UNDER THE SUN

Destitute in Destiny | Part 1 | A Study in Ecclesiastes

Key Text: Ecclesiastes 1:1-14

"Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity." — Ecclesiastes 1:2 (KJV)

Solomon observes the ceaseless cycles of life and asks what lasting profit comes from human labor "under the sun" (vv. 3-11). His search for meaning apart from God leaves him describing life as "vanity and vexation of spirit" (vv. 12-14).

I. A Wise Man's Despair | Ecclesiastes 1:1-14

• The world keeps moving, yet its repetitive cycles cannot satisfy the human heart.
• Solomon gives his heart to searching out everything done under heaven (v. 13).
• Wisdom misdirected toward self-sought fulfillment becomes a source of frustration.
• His experience warns us that exercising our choices apart from God carries spiritual consequences.

II. A Wise Man's Beginning | 1 Kings 3:3-15, 28

• Solomon initially loved the LORD and desired to lead His people well (v. 3).
• Recognizing his limitations, he asked God for an understanding heart rather than riches or long life (vv. 7-12).
• God granted extraordinary wisdom, along with riches and honor (vv. 12-13).
• The lesson of his early devotion: worship should arise from conviction, not convenience.

III. A Wise Man's Drift | 1 Kings 11:1-4

• Solomon's departure was not presented as a sudden collapse, but a gradual turning of his heart.
• His attachment to many foreign wives drew him toward other gods, contrary to God's command.
• Great wisdom and outward accomplishments did not protect him from compromised affections.
• The one who had asked God for wisdom became an example of the folly of pursuing what God had forbidden.

The Central Lesson

God's wisdom is not given to us so that we can use it to search for fulfillment apart from Him. God gives us wisdom to live out His fulfillment.

Personal reflection: Am I seeking fulfillment "under the sun," or living in the purpose God has already given me?