

Scripture:

Ecc 1:1-11 NLT –

[1] These are the words of the Teacher, King David's son, who ruled in Jerusalem.

[2] "Everything is meaningless," says the Teacher, "completely meaningless!"

[3] What do people get for all their hard work under the sun?

[4] Generations come and generations go, but the earth never changes.

[5] The sun rises and the sun sets, then hurries around to rise again.

[6] The wind blows south, and then turns north. Around and around it goes, blowing in circles.

[7] Rivers run into the sea, but the sea is never full. Then the water returns again to the rivers and flows out again to the sea.

[8] Everything is wearisome beyond description. No matter how much we see, we are never satisfied. No matter how much we hear, we are not content.

[9] History merely repeats itself. It has all been done before. Nothing under the sun is truly new.

[10] Sometimes people say, "Here is something new!" But actually it is old; nothing is ever truly new.

[11] We don't remember what happened in the past, and in future generations, no one will remember what we are doing now.

1Ch 28:5-6 NLT - [5] And from among my sons--for the LORD has given me many--he chose Solomon to succeed me on the throne of Israel and to rule over the LORD's kingdom. [6] He said to me, 'Your son Solomon will build my Temple and its courtyards, for I have chosen him as my son, and I will be his father.'

2Sa 12:24b-25 NLT - [24b] The LORD loved the child [25] and sent word through Nathan the prophet that they should name him Jedidiah (which means "beloved of the LORD"), as the LORD had commanded.

Psa 72:1-20 NLT –

[1] A psalm of Solomon. Give your love of justice to the king, O God, and righteousness to the king's son.

[2] Help him judge your people in the right way; let the poor always be treated fairly.

[3] May the mountains yield prosperity for all, and may the hills be fruitful.

[4] Help him to defend the poor, to rescue the children of the needy, and to crush their oppressors.

[5] May they fear you as long as the sun shines, as long as the moon remains in the sky. Yes, forever!

[6] May the king's rule be refreshing like spring rain on freshly cut grass, like the showers that water the earth.

[7] May all the godly flourish during his reign. May there be abundant prosperity until the moon is no more.

[8] May he reign from sea to sea, and from the Euphrates River to the ends of the earth.

[9] Desert nomads will bow before him; his enemies will fall before him in the dust.

[10] The western kings of Tarshish and other distant lands will bring him tribute. The eastern kings of Sheba and Seba will bring him gifts.

[11] All kings will bow before him, and all nations will serve him.

[12] He will rescue the poor when they cry to him; he will help the oppressed, who have no one to defend them.

[13] He feels pity for the weak and the needy, and he will rescue them.

[14] He will redeem them from oppression and violence, for their lives are precious to him.

[15] Long live the king! May the gold of Sheba be given to him. May the people always pray for him and bless him all day long.

[16] May there be abundant grain throughout the land, flourishing even on the hilltops. May the fruit trees flourish like the trees of Lebanon, and may the people thrive like grass in a field.

[17] May the king's name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun shines. May all nations be blessed through him and bring him praise.

[18] Praise the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does such wonderful things.

[19] Praise his glorious name forever! Let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and amen!

[20] (This ends the prayers of David son of Jesse.)

Fulfillment

In many ways this was fulfilled.

- God meets him in a dream, Solomon is asked to request something from the Lord, he asks for wisdom.
- He then provides fair judgment between prostitutes (not exactly high on the societal echelons)
- Silver was worthless
- They had peace on all sides
- He ruled all kingdoms
- All kings bowed down to him

In addition he...

- Wrote 3000 proverbs and 1005 songs
- Wrote books on botany and zoology
- Rebuilt cities
- Built the temple (after which God appeared to him a second time, like the first)
- Built a palace for himself and another for his wife

What went wrong? Sin

- Deu 17:14-20 NET - [14] When you come to the land the LORD your God is giving you and take it over and live in it and then say, "I will select a king like all the nations surrounding me," [15] you must select without fail a king whom the LORD your God chooses. From among your fellow citizens you must appoint a king - you may not designate a foreigner who is not one of your fellow Israelites. [16] Moreover, he must not accumulate horses for himself or allow the people to return to Egypt to do so, for the LORD has said you must never again return that way. [17] Furthermore, he must not marry many wives lest his affections turn aside, and he must not accumulate much silver and gold. [18] When he sits on his royal throne he must make a copy of this law on a scroll given to him by the Levitical priests. [19] It must be with him constantly and he must read it as long as he lives, so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and observe all the words of this law and these statutes and carry them out. [20] Then he will not exalt himself above his fellow citizens or turn from the commandments to the right or left, and he and his descendants will enjoy many years ruling over his kingdom in Israel.

