



Ecclesiastes – 12 chapters

Title:

Ecclesiastes- from Greek title meaning, leader of the assembly
Hebrew: Qoheleth- “leader of the assembly”, teacher, preacher

Author:

Much of the book is possibly attributed to Solomon though many deny Solomon is the author. There seems to be two voices in Ecclesiastes, with 12:9-14 written by a later editor.

Occasion and Purpose:

Possibly an autobiographical record of a ruler disillusioned with life. Possibly the record of this ruler’s internal struggle between despair and hope. Possibly using this ruler’s recollections as an ironic tool to critique a purely secular worldview.

Themes:

1. Vanity (under the sun)
2. Find Joy
3. Fear God

Summary:

A book of wisdom written by a man who had experienced all of life's pleasures, learned all the knowledge of the day, and thought through philosophy and wisdom. With all this experience, he concluded that all these things are worthless and it is more important to enjoy life. His final conclusion is that serving God is the most important thing.

Organization:

Introduction	All is vanity The World does not change There is nothing new under the sun	1:1-11
Body	The Royal Experiment – 1:12-2:26	1:12-12:7
	A Time for everything – 3:1-15	
	A Parade of meaninglessness – 3:16-4:16	
	Stand in awe of God – 5:1-7	
	Riches are meaningless – 5:8-6:12	
	Wisdom is good – 7:1-8:1	
	Obey the King – 8:2-17	
	All have the same fate – 9:1-12	
	Wisdom is better than folly – 9:13-10:20	
	Lack of knowledge/risk – 11:1-6	
Remember your creator – 11:7-12:8		
Conclusion	An Evaluation of the Teacher The Conclusion of the matter	12:9-14

Key Verses:

1:1-11; 2:17; “This too is meaningless”; 5:1-7; 12:9-14