

Ecclesiastes - Vanity of Vanities - The Greatest Vanity (Emptiness)

Introduction	10 Vanities	Chapter 1
<p>The preacher - one who calls or gathers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecc was read by the rabbis on Pentecost - Solomon was author - Follows Solomon's life? - Warning to the younger people - avoid walking through life with human wisdom (James 3:13-18) - Solomon made unwise decisions and bad behavior - understood faith - His life was vanity - futile attempts to be satisfied apart from God - All the earthly goals and ambitions when pursued as ends in themselves produce emptiness (Ro 8:19-21) - Proper balance of life - Come to an understanding of the importance of obedience in our life - Seek godly wisdom so we can grow in our faith - Live an abundant life (Jn 10:10) 	<p>Human . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - wisdom (2:14-16) - Effort (2:18-23) - Achievement (2:26) - Life (3:18-22) - Rivalry (4:4) - Selfish sacrifice (4:7-8) - Power (4:16) - Greed (5:10) - Accumulation (6:1-12) - Religion (8:10-14) 	<p>1-11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 - vanity of vanities = the greatest vanity (futile, empty) - 3 - all that man does is fleeting - everything we do for the Lord is a lasting treasure - 4-7 - the earth/world - the continue in a cycle - 8-11 - there is nothing new under the sun <p>12-15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 13 - man searches for understanding it is a grievous task - but God-given - The search for Godly wisdom is important but we still need to understand the world He put us in - 14 - Striving after the wind - 15 - in spite of man's efforts we can't fix what God wants to be <p>16-18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I set my mind on knowing - his own attempts and power - empty - Grief comes, pain comes when our focus is on human achievement and earthly things

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Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4	Chapter 5
<p>1-11 - futility of pleasure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - without purpose in our lives - we are empty (2) - Accumulating things doesn't bring us happiness (4-8) - I Kings 11:3 - He denied himself nothing (10) - Everything he had done and everything he had was vanity (9-11) - Mt 6:19-21 <p>12-17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human wisdom leaves the wise and the fool with nothing at death - Godly knowledge brings the fear of the Lord (Pr 1:7) <p>18-23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - completely hates the fruits of his labor - Built a kingdom but who will take it over - He worried to the point of losing sleep <p>24-26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - realize that everything is God-given - apart from Him everything is worthless - He controls all things - Job 27:16-17; Pr 13:22 	<p>1-8 - appointed times</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - earthly pursuits are good in their proper place and time - God is a God of history - He leads and He directs - Our job is to follow and serve <p>9-10 - there is no profit in earthly pursuits in and of themselves</p> <p>11 - God has set eternity in man's heart - Mt 6:20; Jn 6:27; II Cor 4:18; Col 3:12; He 12:1-2; I Jn 2:15-17</p> <p>12-15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - supposed to do good and rejoice in our life - Everything is a gift from God - We should fear God <p>16-22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - there is an appointed time for judgment - Man and beast will die and return to dust (our bodies) 	<p>1-3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - there are those who have been so oppressed that it would have been better had they not been born - Evil activity is everywhere and it has disheartened them <p>4-6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rivalry - when we are unsatisfied with what we have it makes what others have more appealing - The fool doesn't do anything - lives off of others - Tormented and never satisfied (Is 9:20; 44:20) <p>7-12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - futility of laboring alone without satisfaction - No heir to experience its value - Life is better when shared - A cord of 3 strands is not easily broken <p>13-16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - people are fickle and quickly turn on you 	<p>Approaching God with reverence (1-7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 - draw near to listen (heed) rather than bring the sacrifice of fools - 2 - don't be hasty in word or impulsive in thought for God knows all and sees all - 4-5 - Promises to God have serious implications - Pay what you have vowed - Better not to vow than not to pay - 6-7 - fear God <p>8-9 - corruption of officials leads to oppression of the poor</p> <p>10-20 - Folly of Riches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10-12 - the love of money is never satisfied - When good things increase so do those who take them <p>Earthly treasures bring disadvantage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Produces anxiety (12) - Brings pain (13) - Disappears through bad investments (14) - Everything is left at death (15-16) - Produces fear (17) <p>18-20 - those who look to God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fitting (appropriate) to enjoy with satisfaction the things that God has given - It is a gift from God - Receiving his reward, rejoice in his labor - When we recognize the goodness of God - we rejoice

