

A Word From The Preacher :



**A THIRTEEN WEEK
BIBLE STUDY SERIES**

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THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

Table of Contents

<u>LESSON</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Introduction Vanity of Vanities	1
Chapter 1 The Vanity of Wisdom	2
Chapter 2 The Vanity of Pleasure	3
Chapter 3 The Vanity of Life	4
Chapter 4 The Vanity of Popularity	5
Chapter 5 The Vanity of Religion	6
Chapter 6 The Vanity of Riches	7
Chapter 7 The Vanity of Foolishness	8
Chapter 8 The Vanity of Authority	9
Chapter 9 The Vanity of Work	10
Chapter 10 The Vanity of Pride	11
Chapter 11 The Vanity of Knowledge	12
Chapter 12 The Vanity of Youth	13

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

Introduction - Vanity of Vanities

- (1) Why should Christians study the book of Ecclesiastes?
- (2) What does the word “ecclesiastes” mean? What Greek word is it derived from?
- (3) According to tradition, who is the author, and when was it likely written?
- (4) What question does the Preacher seek to answer in this book?
- (5) What are some key words that are found in this book?
- (6) What are the main messages found in this book (Ecclesiastes 1:14; 12:13)?
- (7) What are the three main divisions of the book?
- (8) What parts of the book of Ecclesiastes are the most difficult to understand?
- (9) What are you looking forward to studying the most in this survey of Ecclesiastes?
- (10) What conclusions have you drawn from previous studies of Ecclesiastes?
- (11) Should we consider it as depressing or humorous? Explain.
- (12) Why do people hesitate to study the book of Ecclesiastes?
- (13) What do you think of a person who says that this book is their favorite in the Bible? Why?
- (14) Knowing the conclusion of this book, why do you think it took him 12 chapters?

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

Chapter 1 - The Vanity of Wisdom

- (1) What are the main points of this chapter?
- (2) How does the author describe himself?
- (3) What is the theme of this book, as stated in 2nd verse of this chapter?
- (4) What is the key question that this book seeks to address?
- (5) What illustrations are given to show the futility observed in the cycles of life?
- (6) Why is there nothing new under the sun?
- (7) Why do we think something is new?
- (8) What did the Preacher determine to do? Why?
- (9) Having seen the works done under the sun, what did he conclude? Why?
- (10) What did he acknowledge he had attained? Why?
- (11) What did he set his heart to know? Why?
- (12) What did this give him? Explain.
- (13) Whom should we consider when we pursue wisdom? Why?
- (14) If wisdom is vanity why do we pursue it?

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

Chapter 2 - The Vanity of Pleasure

- (1) What are the main points of this chapter?
- (2) In his search, what sort of things did he explore? Why?
- (3) What guided his heart during the course of his search?
- (4) What things did he accumulate during his search?
- (5) How great did he become? What stayed with him? What did he get?
- (6) What was his reaction to this great accumulation of wealth?
- (7) What conclusions were drawn about the value of wisdom and folly?
- (8) What did this reflection lead him to do? Why?
- (9) What else caused him to hate his labor?
- (10) Why did this trouble him?
- (11) What did he conclude was the result of labor, striving, and toil for things under the sun?
- (12) What did he say was the best man could achieve?
- (13) But who was capable of achieving this?
- (14) What did the sinner receive? For what purpose?

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

Chapter 3 - The Vanity of Life

- (1) What are the main points of this chapter?
- (2) What does the preacher say about everything under heaven?
- (3) List some examples of how he illustrates "a time for every purpose." Why are these special?
- (4) What question does the Preacher restate?
- (5) What four things has he seen? Explain.
- (6) What does the Preacher conclude is best for people to do? Why?
- (7) Why has God made what He does unchangeable?
- (8) What will God require? Why?
- (9) What did he see looked in places where there should have been judgment and righteousness?
- (10) What did he reason in his heart about this?
- (11) What did he tell himself was the reason God allowed such things?
- (12) What does man have in common with beasts?
- (13) What is different between man and beast?
- (14) What did he perceive was best for man to do? Why?

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

Chapter 4 - The Vanity of Popularity

- (1) What are the main points of this chapter?
- (2) What did the Preacher observe regarding oppression?
- (3) What did this observation prompt the Preacher to do?
- (4) What did he observe about toil and skillful work?
- (5) How does he describe the fool who doesn't work?
- (6) What consumes the fool? Why?
- (7) What is better than both hands full, with toil, and grasping for the wind?
- (8) What is described as vanity and a grave misfortune?
- (9) How does he illustrate the value of friendship?
- (10) Why are two better than one?
- (11) What good is fame and fortune without friendship?
- (12) How can the prodigal son's story apply (Luke 15)?
- (13) What is the result of such pride and selfishness described in this chapter?
- (14) How does he illustrate the vanity of popularity?

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

Chapter 5 - The Vanity of Religion

- (1) What are the main points of this chapter?
- (2) How should one conduct themselves when they seek to worship God?
- (3) What two principles concerning vows are given by the Preacher?
- (4) What should we do when we see oppression, and perversion of justice and righteousness?
- (5) Why are we told not to “marvel” at such things?
- (6) Why is it vanity to love riches?
- (7) What is a frequent consequence of having an abundance of wealth?
- (8) What is described as “a severe evil under the sun”?
- (9) What does he see as good and fitting for one to do? Why?
- (10) What does it mean to eat, drink, and enjoy life?
- (11) What is man’s heritage? Where does it come from? Why?
- (12) What is described as “the gift of God” in these verses?
- (13) Why do we neglect to see the gifts of God?
- (14) How can we better appreciate God’s gifts?

