

Ecclesiastes

Part 1

Ecclesiastes 1 – Everything is meaningless

¹ The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:² “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”

³ What do people gain from all their labours at which they toil under the sun?

⁴ Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever.

⁵ The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises.

⁶ The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course.

⁷ All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full.

To the place the streams come from, there they return again.

⁸ All things are wearisome, more than one can say.

The eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing.

⁹ What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.

¹⁰ Is there anything of which one can say, “Look! This is something new”? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time.

¹¹ No one remembers the former generations, and even those yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow them.

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind! ¹⁴ I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind. ¹⁵ What is crooked cannot be straightened; what is lacking cannot be counted. ¹⁶ I said to myself, “Look, I have increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge.” ¹⁷ Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind. ¹⁸ For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief.

1. What is the big question of this passage? verses 1-3
2. What is the point being made here? verse 4
3. Read verses 5-8. How is the repetition of the world wearisome?
4. Look at verse 8b. Explain please.
5. What are some example of verse 9 being true?
6. After studying and searching all things what conclusion does Solomon come to in verses 12-14?
7. What does verse 15 mean and what would be an example?
8. What is his point in verse 18 and do you think this is true?