

Ecclesiastes = The Preacher 1:1
(Hebrew variously spelled in English as: Qoheleth; Choheleth; Koheleth)

Solomon Authored It **1:1, 12; Proverbs 1:1; Song of Solomon 1:1**
The Writer is wiser than all before him **cf Eccl. 1:16; 1 Kings 3:12.**

I. Searching Garbage For Gems 1:1-10:20

A. *Aimless Living* **1:1-11**

1. No God, no goal **1:1-3**
2. The wheel of life stops for no one **1:4-8**
3. History repeats itself again and again **1:9-11; 2:12**
4. Know what?
 - a. God gives inquisitiveness **1:12-15**
 - b. Man finds no answer **1:16-18**

B. *Tasteless Life* **2:1-26**

1. Belly laughs **2:1-2**
2. Barroom brawl **2:3**
3. Landscaping lunacy **2:4-6**
4. *Fortune 500* **2:7-8**
5. Famously figured **2:9-10**
6. Blue-sate Special **2:11-23**
 - a. No profit in it **2:11**
 - b. No difference to it **2:12**
 - c. No distinction from a fool **2:13-16**
 - d. No future for it **2:17-23**
7. God gives:
 - a. "Taste buds" for life **2:24-26**
 - b. Time slots for experiences **3:1-8**
 - c. Temporal vistas of the future **3:9-11**
 - d. Transparency of purpose **3:12-13**

C. *Busi-ness Life* **3:14-5:20**

1. God decrees "checkout" is at death's door, so "shop till you drop" **3:14-15**
2. Bad business deals **3:16-4:3**
 - a. mislabeled goods **3:16**
 - b. misinformed "customers" **3:17**
 - c. misunderstood pricing **3:18-4:3**
3. Keen competition **4:4-8**
 - a. Envied by the lazy **4:4-6**
 - b. "Singles" miss the sharing **4:7-12**
 - c. It can get lonely at the top **4:13-16**

4. Better Business' Seven Bureaus **5:1-7**
 - a. Cautiously contract **5:1-3**
 - b. Promptly pay **5:4-5**
 - c. Speak honestly **5:6-7**
 - d. Remember "the people" **5:8-9**
 - e. Limit desires **5:10-12**
 - f. Be generous to the needy **5:13-17**
 - g. Give God the glory **5:18-20**

**Rom.12:3; Gal.6:3
Luke 12:15; Phil.4:11**

- D. *Use-le\$\$ Life* **6:1-8:15**
 1. Every silver lining has a cloud **6:1-12**
 2. Hi Ho Silver -- Away! **7:1-8:15**
 - a. Six (6) "better" things **7:1-8**
 - b. Haste not to:
 - (1 live in offenses and be angry **7:9**
 - (2 live in the past **7:10**
 - (3 live ignorantly and not learn wisdom **7:11-12**
 - c. The same God who gives can take **7:13-14**
 - d. No one is too good to die or too bad to live **7:15-20**
 - e. Don't listen to everything others say **7:21-22**
 - f. No one is exempt from losing **7:23-8:1**
 - g. Respect government **8:2-9**
 - h. The wicked don't ever "win" **8:10-14**
 - i. Enjoyment of life lasts **8:15**

I Tim. 6:7-10,17-19

- E. Where is that "pot of gold?" **8:16-10:20**
 1. Ever learning without the degree **8:16-9:6**
 - a. No one knows all that God does **8:16-17**
 - b. No one knows "love" or "hate" without God **9:1**
 - c. No one escapes death **9:2-6**
 - (1 All will die **9:2-3**
 - (2 Earthly life ceases with death **9:4-6**
 - d. Enjoy life to its fullest:
 - (1 doing good before death **9:7-8**
 - (2 marriage **9:9**
 - (3 job **9:10**
 - (4 aging **9:11-12**
 - (5 don't expect to be adequately rewarded **9:13-17**

**Galatians 6:10
Ephesians 5:22-33
Ephesians 4:28
2 Corinthians 4:16-5:3**
 2. Fooling around with fools **9:18-10:20**
 - a. who ruin a good reputation **9:18-10:7**
 - b. who live recklessly **10:8-10**
 - c. who speak dangerously **10:11-15**
 - d. who don't plan ahead **10:16-19**
 - e. who "mouth off" about the powerful **10:20**

