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# Ecclesiastes

LIFE IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY





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LIFE IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY

**Chasing Meaning in  
A Crooked World**  
Ecclesiastes 1:1-12 - 2:11



# Ecclesiastes: Living Life in Light of Eternity

Scroll:- c. 935 B.C.

by [King Solomon](#) (Author)

5.0  75,243 ratings

Goodreads choice

Award winner

Winner of the 935 B.C. 🏆 “Most Likely to Ruin Your Illusions (in the Best Way)” Award

•*Ecclesiastes is not the kind of book you curl up with expecting inspiration in the usual sense. It doesn't flatter the reader, doesn't rush to tidy conclusions, and doesn't pretend life is simpler than it is. Instead, it feels like standing on the banks of the Nile at dusk—watching the water flow endlessly past, ancient and unmoved by your ambitions.*

*What makes Ecclesiastes compelling is not its pessimism, but its mercy. It refuses to let us pretend that productivity equals meaning or that success guarantees joy. It exposes the thinness of our illusions so that something truer might emerge. Ecclesiastes is grace disguised as winter.*

•*If you're willing to let Ecclesiastes unsettle you, it may also quietly reorient you—away from control, and toward reverence, humility, and joy received rather than achieved. Recommended for anyone tired of slogans, suspicious of easy optimism, and ready to listen to wisdom that flows as deep and relentless as the Nile itself.*



## Ecclesiastes 1:1-12 - 2:11

**12 I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. 13 And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. 14 I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind. 15 What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be counted. 16 I said in my heart, I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me, and my heart has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge. 17 And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind. 18 For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.**



## **Ecclesiastes 1:1-12 - 2:11**

**I said in my heart, Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself. But behold, this also was vanity. 2 I said of laughter, It is mad, and of pleasure, What use is it? 3 I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine—my heart still guiding me with wisdom—and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life. 4 I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself. 5 I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. 6 I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees. 7 I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house. I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem. 8 I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines, the delight of the children of man.**



## **Ecclesiastes 1:1-12 - 2:11**

**9 So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. 10 And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. 11 Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.**



# ECCLESIASTES

## LIFE IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY

FOCUS	THEESIS: “ALL IS VANITY”	PROOF: “LIFE IS VAIN”	COUNSEL: “FEAR GOD”
REFERENCE	1:1	1:12	7:1 12:14
TOPIC	ILLUSTRATIONS OF VANITY	PROOF FROM EXPERIENCE	
	DECLARATION OF VANITY	DEMONSTRATION OF VANITY	FROM VANITY
LOCATION	UNIVERSE: “UNDER THE SUN”		
TIME	c. 935 B.C		



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# The Question That Haunts Us

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

## Thesis

2 **Vanity of vanities**, says the Preacher, **vanity of vanities! All is vanity.**

3 What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?

## Hevel



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# Chasing Meaning in a Crooked World

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

I. **Wisdom:** The Idol of Understanding (1:12–18)

II. **Pleasure:** The Idol of Comfort (2:1–3)

III. **Achievement:** The Idol of Control (2:4–11)



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An idol is taking a bad thing or a good thing and making it the ultimate thing in your life.

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# Chasing Meaning in a Crooked World

