/becoming greatest

Building Empire

What kind of wisdom?

- Self awareness
- knew what he was doing
- conscious choice

could intellectualize whole experience, eyes wide open

Summary

FINAL conclusion

- meaningless
- chasing after wind
- nothing gained

Seeking by Thinking through

→ saw came to realize thought in my heart said in my heart

Wisdom/foolly same fate

- 1) will not be remembered pg 1/11
- 2) must die
- 3) leave to others

saw that **wisdom** is better than **folly**, just as **light** is better than **darkness**.

14 The **wise man** has eyes in his head, while the **fool** walks in the darkness; **but**

I came to realize that the same fate overtakes them both. 15 Then I thought

in my heart, "The **fate** of the **fool** will overtake me also. **What then do I gain**

by being **wise**?" I said in my heart, "**This too is meaningless**." 16 For the **wise**

man like the **fool**, will not be long remembered; in days to come both will be

forgotten. Like the **fool**, the **wise man** too must die! 17 So I hated life, because

the **work** that is done under the sun was **grievous to me**. All of it is

meaningless, a chasing after the wind. 18 I hated all the things I had **toiled** for

under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me.

19 And who knows whether he will be a **wise man** or a **fool**? Yet he will have

control over all the **work** into which I have poured my **effort** and **skill** under

the sun. **This too is meaningless**. 20 So my heart **began to despair** over all my

toilsome labor under the sun. 21 For a man may do his **work** with **wisdom**,

knowledge and skill, and then he must leave all he owns to someone who has not

worked for it. **This too is meaningless and a great misfortune**. 22 What does a

man get for all the **toil** and **anxious striving** with which he **labors** under the

sun? 23 All his days his **work** is pain and grief; even at night his **mind** does not

rest. **This too is meaningless**. 24 A man can do nothing better than to eat and

drink and find satisfaction in his **work**. This too, I see, is from the **hand of**

God. 25 for **without him**, who can eat or find enjoyment? 26 To the man who

pleases him, **God** gives **wisdom**, knowledge and happiness, **but** to the **sinner** he

gives the **task** of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the **one**

Wisdom has not kept him from fate of the fool

Feelings w/ realization

- hated life
- all done is grievous
- hated all things toiled for
- began to despair over labor

Leads to despair cause

Against - wisdom not helpful - or skill or knowl. (what can he do?)

Repeated? p1 vs 3

p2 - gains nothing FURTHER CONCLUS.

Get pain grief (mind w/ rest meaningless

A gift

w/o God Sinner

task - gathering storing wealth hand over

- work was grievous & hated life because nothing he does will be remembered cause he has to die like fools / like everyone

Hated what's toiled for - lose control of what's been worked for

under the sun 5x

w/o God wisdom knowledge skill is meaningless 5x

Do nothing better than "receive" from Hand of God eat & drink find satisfaction in work eat find enjoyment wisdom knowledge happiness

man who pleases God

under the sun pursuit

Hand of God acceptance

Ps. 73:1-12 John 5:28-30

pursuit of happiness (under sun) Declaration of Independence

Every activity

- + born / die
 - + plant / uproot
 - km / heal +
 - tear down / build +
 - weep / laugh +
 - mourn / dance +
 - Scatter / gather +
 - embrace / refrain
 - search / give up
 - + keep / throw away
 - tear / mend +
 - be silent / speak +
 - + love / hate
 - war / peace +
- (no particular order)
also judgement of
wicked / righteous

who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. 3:1 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: 2a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, 3a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, 4a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, 5a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, 6a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, 7a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, 8a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. 9 What does the worker gain from his toil? 10 I have seen the burden God has laid on men. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. 12 I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. 13 That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil - this is the gift of God. 14 I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him. 15 Whatever has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account. 16 And I saw something else under the sun: In the place of judgment - wickedness was there, in the place of justice - wickedness was there. 17 I thought in my heart, "God will bring to judgment both the righteous and the wicked, for there will be a time for every activity, a time for every deed." 18 I also thought, "As for men, God tests them so that they may see that they are like the animals.

14 opp. times
6 pos. 1st.
8 neg. 1st.