- 1Ki 10:14, 21, 26-28 NET - [14] Solomon received 666 talents of gold per year, (about 1.25 billion/year)... [21] All of King Solomon's cups were made of gold, and all the household items in the Palace of the Lebanon Forest were made of pure gold. There were no silver items, for silver was not considered very valuable in Solomon's time. ... [26] Solomon accumulated chariots and horses. He had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horses. He kept them in assigned cities and in Jerusalem. [27] The king made silver as plentiful in Jerusalem as stones; cedar was as plentiful as sycamore fig trees are in the lowlands. [28] Solomon acquired his horses from Egypt and from Que; the king's traders purchased them from Que.

- 1Ki 11:1-10 NET - [1] King Solomon fell in love with many foreign women (besides Pharaoh's daughter), including Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites. [2] They came from nations about which the LORD had warned the Israelites, "You must not establish friendly relations with them! If you do, they will surely shift your allegiance to their gods." But Solomon was irresistibly attracted to them. (Yet Solomon insisted on loving them anyway NLT, fastened like with glue) [3] He had 700 royal wives and 300 concubines; his wives had a powerful influence over him. [4] When Solomon became old, his wives shifted his allegiance to other gods; he was not wholeheartedly devoted to the LORD his God, as his father David had been. [5] Solomon worshiped the Sidonian goddess Astarte and the detestable Ammonite god Milcom. [6] Solomon did evil in the LORD's sight; he did not remain loyal to the LORD, like his father David had. [7] Furthermore, on the hill east of Jerusalem Solomon built a high place for the detestable Moabite god Chemosh and for the detestable Ammonite god Milcom. [8] He built high places for all his foreign wives so they could burn incense and make sacrifices to their gods. [9] The LORD was angry with Solomon because he had shifted his allegiance away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him on two occasions [10] and had warned him about this very thing, so that he would not follow other gods. But he did not obey the LORD's command.

- If this is the smartest guy in the world, what chance do you and I have.

- One Chinese pastor, who spent 20 years of his life imprisoned for his faith, told a notable Bible teacher once, "I have seen many people have good beginnings, but few have good endings."

- After Solomon, things just kept getting worse
 - o Kingdom divided
 - o Idol worship
 - o Exile

Is there any Good News? There is! A New Thing!

- About 200 years after Solomon penned these words:
 - o Ecc 1:9 NLT - [9] History merely repeats itself. It has all been done before. Nothing under the sun is truly new.

- The prophet Isaiah wrote:

- Isa 43:19-21 NET - [19] "Look, I am about to do something new. Now it begins to happen! Do you not recognize it? Yes, I will make a road in the desert and paths in the wilderness. [20] The wild animals of the desert honor me, the jackals and ostriches, because I put water in the desert and streams in the wilderness, to quench the thirst of my chosen people, [21] the people whom I formed for myself, so they might praise me."
- Isaiah is writing this, in the power of the Holy Spirit, about the future release of the captives from the place of exile, but it's also about Jesus
- Isa 43:19-21 NET - [19] "Look, I am about to do something new. Now it begins to happen! Do you not recognize it? Yes, I will make a road in the desert and paths in the wilderness.
 - Jhn 14:6 NET - [6] Jesus replied, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- [20] The wild animals of the desert honor me, the jackals and ostriches, because I put water in the desert and streams in the wilderness, to quench the thirst of my chosen people, [21] the people whom I formed for myself, so they might praise me."
 - Jhn 7:37-39 NET - [37] On the last day of the feast, the greatest day, Jesus stood up and shouted out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me, and [38] let the one who believes in me drink. Just as the scripture says, 'From within him will flow rivers of living water.'" [39] (Now he said this about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were going to receive, for the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.)
 - Jhn 4:10-14, 34 NET - [10] Jesus answered her, "If you had known the gift of God and who it is who said to you, 'Give me some water to drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." [11] "Sir," the woman said to him, "you have no bucket and the well is deep; where then do you get this living water? [12] Surely you're not greater than our ancestor Jacob, are you? For he gave us this well and drank from it himself, along with his sons and his livestock." [13] Jesus replied, "Everyone who drinks some of this water will be thirsty again. [14] But whoever drinks some of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again, but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to eternal life." ... [34] Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to complete his work.

