

Life Under the Sun: The Message of Ecclesiastes

Lakewood Presbyterian Church

Introduction
Ecclesiastes 1:1-2
(5-11-25)

Key Idea: *The Book of Ecclesiastes is neither self-contradictory nor a desperate cry of frustration implying nihilism.*

Key Text: *The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.*
“Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher;
“Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.” (Eccl. 1:1-2)

I. BACKGROUND: WHAT IS WISDOM LITERATURE?

II. HOW NOT TO READ ECCLESIASTES

- (1) Ecclesiastes is not a 10th century B.C. precursor to _____
- (2) Ecclesiastes is not the products of m_____ a_____
- (3) The hard sayings in Ecclesiastes are not to be i_____ by the Pietist.
- (4) Way to many readers want to take the memorable phrases o_____ of c_____.

III. DATE & AUTHORSHIP

Who / what is Qoheleth? _____

The evidence for Solomonic authorship _____

The sad life of the smartest man that ever lived _____

IV. THE STRUCTURE OF ECCLESIASTES . . . IMPLIES AN ARGUMENT

1:2-2:26 _____

3:1-5:20 _____

6:1-8:15 _____

8:16-12:14 _____

V. THREE GREAT REFRAINS

(1) What is *vanity*? (Hebrew term *hebel*): v_____ or s_____ .

(a) The problem with the metaphorical English translations vanity and meaningless:

(b) The key problem with *hebel* is (1) Its c_____ n_____

Hebel is done e_____ “under the sun”.

(2) What occurs “*Under the sun*”?

(3) What is the great “gift of God”?

_____ (2:24)

_____ (3:12-13)

_____ (3:22)

_____ (5:18-19)

_____ (8:15)

_____ (9:7-9)

Summation: For those who fear Him, God gives the gift of being able to e_____ the f_____.