

Ecclesiastes Bible Study Week 1

Chapters 1 and 2

What do you know about the book of Ecclesiastes?

- Who is supposed to have written it?
- Do you know anything about when the book was supposedly written?
- Have you ever heard of Qohelet?

Let's start by reading the introduction to the book in 1:1-11

- Look at verse 2: How does your bible translate the term "*hebel*?" (vanity/absurdity)
- What is the tone of this passage?
- How does the passage perceive the course of human history and/or the passage of time?
- What do you think Qohelet means by "there is nothing new under the sun?"

Next, let's look at verses 1:12-18

- What do you think about verse 13? Are you surprised by someone in the Bible saying this?
- Why do you think Qohelet is making these claims about his wisdom and knowledge? Why might that be important to the reader?
- What do you think Qohelet means by "chasing after wind?"
- Is Qohelet struggling with their faith? Why or why not?

Read Chapter 2:1-11 next

- What do you think about Qohelet's quest for pleasure, as laid out in these verses?
- How do we continue to pursue meaning in pleasure and material gain today?
- What do you think about Qohelet's conclusion about his quest for pleasure in verse 11?

Read Chapter 2:12-26

- What do you think about Qohelet's quest for wisdom in verses 12-14? Are you surprised by his conclusion in verse 15?
- Is the quest for wisdom no more benefit to humans than the quest for pleasure? Why do both of these quests fail, in Qohelet's eyes? **What is the thing that ultimately happens to all of us in the end?**
- What do you think about verses 18-23? Does this ring true to you?
- What do you think about verses 24-26? Is this telling us to seize the day, or something else?

Does Qohelet see any advantage or profit or gain at all in being wise, or foolish, or wealthy, or having many things?

If someone who has wisdom and wealth thinks all things are absurd, where do we find any hope or comfort in life?

Are you shocked at all by the things Qohelet says? Do views like this have a place in Christianity?