Life is lived going back & forth between opposites that God prearranged: "appointed time"

Time eternity beginning/end before/past forever happen after

- THE QUESTION

p1 vs 13

God's in control of time - we can't understand - so Be happy -

p 3 vs 24

p1 v9 cyclical

Call past to acct. - hmm - w/o God wickedness takes place of justice in heart knows God will judge all in time

God is in control - of time - activity done - judgement of all

God has laid burden on men
He has made all things beautiful in its time
He set eternity in heart of men
Everything He does last forever
God will call past to account - judge both righteous & wicked
God tests men to see like animals

Men - (burden laid on them)
- cannot fathom what God has done in time
- will revere God because all He does endures
- (will be judged)
- see that they are like animals
- Nothing better (2v)
• be happy
• do good
• find satisf. in work
- better not to be born (under sun)

Comes from vb "to be fixed" (fixed time)

(for every purpose/matter)

appropriate / fitting

future

new

repeat

future

present

Hebrews believed death was the end of meaningful life, (before Jesus) resurrection
 Persians believed the soul at death rises to be w/ its maker. 5

Man's fate = animals
 both die
 have same breath (no advantage)
 go to same place
 dust
 up or down?

19 Man's fate is like that of the animals; the same fate awaits them both: As one dies, so dies the other. All have the same breath man has no advantage over the animal. Everything is meaningless. 20 All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return. 21 Who knows if the spirit of man rises

p 3 vs 14
 Reminds of wise = fool p 3
 fate same
 no advantage/gain

So - since you don't know what's ahead - better enjoy present.

upward and if the spirit of the animal goes down into the earth?" 22 So I saw that there is nothing better for a man than to enjoy his work because that is his lot. For who can bring him to see what will happen after him? 4:1 Again I looked and saw all the oppression that was taking place under the sun: I saw the tears of the oppressed - and they have no comforter; power was on the side of their oppressors - and they have no comforter. 2 And I declared that

Fate of death like animals is meaningless - yet
 Death is better than life? better to never exist because of evil.

Under the sun
 - wickedness takes place of justice.
 - oppression
 • oppressors have power
 • oppressed - no comfort

the dead, who had already died, are happier than the living, who are still alive. 3 But better than both is he who has not yet seen the evil that is done under the sun. 4 And I saw that all labor and all achievement

Competition one-up (motivation)
 2 extremes
 - toil/achievement out of envy
 - doing nothing ruining self.

folds hands - ruin one handful - better (less)
 two handful - if chasing wind to get (more)
 (laziness vs workaholic)

spring from man's envy of his neighbor. This too is meaningless, chasing after the wind. 5 The fool folds his hands and ruins himself. 6 Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind. 7 Again I saw

Less w/ peace better than more w/ toil & chasing. obsession

something meaningless under the sun. 8 There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not

Benefits of a partner vs Alone ranger

content with his wealth. "For whom am I toiling," he asked, "and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?" This too is meaningless - a miserable business!

not Teacher p 2/10 (someone he saw)
 Are these things not exp. 1st hand - observed.
 Added to argument

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: 10 If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! 11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.

Cooperation

2 Better than 1
 - good return for wk
 - one can help other up
 - keep warm
 - defend themselves
 • STRENGTH
 One has
 - no end to wk & not content
 - no one to help up
 - can't keep warm
 - may be overpowered.

(independence)
 rugged individualism

3) But how can one keep warm alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. 13 Better a poor but wise youth than an old but foolish king who no longer knows how to take warning. 14 The youth may have come from prison to the kingship, or he may have been born in poverty within his kingdom. 15 I saw that all who lived and walked under the sun followed the youth, the king's successor. 16 There was no end to all the people who were before them. But those who came later were not pleased with the successor. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. 5:1 Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong. 2 Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few. 3 As a dream comes when there are many cares, so the speech of a fool when there are many words. 4 When you make a vow to God do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. 5 It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it. 6 Do not let your mouth lead you into sin. And do not protest to the temple messenger, "My vow was a mistake." Why should God be angry at what you say and destroy the work of your hands? 7 Much dreaming and many words are meaningless. Therefore stand in awe of God. 8 If you see the poor oppressed in a district, and justice and rights denied, do not be surprised at such things; for one official is eyed by a higher one, and over them both are others higher still. 9 The increase from the land is taken by all; the king himself profits from the fields. 10 Whoever loves money

6
Cooperation cont.
Proverb
better himself yet
rise to top doesn't last (favor fails)

(foolish ambition)

Fame and Power are fleeting

How to WORSHIP

(lack of respect for God)

- God-
- house we can approach
 - He is in heaven
 - No pleasure in fools
 - Can be angry w/ what we say
 - destroy the work of your hands.

