

# **“ECCLESIASTES”**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

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- A. WHAT IS THE TRUE MEANING OF LIFE? Where is it found?
1. Is there a more timely message than Ecclesiastes?
  2. This is a world that is characterized by its disbelief, disillusionment and despair.
  3. Why - Solomon's thesis is: "Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher: vanity of vanities; all is vanity."
- B. IS HAPPINESS REALLY ATTAINABLE?
- C. NO ONE WAS BETTER qualified than Solomon to seek and find answers to these questions.
1. Had Greatest Wisdom.
  2. Wealth....Position and Power.
- D. FOLLOW WITH HIM AS HE SEEKS THE ANSWERS IN.....
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## **IN WISDOM**

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- A. (1:16)..”Lo, I have gotten me great wisdom above all that were before me in Jerusalem.”
1. What he asked for....I Kings 3:12.
  2. What God gave him.
- B. IS WORLDLY WISDOM THE ANSWER?
1. He was the wisest and most intelligent man in history.
  2. Was he happy? Does he sound happy?
- C. Death Ultimately comes To All Men.
1. To both the wise and the fool.
  2. READ 2:14-16.
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## **IN WEALTH**

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- A. How much is the “lottery” worth today?
1. How would it improve you life.
  2. Would you be any better - simply because you had money?
  3. Last Monday...stock market fell...news said one man lost \$1.75 billion in one day.
  4. **WE NEVER LOSE THAT WHICH WE INVEST WITH GOD.**
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### IN WEALTH, CONT.

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- B. “Whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy.” (2:9,10).
1. 2:11;....did it bring him happiness?
  2. 2:19...what went with it....READ.
- C. Through the centuries those who kill themselves in quest of happiness through wealth do not find it.
1. But man never learns
  2. “He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver” (5:10,11).
- D. Luke 12...The Parable of the RICH FOOL.
- E. WHAT THEN?
- “The story is told of a conversation between an ambitious young man and an elderly man who knew about life. When asked what he planned to do with his life, the young man replied, “First, I am going to get my degree.” The elderly man then asked, “What Then”. “Then, I am going to set up my business. “What then”? “Then, I am going to make my fortune.” “What then?” Well I suppose I will some day grow old, and die.” Again the elderly man asked, “What Then?” ....The young man couldn’t answer.....  
COULD WE?
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### IN POWER

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- A. After 40 years as a wise, wealthy King...does Solomon have happiness?
1. 4:13...“Better is a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king”
  2. Like so many in every succeeding age, Solomon learned too late that the meaning of life is not found in the fame, glory and control of worldly power.
- B. “For I say to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think” (Rom. 12:3).
- C. “If a man thinketh himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself” (Gal. 6:3).
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### **IN PLEASURE**

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- A. Perhaps the greatest quest seen in our generation and country.
  - B. ““I said in my heart, Come now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure; and behold, this also was vanity” (2:10).
  - C. “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world....for all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vain glory of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; *but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever*” (I John 2:15-17).
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### **FOUND IN .....**

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- A. 12:13-14...”This is....**READ**
    - A. Not the voice of defeat or hopeless submission. ‘
    - B. But expression of perfect love and trust in God.
  - B. HERE IS THE WHOLE OF MAN.
    - A. In the light of Eternity.
    - B. Where does wisdom, wealth, Power, Pleasure end?
  - 3. But for the soul .... rightness with God is Eternal Life.
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### **Book Preserved Because ...**

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- A. When man pursues his dreams, happiness, wealth, power or pleasure, etc. without considering God and his own mortality:
    - 1. Then all is vanity and a trying to catch the wind.
    - 2. None of these, in the end will bring satisfaction to man.
    - 3. When man passes through the portals of death, only the things done for God will be important.
  - B. It was after a life of pursuing personal and selfish desires, without God, that Solomon arrived at the conclusion expressed in 12:13-14.
    - 1. Solomon sought satisfaction and completeness in this life only.
    - 2. But as the days grew dark and death approached, none of these things could bring comfort to his soul.
  - C. CONCLUSION:
    - 1. To look at the end of life with man’s eyes only, without God, leaves one with the feeling of vanity....what good are any of these in the grave....but to see God in the life of man gives it DIRECTION, MEANING, AND ASSURANCE.
    - 2. **THIS IS THE REAL MEANING OF LIFE!**
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