# Ecclesiastes Commentaries

## Ecclesiastes Resources

Commentaries, Sermons, Illustrations, Devotionals

## The Book of Ecclesiastes

The Search for Significance  
The Quest for Contentment  
The Pursuit of Purpose

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exploration</th>
<th>Exhortation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All is Vanity</td>
<td>Vanity of Doing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declaration of Vanity</td>
<td>Demonstration of Vanity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>Sermons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fickleness of Life  
Versus  
Fear of the Lord

Place:  
"Under the Sun"

Decades of Searching  
(in the days of King Solomon)  
circa 936BC

King Solomon  
Author

## Key Words:

- **Under the sun** - 29x in 27v - Eccl 1:3, 9, 14; 2:11, 17-20, 22; 3:16; 4:1, 3, 7, 15; 5:13, 18; 6:1, 12; 8:9, 15, 17; 9:3, 6, 9, 11, 13; 10:5
- **Vanity** - 22x/16v - Eccl 1:2, 14; 2:11, 15, 19, 21, 23, 26; 3:19; 4:4, 7-8, 16; 5:10; 6:2; 12:8
- **Wisdom** - 27x/24v - Eccl 1:13, 16-18; 2:9, 12-13, 21, 26; 7:10-12, 19, 23, 25; 8:1,
Wilkinson and Boa write - Ecclesiastes is a profound book recording an intense search by the Preacher (traditionally understood to be Solomon) for meaning and satisfaction in life—in spite of the inequities inconsistencies, and seeming absurdities of life on earth. The key word in Ecclesiastes is vanity, the futile emptiness of trying to make sense out of life apart from God. Looked at “under the sun” (Pr 8:17), Life’s pursuits lead only to frustration. Power, prestige, pleasure—nothing can fill the God-shaped void in man’s life—except God Himself. But seen from His perspective, life becomes meaningful and fulfilling. Skepticism and despair melt away when each day is viewed as a gift from God. (Talk Thru the Bible)

G Campbell Morgan - Ecclesiastes is an inspired confession of failure and pessimism, when God is excluded, when man lives under the sun, and forgets the larger part, which is always over the sun, the eternal and abiding things. If you want to know what a man of great privilege, and of great learning and great wisdom can come to, read this record of a man who has put God out of count in his actual life.

J Sidlow Baxter - The book of Ecclesiastes is a sermon. There is the announcement of a theme, a brief introduction, a developing of the theme, and a practical application in conclusion. The theme is: What is the chief good? The standpoint is that of natural reason. We are meant to see where the quest for the chief good leads us when conducted simply on the ground of natural experience, observation, and induction. In the opening verse (and six times later) the author styles himself Koheleth, which is translated as "the preacher" (though perhaps the Hebrew term rather conveys the idea of "Master of Assemblies," or "Teacher"). Our title, "Ecclesiastes," comes from Ecclesiastes, the Latin form of the Greek word for a preacher. Who was this preacher-author of Ecclesiastes? Despite all that has been said to the contrary, we resolutely hold that he was Solomon. (Explore the Book)

David Fairchild (sermons) - Fairchild: Many in our day are looking for a purpose to exist. A purpose profound enough, big enough, consuming enough, that it grabs us by the shirt collar and demands our attention. Many are looking for a reason for living that will plumb the depths of our passions and sustain us until we breathe our last. That’s why this
book of Ecclesiastes is such a helpful pre-evangelism tool to use with our unsaved friends. I encourage you to seek out someone with whom you can share a copy of this book (and Swindoll’s helpful guide) and discuss its perspective. But I find that too often Solomon’s perspective of futility mirrors my own thinking as a believer .. how can that be? We all need to be reminded of the vast difference between the worldview of humanism vs one who is united to Jesus Christ and living for eternity. Solomon’s Technique: literary pessimism. It’s a negative argument to demonstrate a profound truth. To learn the true meaning of life ... first view life apart from God – see it in all of its futility ... then the layer of God-connectiveness can be added and it will mean something

Ray Stedman - Ecclesiastes is a collection of what man is able to discern under the sun, i.e., in the visible world. The book does not take into consideration revelation that comes from beyond man's powers of observation and reason. It is an inspired, an accurate book. It guarantees that what it reports is what people actually believe. but it is an examination of those beliefs.

PAUL APPLE
Commentary on Ecclesiastes
(with John Cobb and Brian Racer)

Well done 77 page commentary in Pdf Recommended

- Chasing the Wind - A Life of Futility

BILL BALDWIN
Ecclesiastes
This Meaningless Life
A Study in the Book of Ecclesiastes by Bill Baldwin

- Introduction
- The Author and His World
- Ecclesiastes 1:1-11
- Ecclesiastes 1:12-18
- Ecclesiastes 2:1-26
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-22
- Ecclesiastes 4:1-16
- Ecclesiastes 5:1-9
- Ecclesiastes 5:10-6:9
- Ecclesiastes 6:10-8:1
- Ecclesiastes 8:2-17
- Ecclesiastes 9:1-12
- Ecclesiastes 9:13-10:15
- Ecclesiastes 10:16-11:6
- Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:8
- Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

WILLIAM BARRICK
Lessons on the book of Ecclesiastes
"The Philippians of the Old Testament"

