



A STUDY OF ECCLESIASTES

#3 Let the Quest Begin!

Ecclesiastes 1:16-2:26

THE QUEST

1. Sharpening His Skills Of **DISCERNMENT**

Ecclesiastes 1:16 *I said in my heart, “I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me, and my heart has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge.”¹⁷ And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind.¹⁸ For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.*

2. Enjoying Lighthearted **SILLINESS**

Ecclesiastes 2:1 *I said in my heart, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself.” But behold, this also was vanity.² I said of laughter, “It is mad,” and of pleasure, “What use is it?”*

3. Cheering Himself Up With **ALCOHOL**

Ecclesiastes 2:3 *I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine—my heart still guiding me with wisdom—and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life.*

4. Engaging In Massive **BUILDING** Projects

Ecclesiastes 2:4 *I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself.⁵ I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees.⁶ I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees.*

5. Acquiring **SERVANTS** And Possessions

Ecclesiastes 2:7 *I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house. I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem.*

6. Amassing A Fortune In **PRECIOUS METALS**

Ecclesiastes 2:8 *I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces.*

7. Indulging In Entertainment And **SEXUAL** Escapades

Ecclesiastes 2:8 *I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines, the delight of the children of man.*

8. Achieving Unmatched Notoriety And **FAME**

Ecclesiastes 2:9 *So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me.*

9. Abandoning Himself To Unrestrained **PLEASURE-SEEKING**

Ecclesiastes 2:10 *And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil.*

Reflections – “**LIFE STINKS!**”

Life Stinks! because all my experiences left me **EMPTY** and life still seemed pointless – 2:11

Life Stinks! because while gaining wisdom is certainly better than being foolish, the same **FATE** awaits everyone... all will **DIE** in the end - 2:12-17

Life Stinks! because it’s uncertain how well the generation that follows will manage what they **INHERIT** - 2:18-21

Life Stinks! because it’s full of frustrating toil at work during the **DAY** and agitation and restlessness at **NIGHT** – 2:22-23

SHIFT BACK TO THEISM... “Enter God!”

Ecclesiastes 2:24 *There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God,²⁵ for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment?²⁶ For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also (indeed) is vanity and a striving after wind.*

Sermon in a Sentence

God is alive and He is GOOD, and you can truly grow to love and enjoy life if you will learn to see it— all of it—as a GIFT from His gracious hand.

JESUS, THE TRUE AND GREATER SOLOMON...

Matthew 12:42 *The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon’s wisdom, and now One greater than Solomon is here.*