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

Chapter 6 - The Vanity of Riches

- (1) What are the main points of this chapter?
- (2) What does the Preacher see as a common affliction among men?
- (3) Who gives these riches and gives man the ability to enjoy it?
- (4) How is a stillborn child better than one who suffers such an affliction?
- (5) What is not satisfied by all the labor of man? Why?
- (6) What is better than the wandering of desire? Why?
- (7) What is unchangeable about man?
- (8) Why does man try to contend with God?
- (9) Why is man no better by accumulating riches alone?
- (10) Who knows what is good for man? Why does this make a difference?
- (11) What is man unable (without help from God) to determine?
- (12) What will happen after a man after this life?
- (13) Who determines your destiny? Why?
- (14) Why do people neglect to see God and obey Him?

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

Chapter 7 - The Vanity of Foolishness

- (1) What are the main points of this chapter?
- (2) What is better than precious ointment? Why?
- (3) Why is it better to attend a funeral rather than a party?
- (4) Why is sorrow better than laughter? Where is the heart of the wise? Why does this matter?
- (5) Which is better, to hear rebuke from the wise, or a song from a fool? Why?
- (6) What destroys a wise man's reason? What debases the heart?
- (7) Why should one not hasten to be angry?
- (8) What is good along with an inheritance? Why?
- (9) What should we consider about the work of God?
- (10) What should we do in days of prosperity and in days of adversity? Why?
- (11) What two things had he seen in the days of his vanity? What caution does he give?
- (12) How strong is wisdom?
- (13) What should one not take to heart? Why?
- (14) What did he find more bitter than death? Who can escape such a person?

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

Chapter 8 - The Vanity of Authority

- (1) What are the main points of this chapter?
- (2) What benefit does wisdom have?
- (3) Why should one be in submission to the king and the government?
- (4) Generally speaking, what will one experience who heeds the king's command?
- (5) What will a wise man discern even though misery may increase greatly?
- (6) What is said of those who are given to wickedness?
- (7) What had he observed about the rule of men?
- (8) What did he observe about the wicked who had come and gone from the place of holiness?
- (9) Why were the hearts of some men set to do evil?
- (10) What did he conclude about a sinner whose days are prolonged?
- (11) Is it good for a believer to try and prolong his/her days?
- (12) Why does he commend enjoyment so much?
- (13) What did he describe as a vanity which occurs on the earth?
- (14) In view of such vanity, what does he commend? Why?

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

Chapter 9 - The Vanity of Work

- (1) What are the main points of this chapter?
- (2) What did he consider about the righteous and the wise?
- (3) What two observations did he make regarding the righteous and the wicked?
- (4) What one event does he discuss that happens to everyone?
- (5) What two things does he see in the hearts of men?
- (6) What happens to men because of their hearts?
- (7) Who still has hope? Why?
- (8) What is said of the dead? Why?
- (9) Who shares in the things under the sun? Who does not?
- (10) What does he counsel the living to do? Why?
- (11) What reasons does he give for such counsel?
- (12) What other observations did he make about life?
- (13) What observations did he make about the value of wisdom?
- (14) How can wisdom be greater than strength?

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

Chapter 10 - The Vanity of Pride

- (1) What are the main points of this chapter?
- (2) What comparison is used to illustrate how folly ruins the reputation of the wise?
- (3) Where is the heart of a wise man? The heart of the foolish man?
- (4) When does the fool display his folly to everyone? How is this proven in Proverbs?
- (5) How should one respond when the spirit of the ruler rises against them?
- (6) What evil had he seen under the sun pertaining to government? How did it effect him?
- (7) What four illustrations appear to depict the lack of wisdom in business?
- (8) When the ax is dull, what is required? What will bring success?
- (9) How are the words of the wise? What will the lips of a fool do to him?
- (10) What do the words of a fool begin with? How do they end?
- (11) When is there woe upon the land?
- (12) When is a land blessed?
- (13) What is evidence of laziness and idleness?
- (14) What observations are made about feasting, wine and money?

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

Chapter 11 - The Vanity of Knowledge

- (1) What are the main points of this chapter?
- (2) Why does he encourage us to cast our "bread upon the waters"?
- (3) Why does he counsel us to "give a serving to seven, and also to eight"?
- (4) What is the point of these two admonitions?
- (5) What two examples are given of things that are inevitable?
- (6) What does he caution against?
- (7) What two examples illustrate our limited ability to comprehend the ways of God?
- (8) How does the Preacher encourage diligence and benevolence?
- (9) Why does he encourage diligence and benevolence?
- (10) What is described as sweet and pleasant?
- (11) If one is blessed to live many joyful years, what should he still bear in mind?
- (12) What does he encourage the young man to do?
- (13) What does he encourage him to remember?
- (14) So what else he counsel the young man to do? Why?

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

Chapter 12 - The Vanity of Youth

- (1) What are the main points of this chapter?
- (2) What advice does he give to the young person?
- (3) What thirteen illustrations are used to depict one growing old and feeble?
- (4) How is death depicted in these verses?
- (5) What four illustrations are used to depict the decaying of the body? Why?
- (6) What do these verses say about death? What occurs at death?
- (7) What is the recurring theme throughout this book, as restated in these verses?
- (8) Why does he still believe that everything is vanity?
- (9) What did he continue to do? Why?
- (10) What are the words of the wise and scholarly like?
- (11) What did the Preacher encourage his son?
- (12) Yet what two things should one keep in mind?
- (13) What does he offer as the conclusion to his search for meaning?
- (14) Why is this the Preacher's conclusion? How did he reach this conclusion?