

ECCLIESIASTES

All is Vanity

1 The words of the Preacher,¹ the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

2 Vanity² of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?

A generation goes, and a generation comes,

the earth remains forever.

15 What is crooked cannot be made straight and what is lacking cannot be counted.

16 I said in my heart, "I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were of Jerusalem before me, and my heart has great experience of wisdom and knowledge."

17 And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceive that this also is but a striving after wind.



CHAPTER 1: WORK-LABOUR

WORK = WORSHIP = OFFERING

THREE ASPECTS

1. The requirement of work is faithfulness
2. The reward of work is rest and fruitfulness
3. The result of work is God gets the glory and others get to eat your fruit

CHAPTER 1: 12-18

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. 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.

CHAPTER 1 WISDOM

ECCLESIASTICUS
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Scripture tells us that wisdom is better than gold!

As Christians, we can gain knowledge through the study of God's word.

"..the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere"

James 3:17

CHAPTER 1

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Job 28

CHAPTER 1

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Job 28: 1-11

Job is asserting that humans are able to discover the most fascinating and hidden things in this creation.



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Job 28: 12

Where would you direct someone to find wisdom if you were Job with no Bible as we have it today? You can't direct people to a location on earth where they can dig out or even buy wisdom and understanding. So where is it found?



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Job 28:20

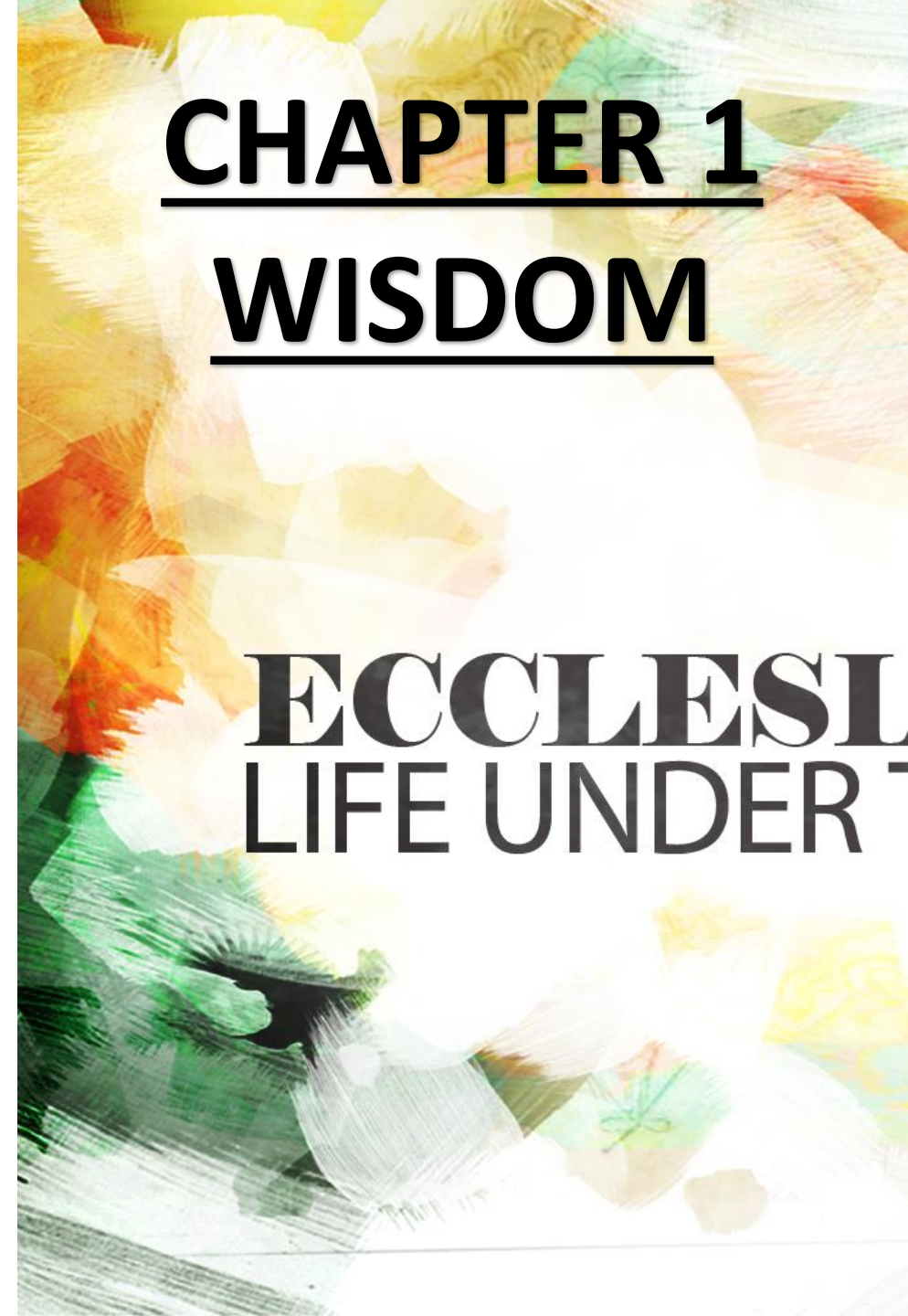
In verse 12, Job asked where wisdom can be found. Here in verse 20, he asks from where it comes.

CHAPTER 1

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Job 28:23-28

God alone has wisdom.

