

SURVEY OF ECCLESIASTES

About the Book

2. Define each of the following words or phrases as used in Ecclesiastes:
 - a. Under the sun
 - Over 30 times
 - Every activity required for living... "all his work" (1:3)
 - Strictly earthly perspective
 - Without the context of God

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About the Book

2. Define each of the following words or phrases as used in Ecclesiastes:

b. Vanity

- Almost 40 times
- Used in multiple senses. Useless, hopeless, worthless, emptiness, fleeting or vanishing.
- Hebrew "hebel"
- Translated "futile" (NET), "nonsense" (CEV), "meaningless" (NIV)
- "Vanity of vanities"

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2. Define each of the following words or phrases as used in Ecclesiastes:

c. Profit (NASB 2:11) or Gain (NIV)

- Value, advantage, benefit, gain... Am I any better off than when I started?
- Hebrew "yithron". Strong's... "excellency"
- Exclusive to Ecclesiastes

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2. Define each of the following words or phrases as used in Ecclesiastes:

d. Wisdom

- Different foundation than the desired wisdom of Proverbs (2:14-16; 7:7, 16)
- Earthly perspective without the consideration of God
- Increase of information, observation, discovery
- The wise man of Ecclesiastes grows increasingly frustrated as he learns more of the "circle of life".

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"Under the Sun"

3. As the book begins, what is the examination at hand, as described in the first fifteen verses?
- To find some profit or worth in all man's toil under the sun
 - Day after day, generation after generation
 - Earth remains - nature continues the same pattern.
 - There is nothing new under the sun.
 - All that has been, all that will be, will someday be forgotten.
 - Might as well chase the wind. Things cannot be changed.

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"Under the Sun"

4. From the passages listed, to what pursuits did Solomon devote himself and what were his conclusions to each?
 - a. 1:16-18
 - Intellectual pursuit. "I set my mind to know wisdom, madness, and folly".
 - Again, chasing the wind.
 - "In much wisdom there is much grief..."

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"Under the Sun"

4. From the passages listed, to what pursuits did Solomon devote himself and what were his conclusions to each?

b. 2:1-3

- Quest for pleasure and amusement
- What good is it?

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"Under the Sun"

4. From the passages listed, to what pursuits did Solomon devote himself and what were his conclusions to each?

c. 2:4-11

- Possessions, singers, and a harem of concubines
- Vanity, chasing the wind, of no profit

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"Under the Sun"

5. Of what does Solomon worry concerning his kingdom and all the has labored to build? (2:18-23)
 - The kingdom he had labored to build with wisdom, knowledge, and skill, would be given to one who had not worked for it.

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"Under the Sun"

6. As Solomon considered all things "under the sun", what other pursuits are determined to be futile and meaningless, chasing the wind?
- 2:12-17
 - Wisdom is better than folly in that a man can see his steps and make correction, but without God their end is the same.
 - 4:4
 - Competition and rivalry as a result of envy between neighbors. Better is quietness with little than bounty with the constant need for more. (v. 5-6)

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"Under the Sun"

6. As Solomon considered all things "under the sun", what other pursuits are determined to be futile and meaningless, chasing the wind?
- 4:8
 - The man with no close relative or heir who continues to strive for more and more, never satisfied, never stopping to consider who he was laboring for.
 - 4:13-16
 - Leaders rise to power, followed by the next. People are excited with the new young ruler at first, but it will never last.

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"Under the Sun"

6. As Solomon considered all things "under the sun", what other pursuits are determined to be futile and meaningless, chasing the wind?
- 5:10-17
 - Looking for satisfaction in wealth. Better work hard for little and sleep well, than to lie awake worrying about your plenty. Riches can disappear in a moment. Even if they don't, they will be left behind.
 - 6:7-9
 - The proverbial "carrot on the stick", always wanting more. Better to be satisfied with what is in front of you, than to continue striving for more.

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"Under the Sun"

7. What are the apparent inequalities or injustices described in the passages listed?
- 3:16-22
 - Failing legal system and courts leads the godless to despair. When considered with no thought of God, man is no better than the animals. The same death comes to both.
 - 8:9-11, 14
 - Evil and oppressive men, sometimes behind a facade of righteousness, appear to escape judgement while the righteous suffer what should be reserved for the wicked.

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"Under the Sun"

7. What are the apparent inequalities or injustices described in the passages listed?
- 9:2-6
 - If life under the sun is all there is, then the end of all men is the same, no matter how one's life is conducted. Righteous or wicked, good or bad, religious or not, the hope of any reward ends at the grave.

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"Under the Sun"

8. When faced with the evil present in this world, what is sometimes the sad conclusion for the earthly minded?
(4:1-3) What is described as better off than the man finding no enjoyment in his wealth? (6:1-5)
- Death is better than life. Far better to have never been born.
 - Better the miscarriage than one who cannot enjoy what he has been given.