

Sunday, August 30, 2026

August Theme: The Kingdom in Worship

Message Title: “The Vanity of Earthly Kingdoms - An Eternity Perspective”

Main Text: Ecclesiastes 12:13–14 (KJV)

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”

Supporting Scriptures:

- **Ecclesiastes 1:2** “Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.”
- **Matthew 6:19–21** “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth...”
- **Mark 8:36** “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”
- **Colossians 3:1–2** “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”
- **Revelation 11:15** “The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ...”

Sermon Theme Statement:

Earthly kingdoms rise and fall, human achievements fade, and worldly pursuits are temporary; but the Kingdom of God remains forever. Therefore, true wisdom is living with eternity in view by fearing God, obeying His Word, and preparing for His eternal judgment.

Introduction: When the Temporary Meets the Eternal

Throughout human history, kingdoms have risen with great power, wealth, influence, and glory. Kings have built magnificent palaces, nations have conquered territories, and civilizations have celebrated their accomplishments. Yet the testimony of Scripture reveals a consistent truth: **everything under the sun is temporary unless it is connected to the eternal purposes of God.**

The Preacher of Ecclesiastes, traditionally understood as Solomon, was a man who experienced earthly greatness beyond imagination. He possessed wisdom, wealth, power, influence, and pleasure. Yet after examining life “under the sun,” he discovered that without God, even the greatest human accomplishments are empty.

Solomon declares:

“I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.”

Ecclesiastes 1:14 (KJV)

The question Ecclesiastes forces every generation to answer is:

Are we building for time, or are we living for eternity?

The Kingdom of God calls us to shift our perspective from temporary success to eternal significance.

Alliterative Structural Homiletics

“The Vanity of Earthly Kingdoms - An Eternity Perspective”

1. The Reality of Earthly Kingdoms - They Are Passing

(Understanding the temporary nature of human achievements)

Ecclesiastes 3:14

“I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever...”

Solomon examines everything humanity pursues:

- Wealth
- Fame
- Pleasure
- Knowledge
- Labour
- Recognition
- Political power

Yet he discovers that these things cannot satisfy the deepest hunger of the human soul.

A. Earthly Possessions Are Temporary

Ecclesiastes 5:15

“As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return...”

No person leaves this world carrying earthly possessions.

The kingdoms of men eventually disappear:

- Babylon fell.
- Persia fell.
- Greece fell.
- Rome fell.
- Modern powers rise and decline.

But God's Kingdom remains.

Daniel 2:44

“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed...”

Illustration:

A person may spend their entire life building a sandcastle on the beach, but when the tide comes, the waves reveal what was temporary. Earthly achievements without God are like sandcastles before eternity.

Kingdom Question:

What am I building that will still matter when earthly life is finished?

2. The Response of Eternal Wisdom - Fear God

(Living with reverence before the King)

After searching through every earthly pursuit, Solomon reaches his conclusion:

“Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”

Ecclesiastes 12:13

The answer to life's emptiness is not more possessions, more achievements, or more recognition.

The answer is **relationship with God**.

What Does It Mean to Fear God?

The fear of the LORD is not terror but:

- Reverence
- Worship
- Submission
- Honour
- Obedience

Proverbs 9:10

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom...”

A person can have worldly knowledge but lack eternal wisdom.

True wisdom begins when humanity recognizes:

God is Creator.

God is King.

God is Judge.

God is worthy.

Jesus and Eternal Perspective

Jesus warned:

Luke 12:15

“Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”

The world measures people by:

- What they own
- What they achieve
- Who knows their name

God measures people by:

- Faithfulness
- Obedience
- Love
- Eternal fruit

Kingdom Principle:

The greatest achievement on earth is not becoming famous before people but being faithful before God.

3. The Responsibility of Eternal Living - Prepare for Judgment

(Every life will answer before the Eternal King)

Ecclesiastes ends with a sobering truth:

“For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing...”

Ecclesiastes 12:14

Earthly kingdoms may escape human judgment, but nobody escapes God's judgment.

A. God Sees What Humans Cannot See

Hebrews 4:13

“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight...”

God sees:

- Hidden motives
- Secret decisions
- Private actions
- The condition of the heart

B. God Will Reward Eternal Faithfulness

2 Corinthians 5:10

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ...”

The believer does not live carelessly because eternity is real.

We live:

- With purpose
- With holiness
- With urgency
- With worship

C. Christ Is the Eternal Kingdom

Every earthly kingdom points toward the coming reign of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 19:16

“KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

The kingdoms of this world are temporary.

The Kingdom of Christ is eternal.

Conclusion: Living Above Vanity and Worshipping the Eternal King

Ecclesiastes does not teach that life has no meaning. It teaches that life without God has no lasting meaning.

The Preacher begins by saying:

“Vanity of vanities; all is vanity.”

But he ends with hope:

“Fear God, and keep his commandments.”

The message of eternity is clear:

- Do not worship what fades.
- Do not build what cannot last.
- Do not chase what cannot satisfy.

Instead:

- Worship the Eternal King.
- Seek His Kingdom.
- Obey His Word.
- Live for His glory.

Earthly kingdoms have an expiration date, but God's Kingdom has an eternal destiny.

Final Call to Commitment

Today every person must examine their foundation:

Are you building your life on:

- Temporary success?
- Human approval?
- Material wealth?
- Personal achievement?

Or are you building upon:

- Jesus Christ?
- The Word of God?
- The eternal Kingdom?

Matthew 6:33

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

You cannot secure eternity by earthly achievements.

You can only enter eternity through surrender to the Eternal King, Jesus Christ.

7 Prayer Points with Scripture References

1. Prayer for Eternal Perspective

Lord, remove every distraction that causes me to focus only on temporary things. Teach me to live with eternity in view.

Colossians 3:2

“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”

2. Prayer for the Fear of the LORD

Father, place within me a holy reverence that produces obedience and wisdom.

Proverbs 1:7

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge...”

3. Prayer for Freedom from Worldly Vanity

Lord, deliver me from chasing possessions, recognition, and success without Your purpose.

Mark 8:36

“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”

4. Prayer for Kingdom Priorities

Lord Jesus, help me seek Your Kingdom above all earthly pursuits.

Matthew 6:33

5. Prayer for Faithfulness Before God

Father, help me live a life that will stand approved before Your judgment seat.

2 Corinthians 5:10

6. Prayer for Christ's Eternal Reign

Lord, establish Your Kingdom in my heart, my family, and Your Church.

Revelation 11:15

7. Prayer of Consecration

Lord, I surrender my ambitions, plans, and future to You. Let my life bring eternal glory to Your name.

Romans 12:1

“Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God...”

Memory Verse:

Ecclesiastes 12:13 (KJV)

“Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”

Kingdom Declaration:

“I will not be consumed by temporary kingdoms; I will live for the Eternal King whose Kingdom shall never end.”