Words are cheap

Game of Power & Wealth

exploitation & oppression
everyone gouging person below him on ladder.

Effects of public life wealth

- DO
- Guard your steps
 - Go near to listen (not sacrifice)
 - Let words be few
 - Fulfill your vow
 - STAND in AWE of God.

- DON'T
- offer sacrifice of fools w/o knowing
 - be quick w/ mouth
 - hasty to utter anything before God
 - use many words
 - delay fulfilling vow
 - relent of your vow (mistake)
- ie Herod

Everyone is Climbing ladder
- causes oppression, injustice, greed
↑
focus becomes greed
love of money

Pursuing \$
Whoever loves money/wealth
owner " rich man

contrast to

Accepting Lot
laborer
One who accepts his lot
poor man

(Pursuing wealth)
Rich man

- never satisfied
- no sleep
- can be harmed by hoarding wealth
- wealth lost for heir " " in death
- days spent in great frustration affliction anger
- not able to enjoy wealth

effects of wealth on private life. →

Whatever lot God gives you Rich or poor the key isn't the wealth
The key is the Ability to enjoy it (life.)

Grievous Evil

- wealth hoarded to harm of owner
- wealth lost to misfortune so nothing to leave sm.
- Can take nothing w/you when die
- Not being able to enjoy wealth and possessions.

never has money enough whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. 11As goods increase, so do those who consume

wealth increases

responsibilities increase

← once you have more than you can use

them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them? 12The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but

the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep. 13I have seen a grievous evil

under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner, 14or wealth lost

through some misfortune, so that when he has a son there is nothing left for

him. 15Naked a man comes from his mother's womb, and as he comes, so he

departs. He takes nothing from his labor that he can carry in his hand. 16This

too is a grievous evil. As a man comes, so he departs, and what does he gain,

since he toils for the wind? 17All his days he eats in darkness, with great

frustration, affliction and anger. 18Then I realized that it is good and proper

for a man to eat and drink, and to find satisfaction in his toilsome labor under

the sun during the few days of life God has given him—for this is his lot.

19Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him

riches

to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work—this is a gift of God.

20He seldom reflects on the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied

with gladness of heart 6:1 I have seen another evil under the sun, and it weighs

heavily on men: God gives a man wealth, possessions and honor, so that he

lacks nothing his heart desires, but God does not enable him to enjoy them,

and a stranger enjoys them instead. This is meaningless, a grievous evil. 3A man

2 most valued blessings, children & long life

may have a hundred children and live many years; yet (no matter how long he

lives) if he cannot enjoy his prosperity and does not receive proper burial, I

Pursuing wealth not worth oppressing others or killing yourself to accumulate

(Accepting what God gives) Laborer/accepts lot
- sleep is sweet
- find satisfaction in labor
- God enables to enjoy possessions accept lot be happy in work
- doesn't ruminate is occupied w/ gladness of heart

This man has God gives { wealth possessions honor everything & desires 100 children long life

God doesn't enable { Lacks enjoyment of prosperity proper burial

p5 vs 3 →

say that a stillborn child is better off than he. 4 It comes without meaning, it departs in darkness, and in darkness its name is shrouded. 5 though it never saw the sun or knew anything, it has more rest than does that man - even if he lives a thousand years twice over but fails to enjoy his prosperity. Do not all go to the same place? 7 All man's efforts are for his mouth, yet his appetite is never satisfied. 8 What advantage has a wise man over a fool? What does a

Not quantity of life - But quality

The grave p5 v. 20

p3 vs 15

refer to p 6, v8-9 using others to get ahead.

Enjoy what you are given (tangible) vs desires/wants

GOD's Control thru time

refer to p 6 vs 2 & 3 speech of fool before God

poor man gain by knowing how to conduct himself before others? 9 Better what the eye sees than the roving of the appetite. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. 10 Whatever exists has already been named, and what man is has been known; no man can contend with one who is stronger than he. 11 The

GOD → preordered, (man - no power over)

- 1) has named all that exists
- 2) knows what man is
- 3) is the strongest
- 4) know what is good for man during life.
- 5) know what happens to man after death.

more the words, the less the meaning, and how does that profit anyone? 12 For who knows what is good for a man in life, during the few and meaningless days he passes through like a shadow? Who can tell him what will happen under the