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

## I. **Wisdom:** The Idol of Understanding (1:12–18)

*If I can understand life, I can master it.*

**Wisdom becomes an identity, Knowledge becomes security,  
Insight becomes salvation**



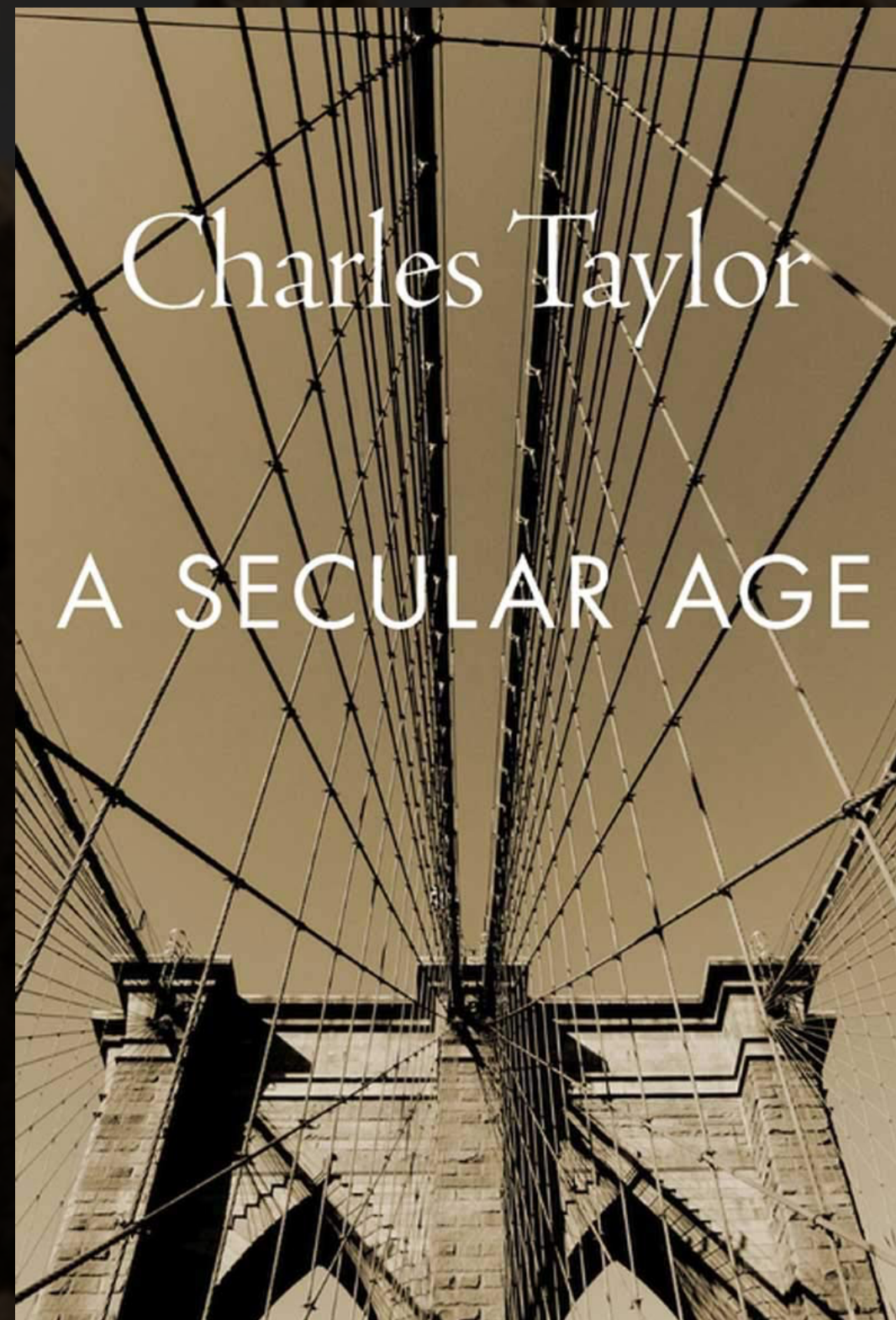
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# Chasing Meaning in a Crooked World

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

## I. **Wisdom:** The Idol of Understanding (1:12–18)

Understanding  
life can clarify  
reality—but it  
cannot master it.





# Chasing Meaning in a Crooked World

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

## I. **Wisdom:** The Idol of Understanding (1:12–18)

### APPLICATION:

- *What am I trying to think my way out of?*
- *Where has clarity increased sorrow rather than peace?*
- *What weight am I asking wisdom to carry that only God can bear?*

*The problem is not thinking deeply—  
it's expecting knowledge to deliver peace.*



# Chasing Meaning in a Crooked World

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

## II. **Pleasure:** The Idol of Comfort (2:1–3)

I said in my heart, Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself. But behold, this also was vanity. 2 I said of laughter, It is mad, and of pleasure, What use is it? 3 I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine—my heart still guiding me with wisdom—and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life.



