

ECCLESIASTES

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.

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

4 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.

The background is an abstract composition of warm, textured brushstrokes in shades of yellow, orange, and red, with a prominent green stroke in the lower-left corner. The overall effect is bright and energetic.

REVIEW

ECCLESIASTES
LIFE UNDER THE SUN

JS



WEEK 1
TOIL-WORK

ECCLESIASTES
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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

LEARN FROM HEBREWS 11

No one remembers the former generations...

By faith Abel

By faith Enoch

By faith Noah

By faith Abraham

By faith Sarah

By faith Abraham

By faith Isaac

By faith Jacob

By faith Joseph

By faith Moses

By faith Rahab

I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego...

WEEK 2

REMEMBER

AND LEARN

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Job 28:23-28

You want wisdom?

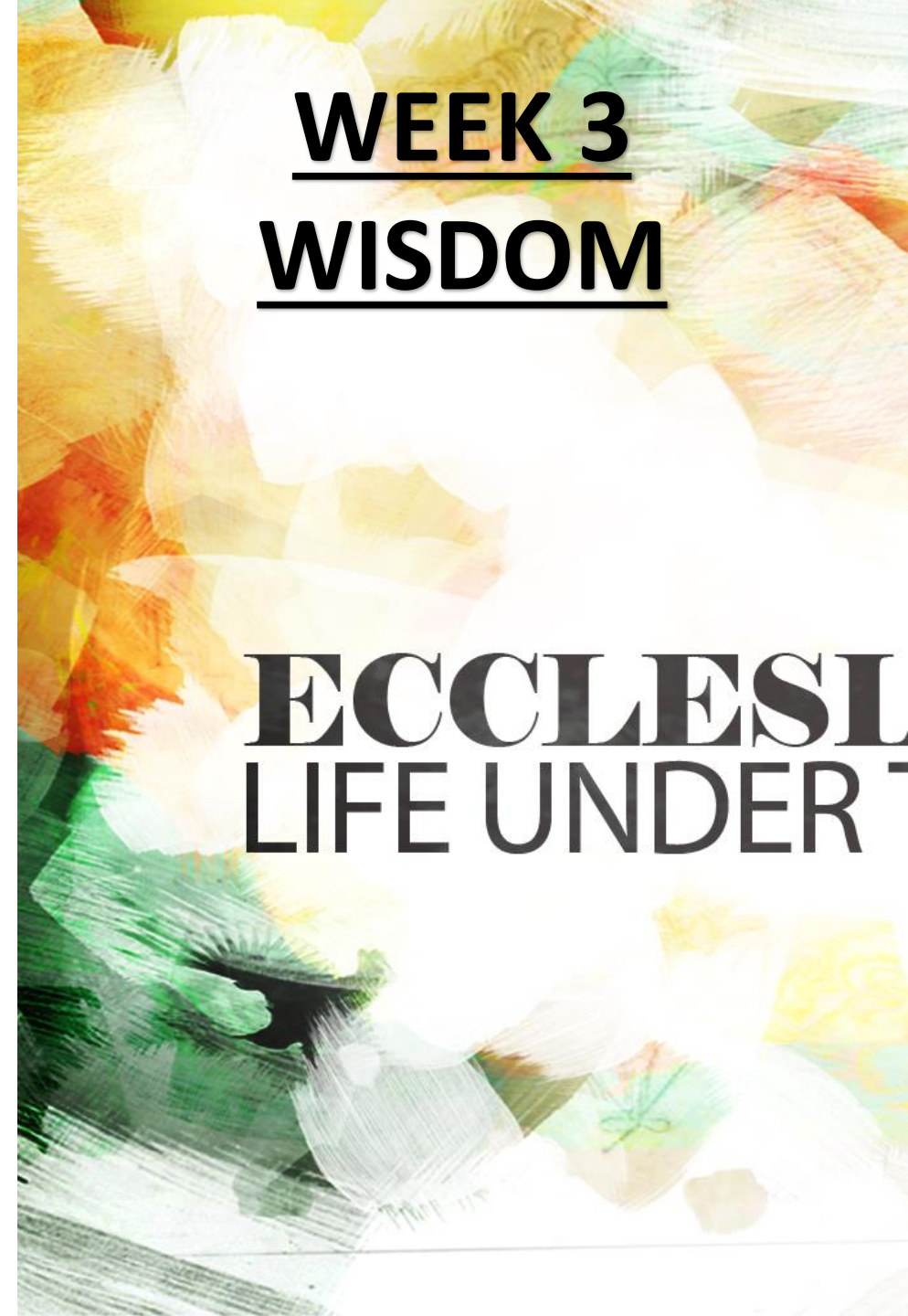
Fear me.