All we know is now and if we don't make most of it → meaningless.

p5 vs 21

sun after he is gone? 7: 1 A good name is better than fine perfume, and the day

Better Than

of death better than the day of birth. 2 It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting (for death) is the destiny of every man; the living should take this to heart. 3 Sorrow is better than laughter,

because a sad face is good for the heart. 4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of pleasure. 5 It is

better to heed a wise man's rebuke than to listen to the song of fools. 6 Like the crackling of thorns under the pot, so is the laughter of fools. This too is meaningless. 7 Extortion turns a wise man into a fool, and a bribe corrupts the

heart. 8 The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is

house of mourning
destiny of all
sad face good for ♡
♡ of wise is there.
sorrow
(causes to think about meaning of life)
house of feasting
♡ of fools here
laughter

death sorrow

amusement

(allows us to avoid what we should think about.)

Death brings us to think about life.

money (love of) brings harm ie p 7 vs 10-13

Good name	perfume
day of death	day of birth
house of mourning	house of feasting
sorrow	laughter
heed wise rebuke	listen song fool
end of matter	beginning
patience	pride
↑	↑
wise associated here	fools associated here

hard times (times are bad) consider...
good times (times are good) be happy

Perspective

objectivity
Fool → House of pleasure
- song
- laughter
- bribe (st)

How it ends (comes out) more imp. than how it starts (begins).

Take the long view - delayed gratification (patience) vs. demanding immediate results (pride)

(hope in trial) humility

immediate results (pride)

(imitation at God in trials)
 act peoplentros of life
 grief / suffering

better than pride. 9 Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools. 10 Do not say, "Why were the old days better than these?"

Do not judge what is better hard times or good times

Seldom reflects on days of life p7/20

For it is not wise to ask such questions. 11 Wisdom, like an inheritance, is a good thing and benefits those who see the sun. 12 Wisdom is a shelter as money is a

stable

wisdom like inheritance good thing a shelter benefits preserves life

shelter, but the (advantage of knowledge) is this: that wisdom preserves the life

of its possessor. 13 Consider what God has done: Who can straighten what he

God in control - Sovereignty
 He brings both good & bad times only He can straighten crooked.

has made crooked? 14 When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider: God has made the one as well as the other. Therefore, a man cannot

discover anything about his future. 15 In this meaningless life of mine (I) have

wisdom is a protector - helper

p4 vs 1-11 time - cannot fathom what God has done from beg. to end

seen both of these: a righteous man perishing in his righteousness, and a wicked man living long in his wickedness. 16 Do not be overrighteous, neither be

Don't imagine you are better or worse than you are.

overwise - why destroy yourself? 17 Do not be overwicked, and do not be a

fool - why die before your time? 18 It is good to grasp the one and not let go of

How you view yourself. Be objective not proud not taking sin lightly.

the other. The man who fears God will avoid all extremes. 19 Wisdom makes

one wise man more powerful than ten rulers in a city. 20 There is not a

Wisdom w/ God better than collective wisdom of men.

righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins. 21 Do not pay

attention to every word people say, or you may hear your servant cursing you.

22 For you know in your heart that (many times you yourself have cursed others)

Don't take yourself too seriously

23 All this I tested by wisdom and I said, "I am determined to be wise" - but

this was beyond me. 24 Whatever wisdom may be, it is far off and most

profound - who can discover it? 25 So I turned my mind to understand, to

investigate and to search out wisdom and the scheme of things and to

understand the stupidity of wickedness and the madness of folly. 26 I find

p2 v 2:1 test mind guiding me w/ wisdom.

p2 v 17 applied myself to understanding wisdom, madness & folly.

Stability

wisdom - makes 1 man more powerful than 10 rulers

Defining Righteous MAN

Quest getting frustrating?

wisdom far off - profound - who can discover (beyond Teacher)

So turned mind to understand investigate search out

wisdom scheme of things - Stupidity of wickedness - madness of folly

Conclusions

BIG PICTURE

- his story - very personal.

vs better than

more bitter than death the woman who is a snare, whose heart is a trap and

whose hands are chains. The man who pleases God will escape her, but the

sinner she will ensnare. 27 "Look," says the Teacher, "this is what I have

discovered: "Adding one thing to another to discover the scheme of things

28 while I was still searching but not finding—I found one upright man among a

thousand, but not one upright woman among them all. 29 This only have I found:

God made mankind upright, but men have gone in search of many schemes.