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**Pleasure becomes an Idol of Comfort when it fools you into thinking it's the ultimate solution for our discontent lives.**

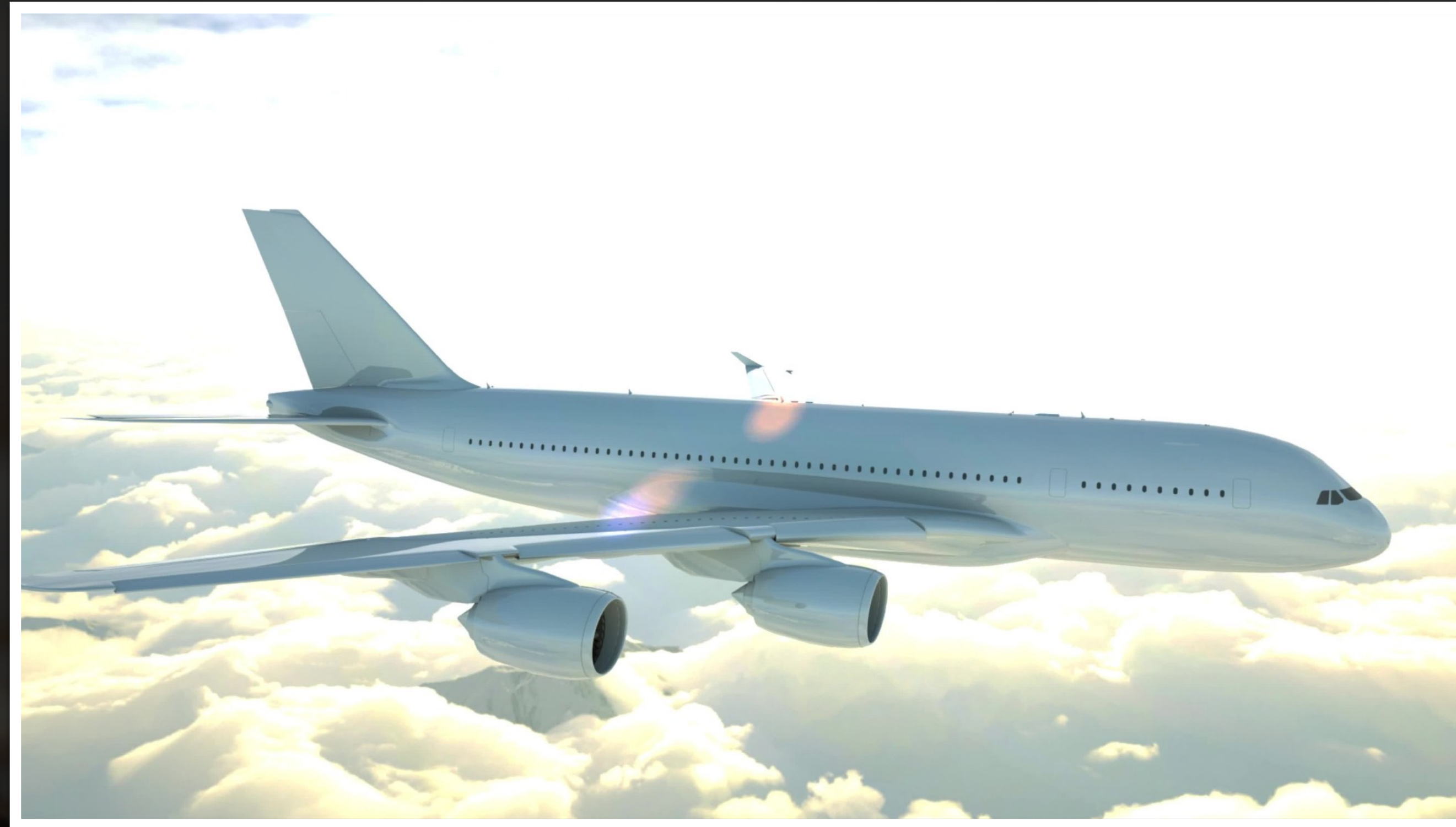


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Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

## II. **Pleasure:** The Idol of Comfort (2:1–3)

### APPLICATION

- *What comforts me most when I'm tired or disappointed?*
- *What pleasure am I counting on to fix what it can only distract from?*
- *What am I chasing that keeps promising joy “just a little further down the road”?*



# Chasing Meaning in a Crooked World

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

## III. **Achievement:** The Idol of Control (2:4–11)

4 I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself. 5 I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. 6 I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees. 7 I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house. I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem.

