



The Book of Ecclesiastes part 2

The Meaning of Life – Pastor

Ecclesiastes

Greek word 'Ecclesia' Assembly

One who addresses an assembly

The main themes of the book are as follows:

- The meaning and futility of life without God.
- The existence of God
- Humanity
- Creation
- Evil and suffering
- Wisdom and Folly
- Poverty and Wealth
- Authority and injustice

Pessimism Literature

A style of ancient middle east literature

“Wisdom Poetry”

Parallelism

Condensed language

Imagery language

Ecclesiastes 1:1-3 NKJV

1 The words of the preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. 2 Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity. 3 what profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?

VERSE 2)

Words of the preacher – “qohleth” (Greek)

English - “teacher/preacher”

“vanity of vanities” (NKJV) – literally “breath of breaths” – a most useless thing

NIV – “meaningless meaningless”

NASB – “futility of futilities”

verse 3)

“profit” – “yitron”

“under the sun” – “a life without God”

Professor of evolutionary biology, author & atheist Richard Dawkins: *“human beings are just throwaway survival machines, whose only purpose is to survive & replicate genes.”*



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Professor Peter Adkins, prof of physical chemistry, author & atheist: *“we are the children of chaos, and the deep structure of change is decay. at root, there is only corruption, and the unstemable tide of chaos. gone is purpose, all that is left is direction. this is the bleakness that we have to accept as we peer deeply and discompassionately into the heart of the universe.”*

Prof John Lennox, emeritus prof of mathematics at Oxford University, Christian author, and apologist: *“nonsense remains nonsense, even when spoken by world famous scientists”*

Ecclesiastes 1:4-11 (NKJV)

Pascal’s wager mathematician, physicist, inventor & philosopher: *“if God exists, and I believe in God, I’ll go to heaven which is infinitely good. if God exists, and I don’t believe in God, I may go to hell, which is infinitely bad. if God doesn’t exist, then whether I believe in God or not, whatever I’d gain or lose would be finite. so, I should believe in God.”*

Proverbs 29:18
Psalm 14:1

Prof John Lennox, emeritus prof of mathematics at Oxford University, Christian author and apologist:

“Men became scientific because they expected law in nature, and they expected law in nature because they believed in a lawgiver.” it was the conviction that led Francis Bacon, regarded by many as the father of modern science to teach that God has provided us with two books – the book of nature and the bible.

Question – who in this room believes that life has been created by scientists in a laboratory?

Professor James Tour, professor of chemistry, material science and nano technology: *“just build a cell, that’s what we have to do in the origin of life. nobody has ever done this. if you have ever been taught that simple forms of life have been made, that is a lie that you are believing.”*
he also states, in regard to first life (biogenesis) – *“scientists are clueless”*

Vitruvian man – Leonardo di Vinci



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Ecclesiastes 1: 12-18 **Wisdom Is Meaningless**

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind! ¹⁴ I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

¹⁵ What is crooked cannot be straightened;
what is lacking cannot be counted.

¹⁶ I said to myself, "Look, I have increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge." ¹⁷ Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind.

¹⁸ For with much wisdom comes much sorrow;
the more knowledge, the more grief.



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1 Corinthians 2:2-12

2 And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. **2** For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. **3** I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. **4** My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, **5** so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

God's wisdom revealed by the Spirit

6 We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. **7** No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. **8** None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. **9** However, as it is written:

'What no eye has seen,
what no ear has heard,
and what no human mind has conceived' –
the things God has prepared for those who love him –
10 these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. **11** For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. **12** What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.