

# ECCLÉSIASTES

All is Vanity

**1** The words of the Preacher,<sup>1</sup> the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

**2** Vanity<sup>2</sup> 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.





# **ECCLESIASTES**

## **LIFE UNDER THE SUN**

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## CHAPTER 3: 12-22 (NIV)

12 I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. 13 That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God. 14 I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear him. 15 Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account. 16 And I saw something else under the sun: In the place of judgment—wickedness was there, in the place of justice—wickedness was there. 17 I said to myself, “God will bring into judgment both the righteous and the wicked, for there will be a time for every activity, a time to judge every deed.” 18 I also said to myself, “As for humans, God tests them so that they may see that they are like the animals. 19 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 meaningless. 20 All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return. 21 Who knows if the human spirit rises upward and if the spirit of the animal goes down into the earth?” 22 So I saw that there is nothing better for a person than to enjoy their work, because that is their lot. For who can bring them to see what will happen after them?

**WEEK 6**

**EAT & DRINK**

**CORRUPTION**

**WE ARE ANIMALS**

**ECCLESIASTICUS  
LIFE UNDER THE SUN**



## CHAPTER 3: 12-22 (MESSAGE)

12 I've decided that there's nothing better to do than go ahead and have a good time and get the most we can out of life. 13 That's it - eat, drink, and make the most of your job. It's God's gift. 14 I've also concluded that whatever God does, that's the way it's going to be, always. No addition, no subtraction. God's done it and that's it. That's so we'll quit asking questions and simply worship in holy fear. 15 Whatever was, is. Whatever will be, is. That's how it always is with God. 16 I took another good look at what's going on: The very place of judgment - corrupt! 17 The place of righteousness - corrupt! I said to myself, "God will judge righteous and wicked." There's a right time for every thing, every deed - and there's no getting around it. 18 I said to myself regarding the human race, "God's testing the lot of us, showing us up as nothing but animals." 19 Humans and animals come to the same end - humans die, animals die. We all breathe the same air. So there's really no advantage in being human. None. Everything's smoke. 20 We all end up in the same place - we all came from dust, we all end up as dust. 21 Nobody knows for sure that the human spirit rises to heaven or that the animal spirit sinks into the earth. 22 So I made up my mind that there's nothing better for us men and women than to have a good time in whatever we do - that's our lot. Who knows if there's anything else to life?

**WEEK 6**  
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# YOUR TASK

## **Four Questions for Interpretation**

1. What do I learn about God?
2. What do I learn about people?
3. What do I learn about relating to God?
4. What do I learn about relating to others?

## **Four Questions for Application**

1. What does God want me to understand/think?
2. What does God want me to believe?
3. What does God want me to desire?
4. What does God want me to do?

**WEEK 6**

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