

# An Old Testament Glance

## The Poetry Books – Ecclesiastes

<b>Written</b>	940 – 931 B.C.	<b>Period*</b>	Timeless	<b>Author</b>	Solomon
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1. \*Dates are sometimes hard to know. They can vary depending on scholars & sources of information.

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11	Prologue (Introductory Explanation of the Contents)
Ecclesiastes 1:12 – 2:26	Searching for the “good” in Wisdom & Pleasure
Ecclesiastes 3:1 – 5:20	Searching for the “good” in Business (Labor)
Ecclesiastes 6:1 – 8:15	Searching for the “good” in Wealth
Ecclesiastes 8:16 – 12:8	Searching for the “Good” in Life
Ecclesiastes 12:9-14	Epilogue (Summary of the Contents)

(Keep in mind that it is very difficult to organize a book that is filled with topics.)

“Ecclesiastes” means “the Preacher” or “One who gathers an assembly”.

***“Wisdom”*** means to have a proper relationship with God so that we will see things and do things the way God would.

1. What did Solomon decide to do after seeing people (including himself) try everything to find meaning & success? (Ecc. 1:12-13)

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2. The “heart” is mentioned a lot. What was he thinking in his heart?

a. Ecc. 2:1 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Ecc. 2:15 \_\_\_\_\_

c. Ecc. 3:17 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Match his thoughts & feelings with the verses.

a. “What good did it accomplish”? \_\_\_\_\_ Ecc. 8:9

b. “Did booze help me get wisdom”? \_\_\_\_\_ Ecc. 2:15

c. “Pleasure can be a waste of time”. \_\_\_\_\_ Ecc. 2:1

d. “I am a fool”. \_\_\_\_\_ Ecc. 2:3

e. “I have hurt people”. \_\_\_\_\_ Ecc. 2:3

f. “God is going to judge all this.” \_\_\_\_\_ Ecc. 9:1

*It appears that Solomon is suggesting that there should be long-lasting, good, God-honoring results to our actions (Ecc. 3:14-15)*

4. If our actions & pursuits do not honor God & benefit people, what happens?

a. Ecc. 2:17 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Ecc. 2:18 \_\_\_\_\_

c. Ecc. 2:20 \_\_\_\_\_

***Let's be practical here. Our lives will have moments of pleasure and hard times; we will have success & popularity at times; we will lead others, make money, and have fun. These are not bad things. Solomon said that these things are in our lives; however, how did we use all these things to help people & honor God?***

5. **What should our lives focus on** as we live our lives in this world?

- a. Ecc. 4:9-12 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Ecc. 5:1 \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Ecc. 5:2-3 \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Ecc. 5:8-9 \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Ecc. 6:12 \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Ecc. 7:1 \_\_\_\_\_
- g. Ecc. 7:25 \_\_\_\_\_

6. God does amazing things in our lives **when we seek His way of doing things** (wisdom). What are some?

- a. Ecc. 8:1 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Ecc. 8:2 \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Ecc. 9:1 \_\_\_\_\_

7. What advice does Solomon give to the young men? (Ecc. 11:9 – 12:1)

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***Notice that Solomon uses the phrase "under the sun" more than 25 times in Ecclesiastes. That's no accident. Look them up sometime.***

***(Ecclesiastes 1:3,9,14; 2:11,17,18,19,20,22; 4:1,3,7,15; 5:13,18; 6:1,12; 8:9,15,17; 9:3,6,9,11,13; 10:5)***

8. What do you think "under the sun" means? \_\_\_\_\_

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***Solomon had spent his whole life ("under the sun") making bad decisions like leaving God out ("under the sun"), and thinking that only the physical life mattered ("under the sun").***

9. What is Solomon's bottom line? (Ecc. 8:13)

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