

Solomon's Final Message

Chapter 14

Audio Lesson: Old Testament #59



Objective: To learn from Solomon's experience that without God all of life is meaningless.



Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

—Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Ecclesiastes speaks to the hearts of the people of God when they are searching for answers to the perplexing dilemmas of life. This book is a sermon Solomon preached at the end of his life to young men. He urges the younger generation to learn from his experience as he searched for the meaning and purpose of life.

Solomon explained that he had searched for meaning in wealth, wisdom, and pleasure. Though he became extremely rich, was the wisest man who ever lived, and had participated in all the pleasures the world had to offer, none of these things had satisfied him. It was all empty. The only worthwhile purpose he found in life was to fear God and keep His commandments. He told young people to remember God in their youth and live their lives well, because everyone will face Him and eternal judgment in the end.



1. True or false? “Ecclesiastes” means “the preacher.”
2. True or false? Solomon said that riches were the key to happiness.
3. True or false? Ecclesiastes was written during a time when Solomon was very discouraged.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

4. What is the book of Ecclesiastes?
 - a. A poem
 - b. A song
 - c. A sermon
 - d. A story
5. Which of the following gave Solomon true satisfaction?
 - a. Wisdom
 - b. Pleasure
 - c. Wealth
 - d. All of the above
 - e. None of the above
6. What did Solomon urge people to do instead of trying to find their purpose in wealth, wisdom, and pleasure?
 - a. Live in isolation from others.
 - b. Fear God and obey His commands.
 - c. Live a balanced life.
 - d. Seek inner peace through meditation.
7. What conclusion did Solomon make about injustice in the world?
 - a. Everyone will reap his rewards in future lifetimes.
 - b. God will judge all people and make things right in the end.
 - c. Life is unfair, and there is nothing we can do about it.
 - d. Injustice is only an illusion.
8. What attitudes and themes can we find in the book of Ecclesiastes? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. Doubt
 - b. Faith
 - c. Wisdom
 - d. Despair
 - e. Futility
 - f. Hope
 - g. Cynicism
 - h. Instruction

9. In what ways are husband and wife united in marriage?
- a. Mentally
 - b. Spiritually
 - c. Physically
 - d. All of the above
10. When are people most likely to think about eternity?
- a. In childhood
 - b. At marriage
 - c. At a funeral
 - d. At a party
11. What is important to remember when you work with young people?
- a. The fruit comes later.
 - b. They will not remember what they are taught.
 - c. They learn best when they are punished severely.
 - d. If they are rebellious as a youth, they will always be rebellious.
12. At the end of Ecclesiastes, what does Solomon urge us to do in our youth?
- a. Have fun while we can.
 - b. Save for the future.
 - c. Remember God.
 - d. Be loyal to the beliefs of our parents and grandparents.



How do you relate to God when you are discouraged or when you have doubts? Are you more likely to grow closer to Him or grow apart from Him? Why?



Honestly talk with God about your feelings. Thank Him that He gives meaning to life, and ask Him to help you live with an eternal purpose and with joy and not in the foolish pursuit of pleasure.



Going Deeper

1. Why did Solomon decide that riches were not the purpose and meaning of life? _____

2. Why did Solomon decide that knowledge and wisdom were not the meaning and purpose of life? _____

3. Why did he decide that pleasure was not the purpose and meaning of life? _____

4. Why would some scholars think that this book was written by two different authors? _____

5. Why does Solomon tell us in chapter seven that it is better to go to a funeral than to a party?

6. Why did Solomon preach this sermon to young men at the end of his life? _____

7. Precisely what did Solomon mean by his conclusion that the solution to the whole matter is to fear God and keep His commandments? _____