**Projects, Possessions, Productivity**



# Chasing Meaning in a Crooked World

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

## III. **Achievement:** The Idol of Control (2:4–11)

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**Diagnosis:**

**Success can amplify emptiness as easily as it masks it.**

**Just depends where you are on that road.**

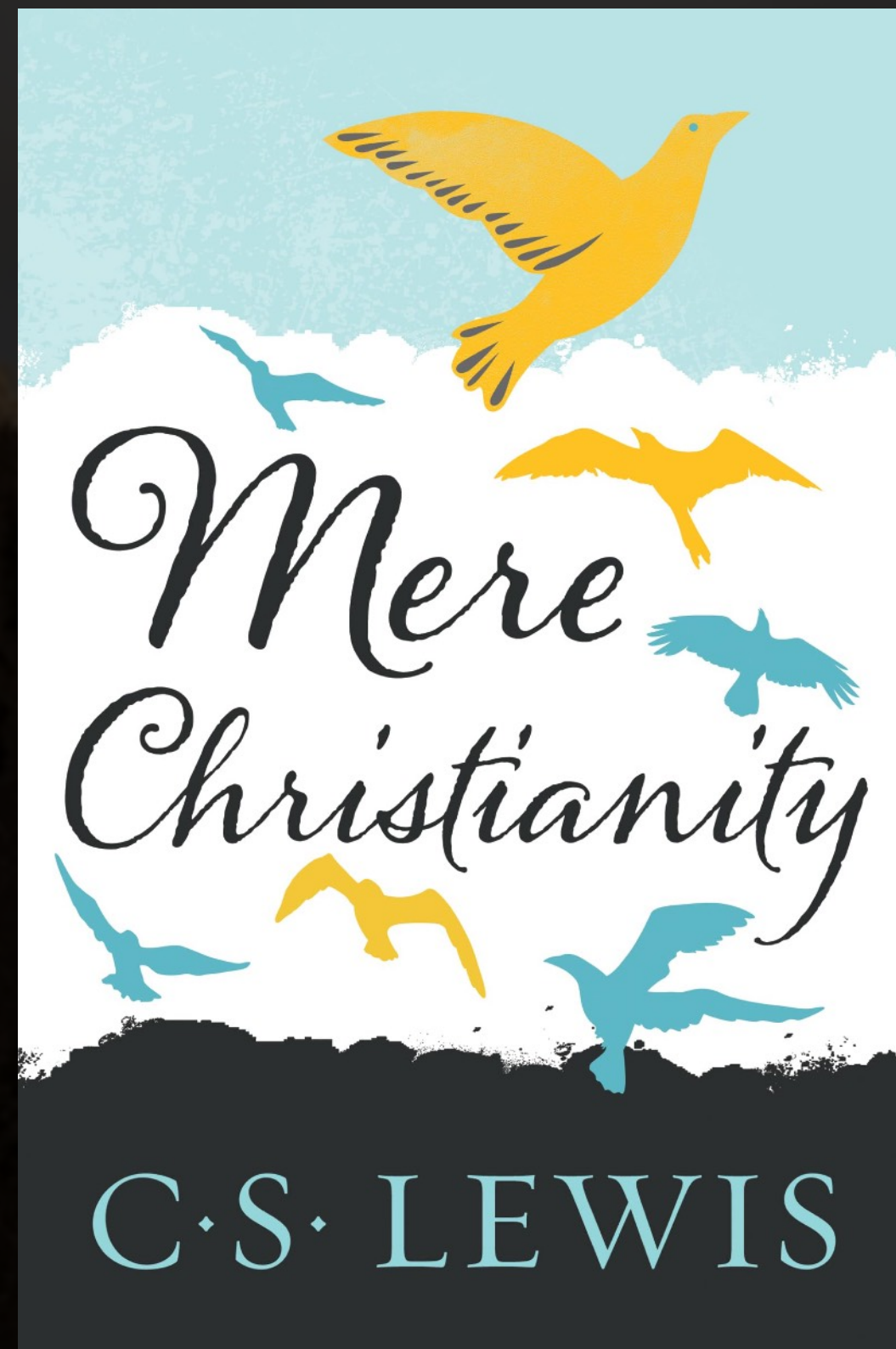


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Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

