

Ecclesiastes Outline

Introduction: Ecclesiastes is possibly the strangest book in the Bible. Questioning the meaning of existence to the point of even questioning wisdom itself, this book pokes holes in every attempt to fix meaning in anything transitory. Often experienced as gloomy, dark, and even irreligious, Ecclesiastes is in reality a vibrant hymn to faith in God being in simple living and a sharp attack on every attempt to try to say or claim more from life than this.

- Chapter 1: Vanity, vanity- all is vanity (emptiness/futility); nothing new under the sun;
Even the futility of wisdom itself!
- Chapter 2: The vanity of every pursuit; the exaltation of simple living and just being
- Chapter 3: To everything a season and the importance of living in season
- Chapter 4: The four oppressions of life (actually speaking up for the pain of being an
An oppressor!)
- Chapter 5: Vanity theme con't; lovers of money will not be satisfied by money; again
The exaltation of simple living above all else
- Chapter 6: Give gives wealth, but doesn't always give the gift of enjoying that wealth
- Chapter 7: Comparisons: better to mourn than to rejoice, better the end than the beginning
- Chapter 8: Questions the conventional wisdom: the righteous and unrighteous often treated
The same
- Chapter 9: Full exaltation of simple living in the face of all this vanity
- Chapter 10: The proverbs of Ecclesiastes
- Chapter 11: Send/cast your bread upon the waters; diversify wealth
- Chapter 12: Sayings of the wise like goads and is limited- beware of anything else

Stories to know: "Vanity, vanity, all is vanity!" and "There is nothing new under the sun (1: 1-11); To everything a season (3:1-8); The signal importance of simple enjoyment of just being alive (9:1-10)