

AUG 14
2022

REALITY CHECK

Discovering life's meaning
in the book of Ecclesiastes
WEEK 2



Wrestling With Wisdom

Ecclesiastes 1:1-2 *Gathered to Gander*

¹ The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:

² “**Meaningless! Meaningless!**” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is **meaningless.**”

‘**Hevel**’: smoke, vapor; transitory, unsubstantial; enigma, paradox.

“*Vanity of Vanities!*” | “*Mere Breath!*” | “*Absurdity of Absurdities!*”

“Show me, Lord, my life’s end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is. You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure.

Surely everyone goes around like a mere phantom; in **vain** they rush about, heaping up wealth without knowing whose it will finally be. But now, Lord, what do I look for?”

Psalm 39:4-7

Ecclesiastes 1:3-18 *The Treadmill*

³ What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil **under the sun**? Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever. The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises. The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course. All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again. All things are wearisome, more than one can say. The eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing. What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which one can say, “Look! This is something new”? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time. No one remembers the former generations, and even those yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow them.

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind! I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind. What is crooked cannot be straightened; what is lacking cannot be counted.

¹⁶ I said to myself, “Look, I have increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge.” Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind. For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief.

For the creation was subjected to frustration not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

Romans 8:20-21

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

Matthew 11:28