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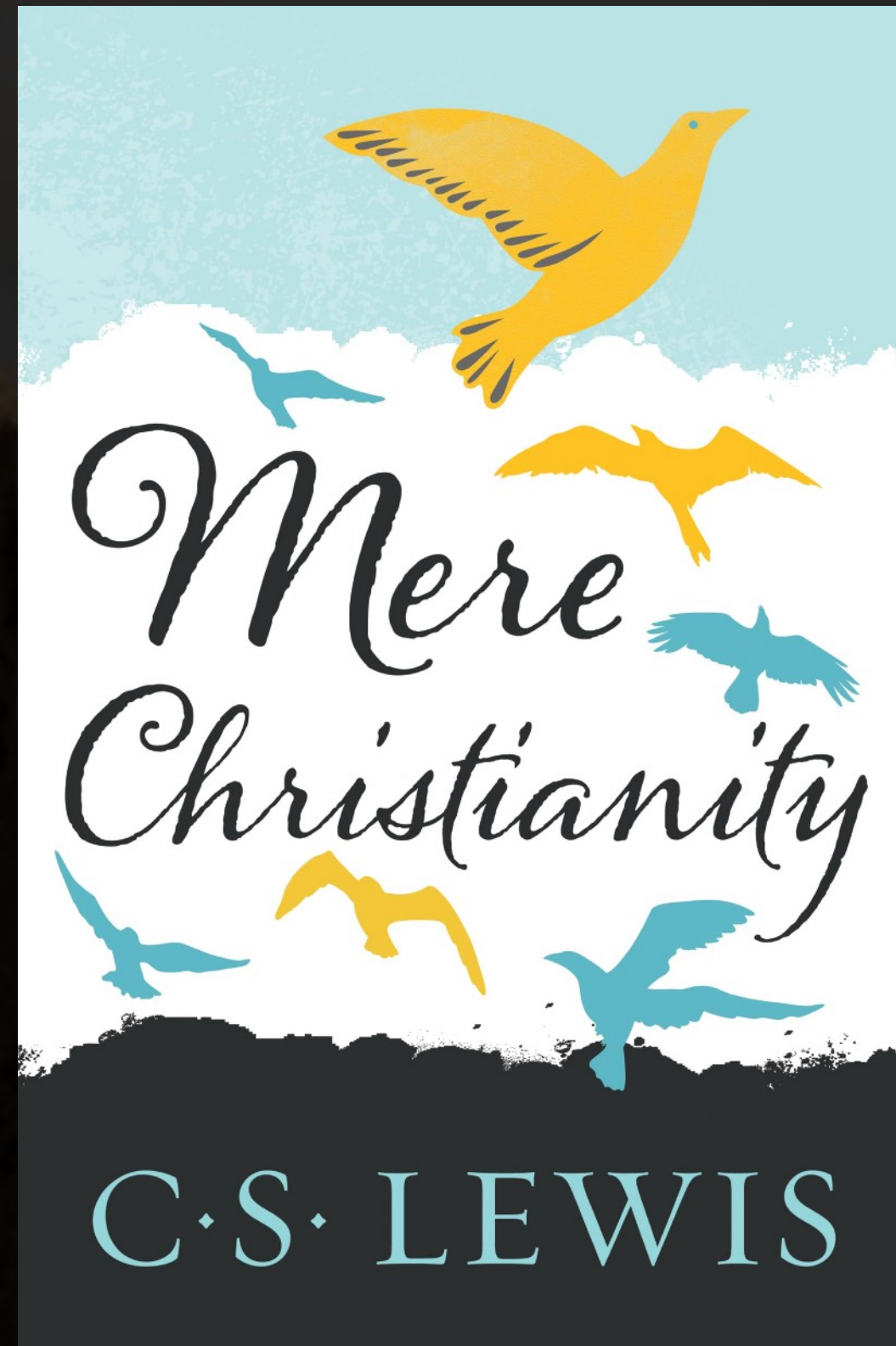
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Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

## III. **Achievement:** The Idol of Control (2:4–11)

“If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that *I was made for another world* [something supernatural and eternal].”





# Chasing Meaning in a Crooked World

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

## III. **Achievement:** The Idol of Control (2:4–11)

### APPLICATION

- What are you currently using your achievements to prove about yourself—to God, to others, or to your own conscience?
- When your productivity slows or your success is threatened, what do you fear losing most—comfort, control, or worth?
- If everything you are striving to build were taken away, what would still tell you that you are loved and secure?



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