



The Prophetic and The Church

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 scene is captured in a cinematic style with soft lighting.

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

STOP STRIVING AFTER HEVEL

ECCLESIASTES

A person with short brown hair, wearing a blue hooded jacket, is seen from behind, looking out over a vast, misty landscape with mountains in the distance. The scene is atmospheric and somewhat somber.

Ecclesiastes 1

² "Meaningless! Meaningless!"
says the Teacher.

"Utterly meaningless!
Everything is meaningless."

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

Ecclesiastes 12

⁸ "Meaningless! Meaningless!"
says the Teacher.
Everything is meaningless."

written by
Solomon, the
most unlimited
man in history

who gets to test-
drive the deep
desires and
thinking of all
humans

HEVEL

A person with short brown hair, wearing a dark blue hooded jacket, is seen from behind, looking out over a vast, misty mountain range. The scene is atmospheric and somewhat somber, with soft, diffused light.

Ecclesiastes 1

² "Hevel! Hevel!"

says the Teacher.

"Utterly Hevel!

Everything is Hevel."

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

Ecclesiastes 12

⁸ "Hevel! Hevel!"

says the Teacher.

Everything is Hevel."

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

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)

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 **hevel**. ² "Laughter," I said, "is madness. And what does pleasure accomplish?" ³ I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly ... I wanted to see what was good for people to do under the heavens during the few days of their lives.

HEVEL



Striving after
better parties
is hevel



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.

HEVEL

Striving after
better parties
is hevel

Striving after
great
achievement
is hevel



Ecclesiastes 2

⁸I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well—the delights of a man's heart. ⁹I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me.

HEVEL

Striving after
better parties
is hevel

Striving after
great
achievement
is hevel

Striving after
the "perfect
relationship" is
hevel



Ecclesiastes 2

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 **hevel**, a chasing after the
wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

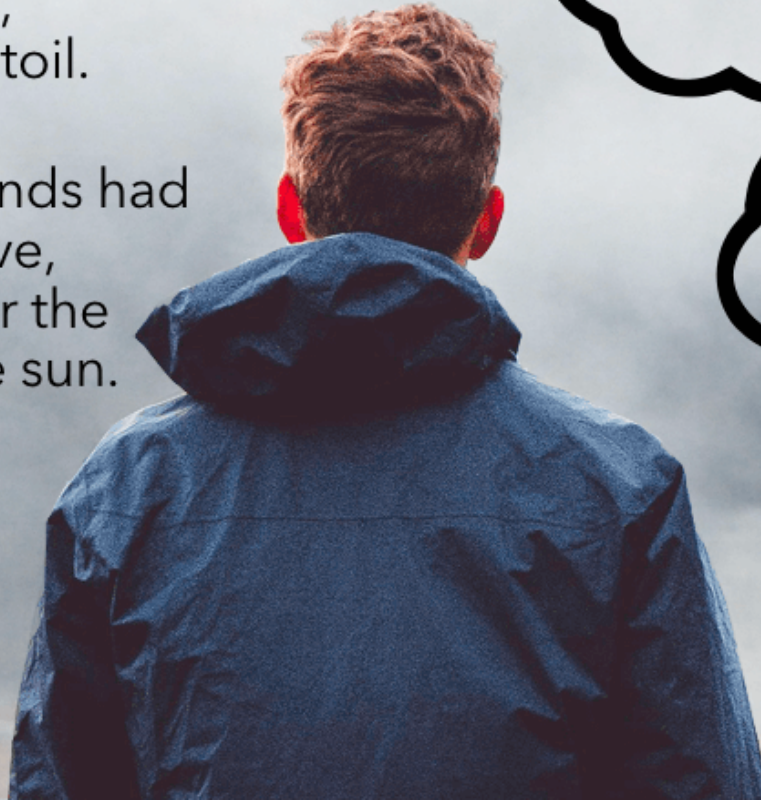
HEVEL

Striving after
better parties
is hevel

Striving after
great
achievement
is hevel

Striving after
the "perfect
relationship" is
hevel

Striving after
great pleasure
is hevel



Ecclesiastes 5

¹⁰ Whoever loves money never has enough;
whoever loves wealth is never satisfied
with their income.

This too is meaningless.

HEVEL

Striving after
better parties
is hevel

Striving after
great
achievement
is hevel

Striving after
the "perfect
relationship" is
hevel

Striving after
great pleasure
is hevel

Striving after
money is hevel

Ecclesiastes 5

¹¹ As goods increase,
so do those who consume them.
And what benefit are they to the owners
except to feast their eyes on them?

HEVEL

Striving after
better parties
is hevel

Striving after
great
achievement
is hevel

Striving after
the "perfect
relationship" is
hevel

Striving after
great pleasure
is hevel

Striving after
money is hevel

Striving after
lots of stuff is
hevel

What are you striving after?

What "more" are you thinking is going to make your life fulfilled?

What striving are you passing onto your children?

Striving after better parties is hevel


Striving after great achievement is hevel

Striving after the "perfect relationship" is hevel

Striving after great pleasure is hevel

Striving after money is hevel

Striving after lots of stuff is hevel



Striving after
the NBA
championship
is hevel

The 3rd Meaning of Hevel

unfair

[3] Incomprehensible, paradoxical or enigmatic.

