

A person with short brown hair, wearing a blue jacket and red earbuds, is seen from behind, looking out over a vast, hazy mountain range under a bright sky. The person's jacket has a small logo on the back that says "THE NORTH FACE".

*the life
you've always wanted...?*

LIFE WISDOM FROM ECCLESIASTES

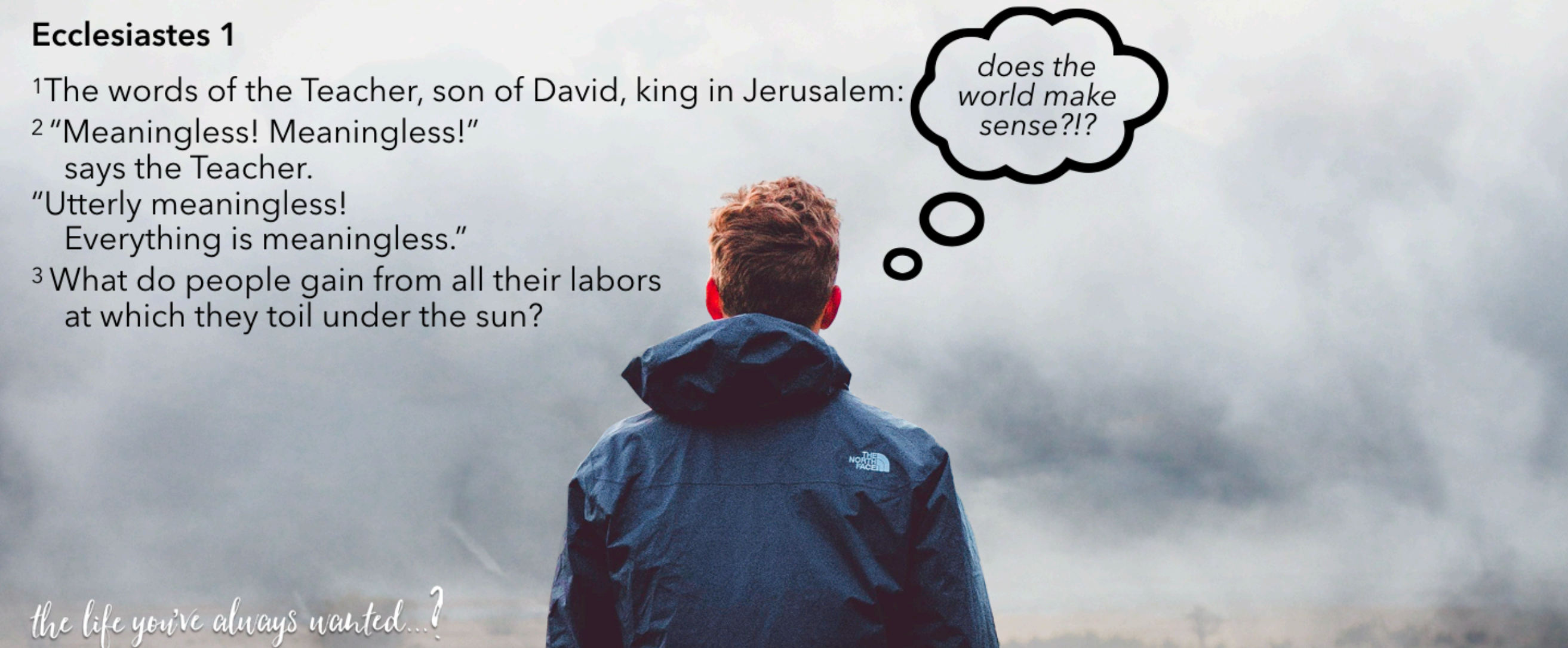
Ecclesiastes 1

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

²"Meaningless! Meaningless!"
says the Teacher.

"Utterly meaningless!
Everything is meaningless."

³What do people gain from all their labors
at which they toil under the sun?

A man with short brown hair, wearing a blue hooded jacket with 'THE NORTH FACE' logo on the back, is seen from behind, looking out at a vast, misty, and hazy landscape. A thought bubble is positioned above his head, containing the text 'does the world make sense?!?'. The background is a soft-focus view of a valley or plain under a grey, overcast sky.

*does the
world make
sense?!?*

the life you've always wanted...?

Ecclesiastes 2

¹ I said to myself, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good." But that also proved to be meaningless. ² "Laughter," I said, "is madness. And what does pleasure accomplish?" ³ I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly—my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was good for people to do under the heavens during the few days of their lives.



does the world make sense?!?

what is the point of pleasure?!?

the life you've always wanted...?

Ecclesiastes 2

⁴I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. ⁵I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. ⁶I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees.

does the world make sense?!?

what is the point of pleasure?!?

the life you've always wanted...?

