

Ecclesiastes 1

Verses 1- 11

The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

**² “Futility of futilities,” says the Preacher,
“Futility of futilities! All is futility.”**

**³ What advantage does a person have in all his work
Which he does under the sun?**

**⁴ A generation goes and a generation comes,
But the earth remains forever.**

**⁵ Also, the sun rises and the sun sets;
And hurrying to its place it rises there *again*.**

**⁶ Blowing toward the south,
Then turning toward the north,
The wind continues swirling along;
And on its circular courses the wind returns.**

**⁷ All the rivers flow into the sea,
Yet the sea is not full.
To the place where the rivers flow,
There they flow again.**

**⁸ All things are wearisome;
No one can tell *it*.
The eye is not satisfied with seeing,
Nor is the ear filled with hearing.**

**⁹ What has been, it is what will be,
And what has been done, it is what will be done.
So there is nothing new under the sun.**

**¹⁰ Is there anything of which one might say,
“See this, it is new”?
It has already existed for ages
Which were before us.**

**¹¹ There is no remembrance of the earlier things,
And of the later things as well, which will occur,
There will be no remembrance of them
Among those who will come later *still*.**

The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

Solomon is the author of Ecclesiastes and his reign was from 970 – 930 BC.

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1st Kings timeline

Ch.	Event		Year
	Solomon is born		990
1	Solomon becomes king		970
2	David Dies		970
6	Temple started		966
6	Temple completed ---- 7 years		959
7	Solomon starts his palace		959
8	Ark brought to the temple		958
9	Solomon finishes his palace ---- 13 years		946
9	Lord appears to Solomon for 2nd time		946
10	Queen of Sheba visits		
11	Solomon dies		930
12	Rehoboam king of Judah	1s	930
	Jeroboam king of Israel	1n	
12	Israel rebels against Rehoboam		930

**² “Futility of futilities,” says the Preacher,
“Futility of futilities! All is futility.”**

This is the theme of Ecclesiastes. This is an accurate and tragic evaluation of all human life from a physical perspective. Solomon confirms what Job knew and tried to explain to his friends back in 2500 BC.

We know mankind is stuck in this dilemma because of the original sin of Adam & Eve and mankind's continued rebellion. Adam & Eve decided to follow the words of the Devil which was a rebellion against God and His form of government. This brought about suffering, pain and death. God cursed the ground because of Adam's sin which had a dramatic effect on the entire world. All of this was discussed in the Book of Job.

**³ What advantage does a person have in all his work
Which he does under the sun?**

Obviously we all need to work so we can provide for our physical needs but when we die all of it will be handed over to someone else. Men who conquer great empires, who create huge companies of great importance and those who make great discoveries that they are remembered for all go to the grave and what they have done is turned over to others who may not have the ability to continue the dreams of their founder.

See Ecclesiastes 2:18 - 19

**¹⁸ So I hated all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun,
because I must leave it to the man who will come after me. ¹⁹ And who knows
whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the fruit of my
labor for which I have labored by acting wisely under the sun. This too is futility.**

We know that Rehoboam, Solomon's son, was no Solomon. His reign began with poor judgment, leading to the division of the united Israelite kingdom.

**⁴ A generation goes and a generation comes,
But the earth remains forever.**

The life of any person is short in comparison to the history of mankind. However, the first 10 generations of mankind lived on average for about 900 years, if we don't include Enoch who was taken before he died. They lived for about 12% of mankind's history (so far) while most of us only live for about 1% of mankind's history.

**⁵ Also, the sun rises and the sun sets;
And hurrying to its place it rises there again.
⁶ Blowing toward the south,
Then turning toward the north,
The wind continues swirling along;
And on its circular courses the wind returns.
⁷ All the rivers flow into the sea,
Yet the sea is not full.
To the place where the rivers flow,
There they flow again.**

Nature is stuck in the same routine as mankind; it follows a pattern of coming and going.

⁸ **All things are wearisome;**

The eye is not satisfied with seeing,

Nor is the ear filled with hearing.

⁹ **What has been, it is what will be,**

And what has been done, it is what will be done.

Nothing has changed since the days of Adam & Eve concerning our human nature. The people of today have the same needs and temptations that Adam & Eve faced over 7,366 years ago.

¹¹ **There is no remembrance of the earlier things,**

And of the later things as well, which will occur,

There will be no remembrance of them

Among those who will come later *still*.

It is interesting how much of history has been lost. Our only knowledge of the pre-flood world which lasted for 2,242 years is limited to the first 8 chapters of Genesis.