- 8¹⁴ There is something else **hevel** that occurs on earth: the righteous who get what the wicked deserve, and the wicked who get what the righteous deserve. This too, I say, is **hevel**.
- "Life shouldn't be this way, but it is!"

The 3rd Meaning of Hevel

chance

unfair

[3] Incomprehensible, paradoxical or enigmatic.

- "life shouldn't be this way, but it is!"
- 9 ¹⁰ I have seen something else under the sun. ¹¹ I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all.
- ¹² Moreover, no one knows when their hour will come. As fish are caught in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare, so people are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them.

The 3rd Meaning of Hevel

chance

unfair

death

[3] Incomprehensible, paradoxical or enigmatic.

- "life shouldn't be this way, but it is!"
- 3¹⁹ Surely the fate of human beings is like that of the animals; the same fate awaits them both: As one dies, so dies the other. All have the same breath; humans have no advantage over animals. Everything is **hevel**.

The 3rd Meaning of Hevel

chance

unfair

death

[3] Incomprehensible, paradoxical or enigmatic.

- "Life shouldn't be this way, but it is!"
- Chance and death are things we cannot control. And they create a life that is **hevel**.
- These two factors make striving after hevel all the more hevel. Why strive after stuff that is **hevel** if chance and death can take them away, *just like that?*



Anthony Mele, 47



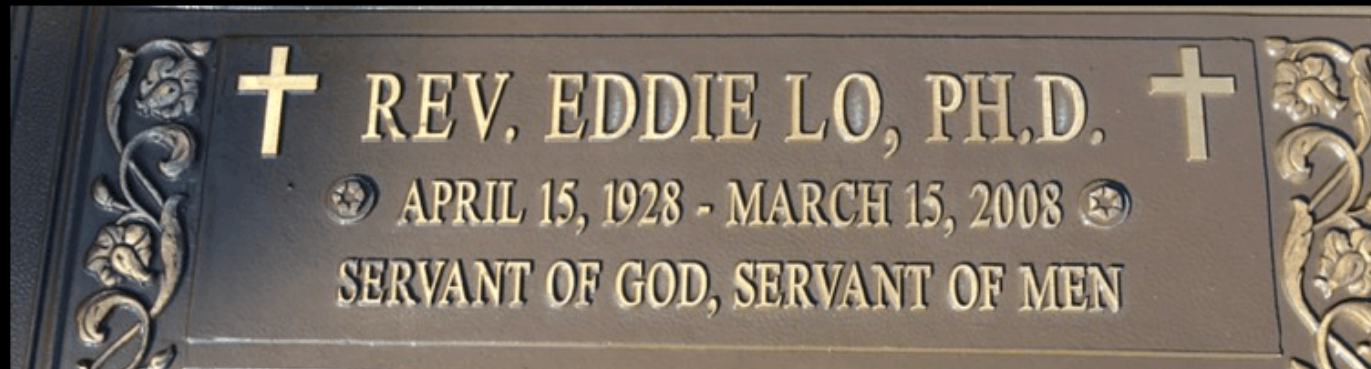
Rashon Nelson

Donte Robinson



Jennifer Riordan, 43

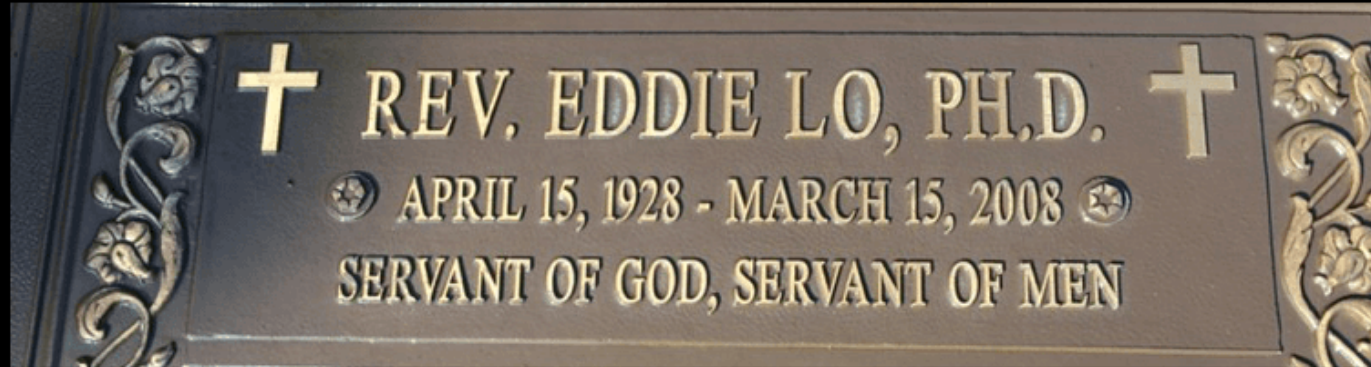




† REV. EDDIE LO, PH.D. †

☉ APRIL 15, 1928 - MARCH 15, 2008 ☉

SERVANT OF GOD, SERVANT OF MEN



your birth

your death

chance

level

unfair

death

*your life, today, is a gift
be that gift*