Ecclesiastes 2

⁹ I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me.¹⁰ I denied myself nothing my eyes desired;

I refused my heart no pleasure.

My heart took delight in all my labor, and this was the reward for all my toil.

¹¹ Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done

and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

does the world make sense?!?

what is the point of pleasure?!?

does achievement have any meaning?

the life you've always wanted...?

Ecclesiastes 2

¹⁷ So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. ¹⁸ I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me.

does the world make sense?!?

what is the point of pleasure?!?

does achievement have any meaning?

the life you've always wanted...?

Ecclesiastes 2

¹⁹ And who knows whether that person will be wise or foolish? Yet they will have control over all the fruit of my toil into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless.

does the world make sense?!?

what is the point of pleasure?!?

does achievement have any meaning?

the life you've always wanted...?

Ecclesiastes 2

²⁰ So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun. ²¹ For a person may labor with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then they must leave all they own to another who has not toiled for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune. ²² What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving with which they labor under the sun?

does the world make sense?!?

what is the point of pleasure?!?

*what is the point of hard work?
does it even matter?!?*

does achievement have any meaning?

the life you've always wanted...?

What kind of deep questions
do you have?
Are you able to face them?

does the
world make
sense?!?

what is the
point of
pleasure?!?

what is the point
of hard work?
does it even
matter?!?

does
achievement
have any
meaning?

the life you've always wanted...?

Why are we studying this book?

If you're trying
to find out
what's really
true, or if
Christianity is
really true

If you have
friends who are
asking these big
questions

If you have
deep questions
about life as a
Christian

If you are
seeking wisdom
as to what a
good life is
supposed to
look like

the life you've always wanted...?

What is Ecclesiastes anyway?

Part of the wisdom literature (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon), which address the perplexing aspects of life and give us practical wisdom on how to live

Ecclesiastes comes from the Greek "ecclesia" (or civic gathering point) - its a book of instruction for the community

Comes from one who was "the teacher", or "the preacher/instructor"

the life you've always wanted...?

Is this the most depressed man ever?!?



the life you've always wanted...?

Is this the most depressed man ever?!?

Written by Solomon

Probably the most unlimited man in history: he had wisdom, intelligence, creativity, artistry, and unlimited money, resource and time to pursue anything and everything any person could or would ever want

Lives out a worldview of lack: "lack of abundance in life comes from a lack of _____"

Gives us an opportunity to "test drive" that worldview in the extreme

the life you've always wanted...?

Hevel

A Hebrew words used 37 times in this short book, which starts and ends with *hevel* (1.2, 12.8)

"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher.
"Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."

Ecclesiastes 1.2

"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher.
"Everything is meaningless."

Ecclesiastes 12.8

the life you've always wanted...?

Hevel

A Hebrew words used 37 times in this short book, which starts and ends with *hevel* (1.2, 12.8)
literally, smoke or vapor

"meaningless" is not a great translation; nor is "vanity"

1. fleeting or temporary - Psalm 144.4, Job 7.16, Eccl 11.10

2. futile or meaningless because it is illusory and vaporous

- Jeremiah 10 and Isaiah 57 - idols are *hevel*. They look real and promise something that seem real but when you try to grab it, it slips out of your hands
- In the same way, achievement, money and pleasure in this world are *hevel* (1.14, 2.1, 2.11, 5.10)

the life you've always wanted...?

So is Solomon concluding that life is *hevel* as a believer in God?!?



the life you've always wanted...?

So is Solomon concluding that life is *hevel* as a believer in God?!?

Wait til the next message on this :-)

"Under the sun" occurs 32 times

Ecclesiastes 1

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

²"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher.

"Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."


³What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil ***under the sun?***

the life you've always wanted...?

Psalm 121

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from?
2 My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.
3 He will not let your foot slip – he who watches over you will not slumber;
4 indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
5 The Lord watches over you – the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
6 the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.
7 The Lord will keep you from all harm – he will watch over your life;
8 the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.*

the life you've always wanted...?

A person with short brown hair, seen from behind, wearing a blue and grey jacket with 'THE NORTH FACE' logo on the back. They are looking out at a vast landscape of mountains and a valley under a blue sky with light clouds. The scene is bathed in soft, natural light.


I want to find out
more about
Christianity and
what's true - pray
"God show
yourself to me in
a way I'll
understand"

I have some
deep questions
about life and
struggles

I have been
running after
things that are
actually *hevel*

I need prayer for
my physical
health, my
family or
financial
struggles

the life you've always wanted...?

A person with short brown hair, seen from behind, wearing a blue and grey The North Face jacket. They are standing in a vast, open landscape with mountains in the distance under a bright, hazy sky. The scene is overlaid with four semi-transparent text boxes.

I want to find out
more about
Christianity and
what's true - pray
"God show
yourself to me in
a way I'll
understand"

I have some
deep questions
about life and
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