There is a way out of the cyclical hell of the first 11 verses of Ecclesiastes: Jesus is the Way, The Spirit is the one given to spring up and overflow from inside you to quench your thirst along the way, and the Father is the one who shares His work and will with you to sustain you along the way, from captivity and back to Himself.

Happy Father's Day! This is God's gift to you: Freedom from sin, from the endless pursuit of dead works, and ultimately from the depressed mindset that cannot set its eyes beyond the apparent meaninglessness of life to any semblance of hope. Like Solomon, he wants *you* as his child, to be his Beloved, and he has stopped at nothing to make a Way for you to be with him and for your end to be even better than your beginning.

Today is *His Father's Day* to convince us again that we don't need to be overcome by the despairing, ultimately apathetic, feeling resulting from the lie that history will always repeat itself and that our efforts are useless. Instead we need to get back on board with the truth that He broke history 2000 years ago, when the person of Jesus Christ came onto the scene, and in the face of the hopelessness born from our sin said:

- Luk 4:18-19 NET - [18] "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and the regaining of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, [19] to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."
- And followed it up with:
- Luk 4:21 NET - [21] Then he began to tell them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled even as you heard it being read."

...and we need to follow in Jesus' footsteps, in the attitude humility, with obedience, committing ourselves to making the Father's will our only work. Any other way and end is meaningless.

Three Responses

- Respond by repenting of sin
 - o Ecc 12:13 NET - [13] Having heard everything, I have reached this conclusion: Fear God and keep his commandments, because this is the whole duty of man.
 - o Jhn 15:10, 12 NET - [10] If you obey my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commandments and remain in his love.
 - o
- Respond by repenting of doing work...
 - o outside of the Lord's will
 - Mat 7:21-23 NET - [21] "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the kingdom of heaven - only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. [22] On that day, many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, and in your name cast out demons and do many powerful deeds?' [23] Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you. Go away from me, you lawbreakers!'
 - We cannot rely on our past successes going forward.
 - We cannot assume that work we are doing now, even if we and other's view it as God's work, is his will.
 - o and without love
 - [John 15:12] My commandment is this - to love one another just as I have loved you.
 - o Cease and desist. This is your 'stop work order', today.
- Respond by following Christ (even for the first time)
 - o "The most important step to take is the next one."

From Derek Prince: Your Walk with God

What If We Stumble?

Suppose that we stumble in our Christian walk—and even fall! Does that mean that we have failed and there is nothing we can do about it? Certainly not! Here are words of encouragement from King David: “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholds him with His hand” (Psalm 37:23–24).

David wrote these words from personal experience. He knew what it was to fall. At one period he committed adultery with the wife of a friend; and then, to cover his guilt, he procured the death of the man whose wife he had seduced. For a time he tried to keep his sin hidden, but God in His mercy brought it all out into the light through the ministry of the prophet Nathan. Through confession and repentance, David was finally forgiven and restored. (See 2 Samuel, chapters 11 and 12.)

The physical and emotional agony that David went through before he was willing to confess his sin is vividly described in Psalm 32:3–5:

When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer. I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Thank God for that last phrase, “You forgave!” Never let the devil persuade you that you have gone too far or that your sin is too grievous for God to forgive. Remember, the devil is “the accuser” of all Christians. (See Revelation 12:10.) His aim is to keep us feeling guilty, unworthy, defeated. But God has made provision for our full forgiveness and restoration.

God’s double provision for sin in the life of the believer is unfolded in 1 John 2:1: “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin.” This is the first part of the provision: “That you may not sin.” Through faith in God’s grace and power, it is possible for us to live free from the dominion of sin. (See Romans 6:1–14.) However, John continues: “And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” This is the second part of God’s provision: If we do commit sin, we need only turn in repentance and humility to our Advocate, Jesus Christ. He will take up our case with God the Father and obtain for us complete forgiveness and cleansing. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

Thus forgiven and cleansed, we can start out on our Christian walk once more without any lingering sense of guilt or unworthiness, being conscious not so much of our faith as of God’s faithfulness.

For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6 nasb

Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass. 1 Thessalonians 5:24 nasb