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Chapter 6	Chapter 7	Chapter 8
<p>1-6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 - there are those who have everything, but God doesn't empower him to eat of it - The Lord gives and the Lord takes away according to His purpose - We can't take for granted what God has given us - 3-6 - hyperbole - exaggerated statement not to be taken literally - Not having a proper burial indicated complete disrespect - To die without anyone honoring his life is considered a fruitless life <p>Lack of satisfaction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - working for what is consumed (7) - You see little difference between the wise and the foolish (8) - Not knowing the future (9) - Realize that God alone controls everything (10) - That man does not have a true understanding of the present let alone the future (11-12) 	<p>1-14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 - when a person has a good reputation - the day of his death should be a time of honor - 2-6 - learn more through adversity than through pleasure - 7 - Oppression is hard, bribery can corrupt our heart (Gen 4:7) - 9 - anger resides in the bosom of fools (Eph 4:26; James 1:20) - 10 - it's easy to lose touch with reality when you are in trouble or discontented with life - 11 - wisdom with an inheritance is good (Lk 15:11-32) - 12 - wisdom is protection - leads to a fulfilled life - 13 - God is sovereign over all things (1:15) - 14 - God ordains both good and bad days - we don't know the future <p>15-18 - the righteous and the wicked will both die in time - overly righteous - self-righteous (pharisees) - righteousness comes from fearing God (Pr 1:7, 29; 2:5; 8:13; 9:10; 10:27; 14:26-27; 15:33; 16:6; 19:23; 22:4; 23:17; 29:25)</p> <p>19-22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 19 - wisdom strengthens a wise man - 20 - there is no righteous man on earth who never sins (Ro 3:10-18) - 21-22 - words can bring great offense and need to be forgiven <p>23-26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - there are limitations to wisdom - some things are unknowable - we need to be resolved to that - Warnings of the woman who sets snares (Pr 4, 5, 7, 9; 23:26-28; 30:18-20) <p>27-29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - man seeks out devices (Pharisees Lk 18:9-14; Mt 5:20 - Gal 3:24; Ro 3:20) 	<p>1 - a wise man's wisdom causes his stern face to shine (joy of the Lord)</p> <p>2-4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - oath before God (I Chron 29:24) - Word of the king holds authority <p>5-9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5-6 - proper time and proper procedure - God controls everything including our tomorrows - FAITH - we don't be anxious (Phil 4:4-9) - We have no control over the future - God's future is etched in stone - There is injustice in this world <p>10-13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - hypocrisy - their lessons are quickly forgotten - God's slowness to bring retribution doesn't mean it won't come (II Pet 3:9; Jn 3:16-21) - There is no advantage for the evil <p>14-15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - temporarily speaking - God generally rewards obedience but sometimes there are exceptions - This isn't condoning sin, enjoy what God has given in the face of the injustice we might see or experience <p>16-17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - every work is of God - and His work is incomprehensible to man - He is God and we are not

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Chapter 9	Chapter 10	Chapter 11	Chapter 12
<p>1 - everything awaits for us - it is in the hands of God</p> <p>2-6</p> <p>- one fate lies ahead for everyone - death - The hearts of men are full of evil and insanity - There is hope as you live</p> <p>7-9</p> <p>- enjoy what God has given for whatever time you have it - Enjoy you life with your spouse</p> <p>10 - whatever you do, do it with all your might</p> <p>11-12</p> <p>- time and chance overtake man - God is in control - there is a purpose for everything</p> <p>13-18</p> <p>- wisdom may not be received by those of lowly stature - Wisdom is better than weapons of war - One sinner can destroy much good</p>	<p>Examples of wisdom</p> <p>- 1 - foolish brings offense</p> <p>- 2 - right is wise/left is evil</p> <p>- 3 - a fool demonstrates his foolishness</p> <p>- 4 - have a backbone</p> <p>- 5-7 - life can be strange and not fair and a ruler making bad decisions affects everyone</p> <p>- 8-9 - dangers and uncertainties abound in life</p> <p>- 10 - wisdom will ease efforts in life</p> <p>- 11-14 - importance of words</p> <p>- 15 - if a fool can't find a city, how will he find God</p> <p>- 16-19 - demonstration of wise versus foolishness in running a kingdom</p> <p>- 20 - watch what you say</p>	<p>1- take a calculated and wise step forward</p> <p>2 - divide your portion = give a portion to 7 or 8 (II Cor 8:7-15)</p> <p>3-6 - there are things that we cannot control - but we know who is in control</p> <p>7-8</p> <p>- light versus darkness - We don't know if days will be bad or good (12:1) - Make the most of the good days don't agonize over the possible future days</p> <p>- Job 2 - accept both good and bad in life</p> <p>9-10</p> <p>- God will bring judgment on your actions (decisions) - Enjoy life but don't sin - Enjoyment should not be reckless - Pleasure is experienced in faith and obedience - Balance is important - Enjoy your youth - don't take life for granted</p>	<p>1-8</p> <p>1 - you are God's property - He is the potter, you are the clay - Is 29:16; 45:9; 64:8; Jer 18:1-6; Ro 9:20-21</p> <p>2 - make the most of your youthful life</p> <p>3 - trembling of hands, strong men will bow, energy begins to wane, eyes grow dim</p> <p>4 - lips will grown weak - communication will be less, appetite diminishes, sleeping will not be as easy, ear won't even enjoy music like it did</p> <p>5 - fear of heights (falling), white hair, strength is gone, man goes to his eternal home</p> <p>6-8 - death overtakes</p> <p>Proper perspective of aging</p> <p>- Pr 16:31; 20:29 - Job 12:12; 32:7 - Ps 92:12-15 - II Cor 4:16; Titus 2:2-5</p> <p>9-10 - Solomon's life was to teach knowledge and truth</p> <p>11-12 - God is our Shepherd</p> <p>13-14 - Fear God - keep His commandments</p>