You want understanding?

Turn from evil.

WEEK 3
WISDOM

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“Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good.”

THE “I” FACTOR

- 1) “I” – His preoccupation with self This is the ‘pride of life’
- 2) “For myself” –His purpose centered around his own life

God never made us to live for ourselves.

Jesus showed us how to live. He said, “The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life and might have it abundantly” (John 10:10).

WEEK 4 PLEASURE

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CHAPTER 3: 1-11

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.



WEEK 5 A SEASON

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WEEK 5 A SEASON

ECCLESIASTICUS LIFE UNDER THE

What is most important to you?

- **Pleasure**
Feeling excited
- **Relationship**
Feeling loved
- **Entertainment**
Feeling amused
- **Accomplishment**
Feeling successful
- **Sex**
Feeling passionate

In Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 Solomon is not necessarily putting value or judgement on the list of human activities. He is simply describing life as it is.

I do not think that we should seek any deep spiritual truth in the list of human activities in Ecc 3:1-8, but we should note, with Solomon, that in all things, there seems to be a kind of balance—giving and taking, gaining and losing.

In God, both birth and death gain meaning, as do even planting and uprooting. Any of these activities have meaning when experienced in submission to God.

WEEK 5

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1. The timing of our activities is important

Actions and the timing of our actions are important to God

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2. There are seasons in which certain pursuits are proper and are appointed by God

“He has made everything beautiful in its time”
(Ecclesiastes 3:11).

The proper activity at the right time, bringing about God’s purposes, is a beautiful part of God’s overall plan.

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SEASON #1 The Dry Season

This is no doubt a tough season. It's when God is quiet, and you can't hear His voice or sense His presence as you once did. In a dry season, God seems very distant.

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SEASON #2 The Waiting Season

In your season of waiting, trust that God is pruning you. He's chiseling away what's not needed for the next season. He's making you ready, so let Him work however long it takes.

Psalm 5:3, "Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly." God is listening and knows exactly where you are. Hang in there. God has not forgotten you.

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SEASON #3 The Grinding Season

This is also known as: The Busy Season. This is the, “I don’t have enough time to get everything done!” time in life. Sometimes we have big projects or people that need more of our time than in other seasons.

The whole world does not rest in your hands – it rests in God’s hands. Pace yourself and your tasks. Breathe. Pray. Take a lunch break. Then carry on in your grind and press through with the strength God gives you. Rely on the Holy Spirit to lead and help you.

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SEASON #4 The Tests & Trials Season

If you're going through some hard times in this season, know that God is with you in the midst of it all. He's totally at work. I know it's hard when you're in the middle of it, and you might not even understand what you're going through or why. But I want to encourage you that God knows, and in due time, all will be revealed. In the meantime, don't give up or get tired of doing good.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up,” Galatians 6:9.

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SEASON #5 The Spiritual Warfare Season

If you are in a season of spiritual warfare, gird up! If you are being spiritually attacked, you're doing something right that Satan doesn't like. But whether or not you're currently walking faithfully, the enemy will wage war against you. It comes with being a Christian. But don't be afraid. Remember the story of Job: God is always in complete control.

This is a wonderful thing about being God's child – He fights for you. You just lean into Him and rely on Him by praying and reading His Word. He will take care of the rest.

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SEASON #6 The Happy Season

“Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise,”
James 5:13.

Sing your song to God.

How has He been good to you?

WEEK 5 A SEASON

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3. People are to accept each day as a gift from the hand of God

God has a reason and a time for all things

People may be ignorant of God's timing

They are called to enjoy life in the present

They are called to trust in God's sovereignty

God is sovereign. Our activity in this world is meaningful as we rely on His wisdom, His timing, and His goodness.

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NOW WHAT

1. Share which season you are in right now and why.
2. If you have been through that season in the past, offer one thought that might encourage the one going through it.

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