



A STUDY OF ECCLESIASTES

#1 All Is Vanity!

Ecclesiastes 1:1 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. ² Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

³What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:12 I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹⁴ I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.

THE AUTHOR: _____ DATE OF WRITING: circa _____

THE THEME: Apart from acknowledging the reality of _____, human existence will ultimately prove to be futile and _____.

**The Humanistic Worldview Will Ultimately Lead To _____;
But The Theistic Worldview That Acknowledges God
Offers Humans The Real Possibility Of A Life Of Joy And _____!**

THE PURPOSE: To promote a robust theistic worldview, in which God is acknowledged, _____, trusted, and enjoyed.

THE QUESTION: “Are you willing to admit that the inevitable result of your secular worldview is _____? And can you really live with that existential _____?”

KEY WORDS AND PHRASES:

Vanity – “breath, wind, vapor.” Empty, hollow, _____.

Ecclesiastes 1:14 I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.

Striving after wind – a metaphor for effort that proves to be _____.

Ecclesiastes 2:11 Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

Under the sun – the earth-bound perspective; life viewed on a purely _____ plane, apart from acknowledgement of God.

Ecclesiastes 2:17 So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind.

Toil – mankind’s labor and wearisome efforts to be _____.

Ecclesiastes 1:3 What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?

God has given – an acknowledging of the _____ of God.

Ecclesiastes 5:18 Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. ¹⁹Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God.

Fear God – a call to have _____ for One greater than us.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

THE FLOW OF ECCLESIASTES:

Life “under the sun” is ultimately pointless → Everything under the sun fails to ultimately satisfy the deepest desires of the human soul → God must be acknowledged for there to be any point to our “under the sun” existence → Life under the sun is _____ and its realities can be brutal → God should rightly be acknowledged and revered for Who He is → Injustice and poverty are realities in this life, but _____ brings its own set of problems → To obtain wisdom is better than being a _____, but merely human wisdom has its limits → Living in submission to authority is wise, but incomprehensible injustices will still occur in this world → All will experience death, whether wise or foolish, but there is joy in this life for the one who acknowledges God → Wisdom is better than folly, but foolishness can be found everywhere → Do what you know to do, and leave the outcome to _____ → Remember your Creator while you are _____, before old age overtakes you and it is too late to live for Him → Fear God, keep His commandments, and remember that a final _____ is coming.

INSIGHTS:

- A. If a man who had everything investigated everything under the sun and found nothing of lasting value, then the one thing he needed most must have been _____.
- B. Jesus THE SON offers His redeemed followers an “abundant life”— full of joy; free from an empty, futile, pointless existence.
John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it _____.



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