8:1 Who is like the wise man? Who knows the explanation of things? Wisdom

brightens a man's face and changes its hard appearance. 2 Obey the king's

command, I say, because you took an oath before God. 3 Do not be in a hurry to

leave the king's presence. Do not stand up for a bad cause, for he will do

whatever he pleases. 4 Since a king's word is supreme, who can say to him,

"What are you doing?" 5 Whoever obeys his command will come to no harm, and

the wise heart will know the proper time and procedure. 6 For there is a proper

time and procedure for every matter, though a man's misery weighs heavily

upon him. 7 Since no man knows the future, who can tell him what is to come?

8 No man has power over the wind to contain it; so no one has power over the

day of his death. As no one is discharged in time of war, so wickedness will not

release those who practice it. 9 All this I saw, as I applied my mind to

everything done under the sun. There is a time when a man lords it over others

to his own hurt. 10 Then too, I saw the wicked buried—those who used to come

and go from the holy place and receive praise in the city where they did this.

This too is meaningless. 11 When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried

the rarity of wisdom is man's fault.

Solomon = king power but limited compared to God caught in wickedness heart by power

Living under authority Obey - took oath don't be disloyal Be cautious opposing

King - commands what he pleases - word is supreme Be wise approaching auth. even tho misery heavy - use proper time & procedure

is this regret

BIG PICTURE

wise

* conclusion.

creation sin entered in

upright (wise) is rare 101% better in men than women

"every one to his own way" Is. 53:6

re taxes conscription/draft

Wait for right time & way to address frustrations.

There is enough trouble w/o open defiance of authority.

Not even king - Knows future - can contain wind - control death - get away from sin?

No man No one can

troubled by honor to wicked

Is this God who is not quickly carrying out the sentence?

No immediate reprobation for sin.

Wicked get what righteous deserve

- buried v10
- lives long time

nothing done to stop the sinning - get bolder.

out, the hearts of the people are filled with schemes to do wrong (12) Although a wicked man commits a hundred crimes and still lives a long time, I know that

not observation i.e. "I see" by faith?

it will go better with God-fearing men who are reverent before God. 13 Yet

because the wicked do not fear God it will not go well with them, and their

days will not lengthen like a shadow. 14 There is something else meaningless

that occurs on earth: righteous men who get what the wicked deserve, and

wicked men who get what the righteous deserve. This too, I say, is

meaningless. 15 So I commend the enjoyment of life, because nothing is better

for a man under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will

accompany him in his work all the days of the life God has given him under the

sun. 16 When I applied my mind to know wisdom and to observe man's labor on

earth - his eyes not seeing sleep day or night - 17 then I saw all that God has

done. No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun. Despite all his

efforts to search it out, man cannot discover its meaning. Even if a wise man

claims he knows, he cannot really comprehend it. 19 So I reflected on all this

and concluded that the righteous and the wise and what they do are in God's

hands, but no man knows whether love or hate awaits him. 20 All share a common

destiny - the righteous and the wicked, the good and the bad, the clean and the

unclean, those who offer sacrifices and those who do not. As it is with the

good man, so with the sinner, as it is with those who take oaths, so with those

who are afraid to take them. 21 This is the evil in everything that happens under

the sun: The same destiny overtakes all. The hearts of men, moreover, are full

of evil and there is madness in their hearts while they live and afterward they

Teacher goes back to his beliefs of it's better to be God fearing

- not go well
- no long life

But righteousness not guarantee of "good life."

Life is unfair unjust

So -> Enjoyment is better

No one man cannot like p 10

Wicked & righteous Doesn't

Even tho being God fearing better - all end up dead

(delayed sentence)

despite delay

(under the sun)

contentment

God's ways are not comprehended even thru wisdom.

in the care of God

No built in guarantees of easy life.

all implied?

← nature of man?

