

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

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

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

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Chapter 9	Chapter 10	Chapter 11	Chapter 12