See chart 110

The Pre-Flood World

Genesis					
Chapter 1	Creation	6 days	Adan & Eve on day 6		
		Created	son of faith	died	age
Chapter 2	ADAM	5340	230	4410	930
Chapter 3	Fall of mankind				
		Born	son of faith	died	age
Chapter 4	SETH	5110	205	4198	912
Chapter 5	ENOSH	4905	190	4000	905
Chapter 5	CAINAN	4715	170	3805	910
Chapter 5	MAHALALEL	4545	165	3650	895
Chapter 5	JARED	4380	162	3418	962
Chapter 5	ENOCH	4218	165	3853	365
Chapter 5	METHUSELAH	4053	167	3084	969
Chapter 5	LAMESH	3886	188	3133	753
Chapter 5	NOAH	3698	502	2748	950
Chapter 5	SHEM	3196	100	2596	600
Chapters 6 - 8	The Flood	3098			

In addition the period of time from the flood to the time of Abraham covers 1,102 years. Our only knowledge of this time period is covered in chapters 9 thru 11 of Genesis.

See chart 115

After the flood to the time of Abraham		
Book of Genesis	Event	Time frame
Chapter 9	God's covenant with Noah	3097 BC
Chapter 10	The descendants of Noah	3096 to 1921 BC
Chapter 11	Tower of Babel	around 2700 BC
Chapoter 12	Abraham	1996 BC

While the information in chapters 9 thru 11 is limited considering the period of time it covers it does give us some important insight into how God was directing mankind. Mankind decided to stay in one area in order to make a name for themselves but God had told them to spread out and fill all of the earth so He intervened by changing their language so they would do as he commanded.

Verses 12 - 18

¹² I, the Preacher, have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ And I set my mind to seek and explore by wisdom about everything that has been done under heaven. *It is a sorry task with which God has given the sons of mankind to be troubled.* ¹⁴ I have seen all the works which have been done under the sun, and behold, all is futility and striving after wind. ¹⁵ What is crooked cannot be straightened, and what is lacking cannot be counted. ¹⁶ I said to myself, “Behold, I have magnified and increased wisdom more than all who were over Jerusalem before me; and my mind has observed a wealth of wisdom and knowledge.” ¹⁷ And I applied my mind to know wisdom and to know insanity and foolishness; I realized that this also is striving after wind. ¹⁸ Because in much wisdom there is much grief; and increasing knowledge *results in increasing pain.*

¹² I, the Preacher, have been king over Israel in Jerusalem.

The word Preacher has also been translated Speaker, Spokesman, and Philosopher.

¹³ And I set my mind to seek and explore by wisdom about everything that has been done under heaven. It is a sorry task with which God has given the sons of mankind to be troubled.

Solomon did a comprehensive and exhaustive examination of life and concluded that the task that man has been given to do in this life is meritless. Much of what we do in life is centered on the maintenance of the flesh. We work in order to feed, clothe, and shelter ourselves and many other daily tasks like sleeping, exercising, and bathing are part of maintaining this fleshly body. For the common man there is little time left to explore things that might be uplifting and worthy.

¹⁴ I have seen all the works which have been done under the sun, and behold, all is futility and striving after wind.

Most jobs are geared toward fulfilling the needs of people which can provide some feelings of accomplishment but the day to day duties of these jobs are often repetitive and bring a sense of boredom over time.

Living life in a spiritual body will bring a huge change to our lives because all of the routine things that we now do will no longer be needed. So what exactly will we be doing? We have no idea what we will be doing in heaven but as believers we trust that God has many marvelous things planned for us.

¹⁵ What is crooked cannot be straightened, and what is lacking cannot be counted.

This life is not fair because some people are born into wealth, others have good looks, and others have a superior mental ability. On the other hand some people are born into nations that have evil governments and they have little hope or power to improve or change their situation.

¹⁷ And I applied my mind to know wisdom and to know insanity and foolishness; I realized that this also is striving after wind. ¹⁸ Because in much wisdom there is much grief; and increasing knowledge results in increasing pain.

Seeing the world for what it has become, a place of pain and suffering and many injustices can lead to feelings of grief. We learned in the Book of Job that he suffered quite harshly for a while (months) but after his suffering ended he was blessed more than he was prior to his suffering. However, not everyone is as fortunate as Job because they do not receive a great blessing in this life after they go through a difficult time.

Seer Hebrews 13: 32 – 38

³² And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; ³⁶ and others experienced mocking and flogging, and further, chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented ³⁸ (people of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts, on mountains, and sheltering in caves and holes in the ground.

We all want to receive the miracles that the group in yellow received, but it is probably safe to assume that most of us don't want to experience what the other group of people went thru in their lives. Many of them lived a very difficult life or were killed and never received the kind of blessing that Job received after his time of testing.

The book of Ecclesiastes can be a difficult read but we should always decide to take the red pill (a painful but liberating truth) and deal with life as it is rather than taking the blue pill (controlled ignorance) and live in a reality that doesn't really exist. If you're not familiar with this reference google the Matrix.

It seems that many Christians today want to believe in the prosperity gospel much like the friends of Job. They believed that if someone lived a good life that this would bring financial blessings, health, and success, while anyone who was poor or sick had rejected God and needed to repent. The prosperity Gospel is a simple doctrine to understand but it's wrong because the second group of faithful witnesses mentioned above (in blue) had to be seen as vile sinners that were being punished for their sin. This life is not simple and if anyone thinks it is they have taken the blue pill.