II. Sacred Sense For The Otherwise Senseless 11:1-12:14

- A. "What we don't know may hurt us," especially if we... **11:1-8**
- 1. Fail to do good because of potential evil 11:1-4**
 - 2. Fail to notice all God is constantly doing 11:5-6**
 - 3. Fail to consider the "days of darkness" in life 11:7-8**
 - 4. Fail to rid ourselves of sorrow and evil 11:9-10**
- B. Pre-paid Funeral or Prepared Finish? **12:1-8**
- C. The only "insurance policy" that pays **the dead** is: **12:9-14**
- 1. Set forth in "many proverbs" and "words of truth" 12:9-10**
 - 2. Driven into scholarly thinking like nails 12:11**
 - 3. More than learned by publishing and studying books 12:12**
 - 4. Reward only for those who have prepared early in life 12:1,13-14**

WHEN JESUS CAME TO THIS EARTH, HE:

- 1. GAVE US AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW I Peter 2:21-23**
- 2. GAVE HIS LIFE FOR US I Peter 3:18-20**
- 3. AROSE FROM THE GRAVE, NEVER TO DIE AGAIN I Peter 3:21**
- 4. ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN TO RULE OVER THOSE WHO OBEY HIM I Peter 3:22**
- 5. OFFERS EVERYONE A SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE THEIR LIVES RIGHT WITH GOD**
 - a. I Peter 4:15-19**
 - b. Titus 3:1-8**
 - c. Mark 16:15-16**

Expounding Ecclesiastes:

- ☞ No mention is made of "Jehovah" or Moses' Law, but by using "God" (**Heb. Elohim**) he speaks universally about the need for God in one's life.
- ☞ "Vanity" is used 28 times; "under the sun" 29 times to clearly *show this life is not what it is all about*. Contrast this with:
Hindu belief of "transmigration of the soul" or continuing to come back to earthly existence until one gets it right; OR
Materialists' view that there are "no rules, just right;" OR
Spiritualism's desire for a messenger or a message "from the other side" to make sense and give meaning to someone's life without God.
- ☞ *If there is a time for everything (and there is, **Eccl. 3:1-8**), then there must be times devoted to thanking God for our blessings*
cf Eccl. 2:24; 3:12; 5:18; 8:15; 9:7; 12:13-14.
Fools don't thank God **cf Romans 1:18-25.**

- ☞ "These three books may be thus summarized:
In **Job** you have piety without prosperity;
In **Proverbs** you have piety and prosperity;
In **Ecclesiastes** you have prosperity without piety."
---George Henderson, *The Wonderful Word*, Page 36,
B. McCall Barbour, 28 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh 1, Scotland

- ☞ This book shows how really poor the worldly rich actually may be
Cf **Revelation 3:17**. (OR, The *real* "Stock Market Crash")

- ☞ Figures of speech probably borrowed from the Preacher:
The march of mankind = **1:4**
The Sun Also Rises = **1:5**
The rivers run into the sea = **1:7**
You don't want to know = **2:18**
There is a time for everything = **3:1-8**
"Everything is beautiful in its own way" = **3:11**
History repeats itself = **3:15**
He died before his time = **7:17**
You're one in a thousand = **7:28**
You have the smile of knowledge = **8:1**
It's better to be a living dog than a dead lion = **9:4**
A little bird told me = **10:20**

Guess The Theme?!!

Life At Its Best Without God Is But "Vanity," "Vanities" (36 times)

1:2, 14; 7:6, 15;
2:1, 11, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 26; 8:10, 14;
3:19; 9:9;
4:4, 7, 8, 16; 11:8, 10;
5:7, 10; 12:8
6:2, 4, 9, 11;

Life Is Analyzed "Under the Sun" (28 times)

1:3, 9 14; 6:1, 12;
2:11, 17-20, 22; 8:9, 15, 17;
3:16; 9:3, 6, 9, 11, 13;
4:1, 3, 7, 15; 10:5
5:13, 18;

**God Is IN The Enjoyment Of Life!
(OR The Pause That Refreshes!!!)**

People should pause to thank God following what? Fill in the Blanks

Ecclesiastes:

2:24-26 _____

3:9-12 _____

5:18-20 _____

8:15 _____

9:7-10 _____

*THOSE WHO ACCEPT GOD'S BLESSINGS WITHOUT EVER THANKING
HIM AND OBEYING HIM, ARE LIVING JUST LIKE ANIMALS.
GOD MADE US BETTER THAN THAT
(Genesis 1:1-31; 2:7, 18-25), AND
HE EXPECTS OUR LIVES TO BE BETTER THAN JUST AN "ANIMAL"
EXISTENCE **(Romans 1:16-32)**.
FROM THE CROSS OF CHRIST, HE REACHES OUT TO THOSE WHO
HAVE STUMBLERD IN ORDER TO HELP THEM LIVE A NEW
LIFE **(Romans 6:1-14)**.
THEY MUST OBEY HIM **(Matthew 7:21-27)**.*