Living have hope know they will die

Dead know nothing no more reward forgotten experience vanishes won't be a part (under the sun)

join the dead 4 Anyone who is among the living has hope—even a live dog is better off than a dead lion! 5 For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing; they have no further reward, and even the memory of them is forgotten. 6 Their love, their hate and their jealousy have long since

1 Cor. 15:19 If this life is all there is of all men we are to be pitied

hopelessness of death

vanished; never again will they have a part in anything that happens under the

sun. 7 Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart,

for it is now that God favors what you do. 8 Always be clothed in white, and

always anoint your head with oil. 9 Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all

the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun— all

your meaningless days. For this is your lot in life and in your toilsome labor

under the sun. 10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for

in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor

knowledge nor wisdom. 11 I have seen something else under the sun: The race is

not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or

wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to

them all. 12 Moreover, no man knows when his hour will come: As fish are caught

in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare, so men are trapped by evil times

that fall unexpectedly upon them. 13 I also saw under the sun this example of

wisdom that greatly impressed me: 14 There was once a small city with only a

few people in it. And a powerful king came against it, surrounded it and built

huge siegeworks against it. 15 Now there lived in that city a man poor but wise,

and he saved the city by his wisdom. But nobody remembered that poor man.

16 So I said, "Wisdom is better than strength." But the poor man's wisdom is

Commands vs advice as before
live in the now

Seize the day
Dead - nothing to do

Life under the sun unfair random full of labor meaningless but - better than being dead.

World respects powerful & popular vs wise and sensible

Contentment v7
Comfort v8
Companionship v9

← marriage as a help amid frustration of unfair life.

← p7 vs 19 lot

← energy confidence for life's tasks

← Effort not always rewarded.

limits us unexpected/uncontrolled.

← death & other calamities.

URGENT

has already approved

← earthly blessing lost in death

← way it is

← opportunity

← nothing to do - no opportunity

despised, and his words are no longer heeded. 17The quiet words of **the wise** are more to be heeded than the shouts of a ruler of **fools**. 18Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good. 10:1As dead flies give perfume a bad smell, so a little **folly** outweighs **wisdom** and **honor**. 2The heart of **the wise** inclines to the right, but the heart of **the fool** to the left. 3Even as he walks along the road, the **fool** lacks sense and shows everyone how stupid he is. 4If a ruler's anger rises against you, do not leave your post; calmness can lay great errors to rest. 5There is an **evil** I have seen under the sun, the sort of error that arises from a ruler: 6**Fools** are put in many high positions, while the rich occupy the low ones. 7I have seen slaves on horseback, while princes go on foot like slaves. 8**Whoever** digs a pit may fall into it; whoever breaks through a wall may be bitten by a snake. 9**Whoever** quarries stones may be injured by them; whoever splits logs may be endangered by them. 10If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed but skill will bring success. 11If a snake bites before it is charmed, there is no profit for the charmer. 12Words from a **wise man's** mouth are gracious, but a **fool** is consumed by his **own lips**. 13At the beginning his **words** are **folly**; at the end they are wicked madness-14and the **fool** multiplies **words**. No one knows what is coming—who can tell him what will happen after him? 15A **fool's** work wears him; he does not know the way to town. 16Woe to you, O land whose **king** was a child and whose **princes** feast in the morning. 17**Blessed** are you, O land whose **king** is of noble birth and whose princes eat at a proper time—for strength and not for drunkenness. 18If a man is lazy, the rafters sag; if his

Listen to wise role models vs powerful/status

One fool can sidetrack a wise course of action

Lifestyle of making poor judgements

World upside down - makes no sense

Every endeavor has a danger - risk Take precautions.

Use good judgement

ie James 3:13-12 words show condition of heart

fool is resident expert on every subject.

good

right path

(God's favor) - pos. view of rich - w/ resources - not able to use them.

may not be money

There are risks to endeavors - take precautions. - Count the cost -

Use effort wisely

like locking door after break in.

equipping works prepare

Wise know this is true

lost in life

child chief officers

If the details of life aren't dealt with they can become crippling.

Doesn't need to fix roof when dry
when rains/can't fix it.

Fool or wise?
Is this the limit
of the view of life
under the sun?

Laziness is
disintegrating
Have to have \$
to get along.

hands are idle, the house leaks. 19A feast is made for laughter, and wine makes
life merry, but money is the answer for everything. 20Do not revile the king
even in your thoughts, or curse the rich in your bedroom, because a bird of the

Word gets
around.

Risk
Invest
Be Generous

air may carry your words, and a bird on the wing may report what you say.)
(goods/livelihood) (reward)
11:1Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it
(with enthusiasm, vigor)
again. 2Give portions to seven, yes to eight, for you do not know what disaster

Need faith
(because you don't
know...)

