

# **Ecclesiastes**

**FEAR GOD AND ENJOY HIS GIFTS**

**What do we know about  
Ecclesiastes?**

**To understand and internalize the message of Ecclesiastes and learn how we fear God and enjoy the life that he gives us.**

# Title and Authorship

## Authorship of the Book: 2 Parts

**Title in English:** ἐκκλησιαστής (Ecclesiastes) - a member of the “ἐκκλησία” (gathering)

- ἐκκλησία is where we get the word Church

**Title in Hebrew:** קהלת (Qoheleth) “the one who gathers” = Translated as a teacher.

- **Qoheleth** - the prominent voice in the book.
  - King Solomon, son of David
  - A later unknown king in Israel.
  - An Israelite teacher with a Solomonic persona
    - For this class, we'll refer to him as Qoheleth.
- **The Author** - who compiles the teachings. He writes verses 1:1 and Chapter 12:9-14.

# Wisdom Literature Overview

**What is wisdom literature?** - A genre of ancient literature characterized by an emphasis on teaching its audience the things necessary to attain virtue and obtain divine favor.

- Primarily: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job.
- Song of Songs (Sometimes)
- **Hebrew Bible (TaNaKh), aka The Old Testament**
- Threefold: law, prophets, writings
- A meditation and faithful reflection - the story from Genesis to now.

**Why do you think the author says  
everything is Meaningless?  
Vanity? Futile?**

**What do you think Qohelet is trying to communicate when he says, “there is nothing new under the sun?”**

# A Paradigm for understanding Ecclesiastes

הֶבֶל HEVEL “Vanity, Meaningless, Futile” - The Puzzle

“Life Under the Sun” - The pattern of the life we build outside God.

“There is nothing better” (Seize the Day) - The way back to God’s presence and power. Enjoy life instead of commiserating over its brokenness.



***John 15:9-10*** “As the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you. Remain in My love. If you keep My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commands and remain in His love.  
<sup>11</sup> “I have spoken these things to you so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.” I assure you: Anything you ask the Father in My name, He will give you.

**Luke 11:11–13** “What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?”

"Ecclesiastes gives a paradigm for processing the injustice and pain we experience; it shows us that our experiences are not all that unique; and it gives us language for expressing the truth of what we see around us. But Ecclesiastes doesn't leave us with only an acknowledgment that things aren't the way they should be. If it did, that would be okay. ....Ecclesiastes presses forward, further into our pain, anger, and disillusionment, giving us two tools to navigate a world turned upside down: fearing God and enjoying his gifts."

-Dr. Russel Meek

## **Like Ecclesiastes, Jesus teaches us to...**

- 1. Follow His commands as he has the Father's...Fear God**
- 2. To see God as a giver of good things, not bad things.....Enjoy his gifts**

Wisdom Series

# Ecclesiastes



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