

Wisdom for Life in a Fallen World

Ecclesiastes 1:1-2

Main Point:

Ecclesiastes will guide you and help you make sense of your life in a fallen world; therefore, study it to obtain this wisdom from Jesus.

1. Ecclesiastes is a difficult, but helpful, book of the Bible.
2. It's a book that, through personal experience, warns you to reject the secular mindset.
3. It's a book that is honest about the frustrations of life and that answers the big questions of life.
4. It's a book that shows you how meaning and joy are found only in a relationship with God.
5. It's a book where Jesus Christ imparts His wisdom to you for living in this fallen world.

Sidney Greidanus "Ecclesiastes may be the most difficult biblical book to interpret and preach."

Ecclesiastes 9:11 11 I returned and saw under the sun that— The race *is* not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong ... (NKJV)

Ecclesiastes 5:10 10 He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; Nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also *is* vanity. (NKJV)

Ecclesiastes 10:19 19 A feast is made for laughter, And wine makes merry; But money answers everything. (NKJV)

Ecclesiastes 7:16 16 Do not be overly righteous, Nor be overly wise: Why should you destroy yourself? (NKJV)

Philip Ryken "After wandering away from God and falling into tragic sin, Solomon repented of his sinful ways and returned to the right and proper fear of God. Ecclesiastes is his memoir - an autobiographical account of what he learned from his futile attempt to live without God."

Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 10 Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, For my heart rejoiced in all my labor; And this was my reward from all my labor. 11 Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done And on the labor in which I had toiled; And indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. *There* was no profit under the sun. (NKJV)

Leland Ryken "[Ecclesiastes is] the most contemporary book in the Bible. Ecclesiastes is a satiric attack on an acquisitive, hedonistic, and materialistic society. It exposes the mad quest to find satisfaction in knowledge, wealth, pleasure, work, fame, and sex."

Gordon Keddie "In a graphic and relentless way, the awful realities are exposed - and the way is pointed to God's answers."

Ecclesiastes 12:13 13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. (NKJV)

Philip Ryken "Some people think that Ecclesiastes is about the meaningless of human existence. This perspective is not quite correct, however. Ecclesiastes is really about the meaninglessness of life without God."

Michael LeFebvre "We do not need a book of the Bible to tell us that life is full of vanities. That is universally obvious in all human experience. What we do need, however, is instruction to know peace and joy in spite of such heartaches."

Douglas Sean O'Donnell "In the small book of Ecclesiastes we will discover ... a great God who brings rock-solid meaning to everything under the sun by means of His Son."

Benjamin Shaw "In effect, Solomon speaks as Christ to the people of God of the Old Testament. So what we hear in the book is the voice of Christ. We do not need to scour the book looking for hints of Jesus, because his voice speaks in every word."

1 Corinthians 15:58 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. (NKJV)