

Ecclesiastes: Fear God and Enjoy his Gifts

Glenwood Community Church

Class 8 – March 26th, 2023

The purpose of this class is to: understand and internalize the message of Ecclesiastes and to learn how we fear God and enjoy the life that he gives us.

The Journey of Ecclesiastes

Class Overview

Ecclesiastes 12: Qoheleth's Journey

Wounded by Wisdom

Craig Bartholomew's Structure on Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes isn't random! While many authors have attempted to reconstruct Qoheleth's Structure, I have included Craig Bartholomew's breakdown of the text so that you can understand how each passage fits within the whole.

- I. Frame Narrative (1:1–11)**
 - A. Title (1:1)
 - B. Statement of the Theme of the Book (1:2)
 - C. The Programmatic Question (1:3)
 - D. A Poem about the Enigma of Life (1:4–11)
- II. Qohelet's Exploration of the Meaning of Life (1:12–12:7)**
 - A. Qohelet's Description of His Journey of Exploration (1:12–18)
 - B. Testing Pleasure and the Good Life (2:1–11)
 - C. The Problem of Death and One's Legacy (2:12–23)
 - D. Eating, Drinking, and Enjoying One's Labor (2:24–26)
 - E. The Mystery of Time (3:1–15)
 - F. The Problem of Injustice and Death (3:16–22)
 - G. Four Problems (4:1–16)
 - H. Worship (5:1–7 [4:17–5:6])
 - I. Oppression and Profit (5:8–17 [7–16])
 - J. The Gift of God (5:18–20 [17–19])
 - K. Riches and Wealth Continued (6:1–12)
 - L. Knowing What Is Good for One (7:1–13)
 - M. Moderation in Wisdom and Folly (7:14–22)
 - N. Qohelet's Reflection on His Journey and the Inaccessibility of Wisdom (7:23–29)
 - O. The Enigma of Political Rule (8:1–9)
 - P. The Problem of Delayed Judgment (8:10–17)
 - Q. The Fate of Death and the Gift of Life (9:1–12)
 - R. The Example of a City (9:13–18)
 - S. Wisdom, Folly, and Rulers (10:1–20)
 - T. Living with the Uncertainties of God's Providence (11:1–6)
 - U. Rejoicing and Remembering (11:7–12:7)
- III. Frame Narrative: Epilogue (12:8–14)**
 - A. Restatement of the Theme (12:8)
 - B. Epilogue (12:9–14)¹

¹ Adapted from Baker Commentary on the Old Testament: Ecclesiastes, 83-84