Cast
Give
Sow
Work (Don't be
Idle)

Don't Know
1.- what disaster
may come
a.- when rain
will come
b.- what wind
will do
2.- how body
formed in womb
Cannot understand
work of God
the maker
3.- what will
succeed

may come upon the land. 3If clouds are full of water, they pour rain upon the
earth. Whether a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where it
falls, there will it lie. 4Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks
at the clouds will not reap. 5As you do not know the path of the wind, or how
the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of

proclamation

Don't be
paralyzed by
what you
don't know -
Keep going
- trying
- working
(faith
trust)

Can't control
the diff. of life -
unexpected events

(God) the Maker of all things. 6Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let
not your hands be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or
that, or whether both will do equally well. 7Light is sweet, and it pleases the
eyes to see the sun. 8However many years a man may live, let him enjoy them
all. But let him remember the days of darkness, for they will be many.

Not knowing is
no excuse for
inactivity

Need faith
thrives in mystery
of God's work

Remember death
Enjoy life
esp. when
young

Everything to come is meaningless. 9Be happy, young man, while you are young,
and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of
your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God

Commands
listed

Youth is good
enjoy
w/m limits of
knowing God's
judgment.

Youth is not
the answer
(lasting)

God must bring
about "right".

2 principles
- what you want to
do
- what is consistent
w/ God's will

will bring you to judgment. 10So then, banish anxiety from your heart and cast
off the troubles of your body, for youth and vigor are meaningless.

Avoid (to enjoy life)
mental anguish
physical pain
nervous

12:1Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of
trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in

If God is neglected in youth
Capacity for joy will be lost
Aging's issues will lead to despair.

Remove hindrances to joy
anxiety - vexation - cynicism
physical weakness - pain or discomfort
should be removed if possible

(fading, capacity for joy - darkness)

(winter of life)

them" - 2 before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars grow dark,
 and the clouds return after the rain; 3 when the keepers of the house tremble,
 and the strong men stoop, when the grinders cease because they are few, and
 those looking through the windows grow dim; 4 when the doors to the street
 are closed and the sound of grinding fades; when men rise up at the sound of
 birds, but all their songs grow faint; 5 when men are afraid of heights and of
 dangers in the streets; when the almond tree blossoms and the grasshopper
 drags himself along and desire no longer is stirred. Then man goes to his

growing old

- Growing OLD
- sun etc grow dark
 - keepers tremble
 - strong stoop
 - grinders cease
 - looking dims
 - doors closed
 - sound fades
 - rise at sound of bird
 - song grows faint
 - afraid of heights
 - dangers
 - almond tree blossoms
 - grasshopper drags
 - desire no longer

eternal home and mourners go about the streets. 6 Remember him - before the
 silver cord is severed, or the golden bowl is broken; before the pitcher is

DEATH

- DEATH
- silver cord severed
 - golden bowl broken
 - pitcher shattered
 - wheel broken
 - dust returns to ground
 - spirit returns to God

shattered at the spring, or the wheel broken at the well, 7 and the dust
 returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

8 "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Everything is meaningless!"

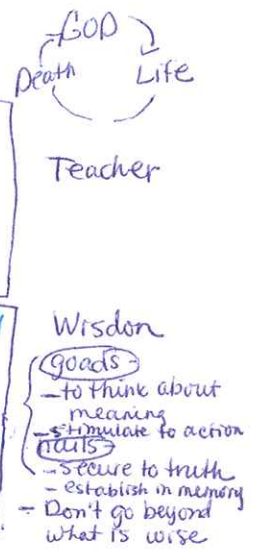
9 Not only was the Teacher wise, but also he imparted knowledge to the people.
 He pondered and searched out and set in order many proverbs. 10 The Teacher
 searched to find just the right words, and what he wrote was upright and true.

11 The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly
 embedded nails - given by one Shepherd. 12 Be warned, my son, of anything in

addition to them. Of making many books there is no end, and much study
 wearies the body. 13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the

matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of
 man. 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden

thing, whether it is good or evil.



- Essence of Wisdom
- Fear God
 - obey Him
- purpose

It's about God - He's beginning & end.

Meaningless = futile, temporary, fleeting, unpredictable, uncontrollable, (vanity)

God is Creator - giver of life & judge in end. Joy = satisfaction acceptance

Solomon's quest - find meaning in control, making things last, ie (life) (time)

Ends as it Began

Appendix
 Change of author
 narrator
 (past tense)
 postscript

Finally relinquishing control to God - He is the day supreme