He knows wisdom's way and place.

He knows how to access it.

Why?

How can God know this when no one else does?



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Job 28:23-28

God sees the whole picture. He's not ignorant of anything. There's nothing he doesn't see.

God alone knows and perceives and sees everything. And therefore, he alone knows wisdom.



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Job 28:23-28

Job doesn't have this ability. He doesn't know what's going on. God's ways are confusing and making no sense to him.

God has wisdom – and Job feels like he himself is totally lacking it.



CHAPTER 1 **WISDOM**

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Job 28:23-28

As humans we can't find wisdom as we find other physical things. We need God to give it to us.



CHAPTER 1

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Job 28:23-28

You want wisdom?

Fear me.

You want understanding?

Turn from evil.

CHAPTER 1

WISDOM

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Job 28:23-28

Reality is bigger than Job's small view of how God works in the world. God is bigger than that. Reality is broader than any of our human minds can comprehend.



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GOD'S WISDOM

1. Wisdom that is from above teaches things the fallen human mind could never discover through reason or experimentation alone.
2. God's wisdom is sure and unchanging.
3. God's wisdom is pure and perfect.

CHAPTER 1 **WISDOM**

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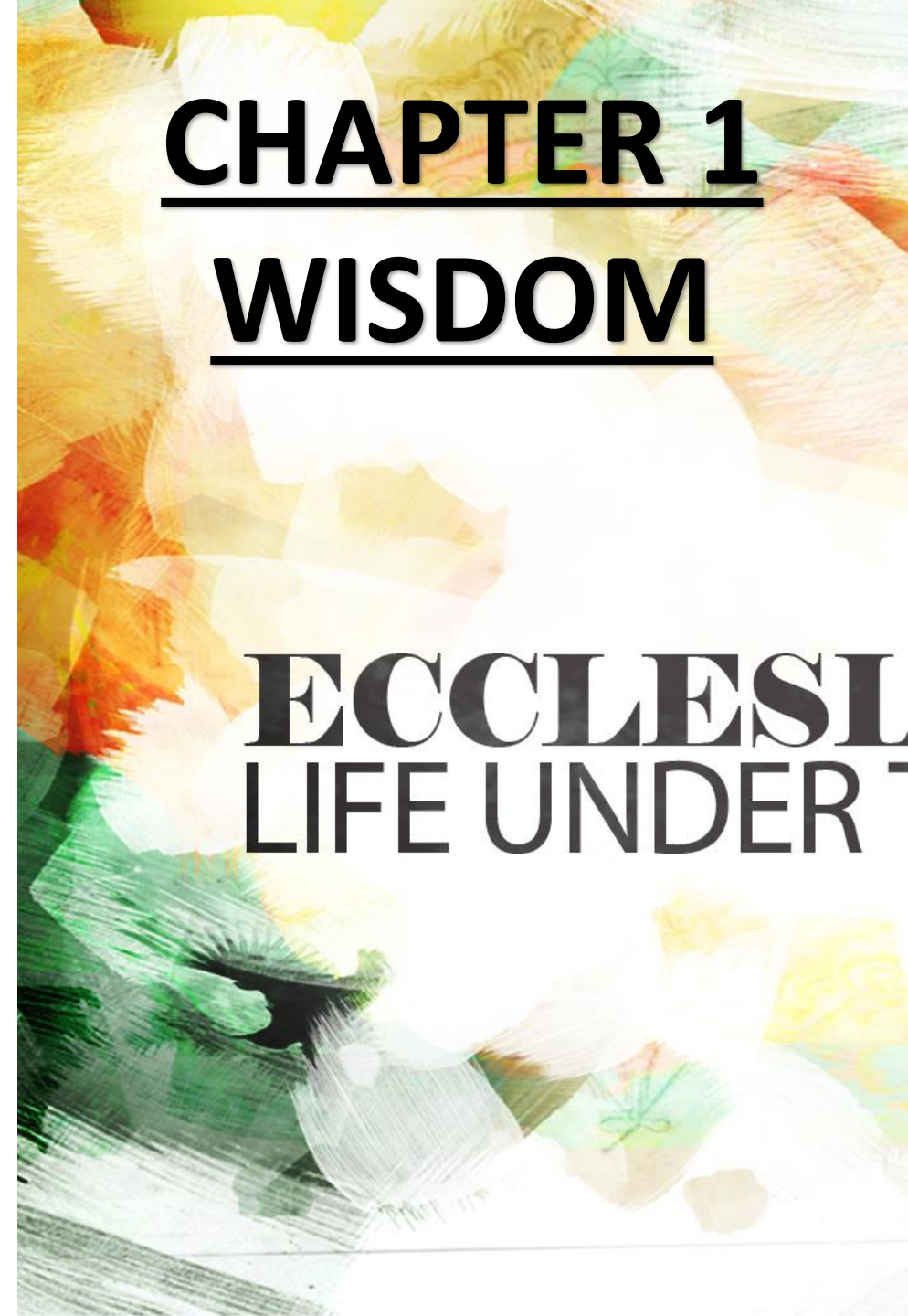
NOW WHAT

1. If wisdom comes from God how do we access it?

CHAPTER 1

WISDOM

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NOW WHAT

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2. If we know where it comes from why don't we take more care and time to get it from the source?

CHAPTER 1

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4. James 3:13 "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom."

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