Well done and well annotated

Introduction to Ecclesiastes
Click for Mp3's

- Ecclesiastes 1 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 2 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 3 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 4 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 5 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 7:1-14 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 7:15-29 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 8 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 9 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 10 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 11 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 12 Commentary

ALBERT BARNES
Commentary on Ecclesiastes

- Introduction
- Ecclesiastes 1 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 2 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 3 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 4 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 5 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 7 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 8 Commentary
Ecclesiastes 9 Commentary
Ecclesiastes 10 Commentary
Ecclesiastes 11 Commentary
Ecclesiastes 12 Commentary

GEORGE BARTON
Commentary on the book of Ecclesiastes
1908

Helps to know Hebrew

- Ecclesiastes 1 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 2 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 3 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 4 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 5 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 7 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 8 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 9 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 10 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 11 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 12 Commentary

BRIAN BELL
Sermon Notes Ecclesiastes
Calvary Chapel Murrieta

- Ecclesiastes 1 Intro & Overview - Hopeless Jumble
- Ecclesiastes 1:3-18 Life is not a Bowl of Cherries... i
- Ecclesiastes 2 The Tears of a Clown
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 Times & Seasons
- Ecclesiastes 3:16-22 Man vs. Mongrel
- Ecclesiastes 4 3 is better than 2 is better than 1
- Ecclesiastes 7:1-28 Days of our Lives
- Ecclesiastes 7:15-29 I've Seen It All
- Ecclesiastes 9 Death is Predictable but Life Isn’t
- Ecclesiastes 10 Wise or Otherwise
- Ecclesiastes 11 Seven Ways to Live
JOSEPH BENSON
Commentary on Ecclesiastes

- Introduction
- Ecclesiastes 1 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 2 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 3 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 4 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 5 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 7 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 8 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 9 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 10 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 11 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 12 Commentary

BIBLE.ORG RESOURCES
Resources that Reference Ecclesiastes

Hint: Do a "control + find" when you open a "hit" and search Ecc as well as the full name. This may take some practice but is guaranteed to yield some "gems"!

Recommended Resource

- Ecclesiastes 1
- Ecclesiastes 2
- Ecclesiastes 3
- Ecclesiastes 4
- Ecclesiastes 5
- Ecclesiastes 6
- Ecclesiastes 7
- Ecclesiastes 8
- Ecclesiastes 9
- Ecclesiastes 10
- Ecclesiastes 11
- Ecclesiastes 12

BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATOR
Ecclesiastes
Note: The sermons are an older genre and the illustrations are of variable quality.

See same resource but in verse by verse format

- Introduction
- Ecclesiastes 1 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 2 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 3 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 4 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 5 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 7 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 8 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 9 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 10 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 11 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 12 Commentary

CHARLES BRIDGES
Commentary on the book of Ecclesiastes
1860

Note: Bridges is the author of the excellent Commentary on Proverbs and is definitely worth consulting.

Spurgeon: After the manner of other works by this devout author, who is always worth consulting, though he gives us nothing very new.

- Ecclesiastes 1 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 2 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 3 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 4 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 5 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 7 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 8 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 9 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 10 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 11 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 12 Commentary
- INDEX
Verse by verse comments which offer some useful insights.

- Ecclesiastes 1 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 2 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 3 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 4 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 5 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 7 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 8 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 9 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 10 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 11 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 12 Commentary

Comments are lucid, generally literal and generally verse by verse.

- Ecclesiastes 1 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 2 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 3 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 4 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 5 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 7 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 8 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 9 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 10 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 11 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 12 Commentary
Note: Comments on most verses, but they are very brief, sometimes little more than a few cross references or a synonym for the word being studied.

Simple translation and comments

Preface
Note: If you can locate the six-volume edition of the Expositor’s Bible, buy it immediately! It takes up less space than the original fifty-volume set, and not everything in the original set is worth owning. Samuel H. Kellogg on Leviticus is a classic; so is Alexander Maclaren on the Psalms and on Colossians.—Warren W. Wiersbe, A Basic Library for Bible Students

This set, originally published in 1903, contains expositions by both conservative and liberal theologians. The most important works are by Dod (Genesis), Chadwick (Exodus and Mark), Kellogg (Leviticus), Blaikie (Joshua, I and II Samuel), Adeney (Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther), Maclaren (Psalms), Moule (Romans), Findlay (Galatians and Ephesians), Plummer (Pastoral Epistles and the Epistles of James and Jude), and Milligan (Revelation.)—Cyril J. Barber, The Minister’s Library

- Ecclesiastes 1 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 2 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 3 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 4 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 5 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 7 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 8 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 9 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 10 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 11 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 12 Commentary

EXPOSITOR’S DICTIONARY OF TEXTS

- Ecclesiastes 1 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 2 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 3 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 4 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 5 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 7 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 8 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 9 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 10 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 11 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 12 Commentary
Updated January 11, 2016. ~200 pages = functions like an expositional commentary

- Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 Futility Under The Sun
- Ecclesiastes 1:12-18 Grasping for the Wind
- Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 I'll Be Happy When
- Ecclesiastes 2:12-26 I Hated Life...
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 Infinite Abyss
- Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:3 Justice Departed
- Ecclesiastes 4:4-16 Investing in Social Capital
- Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 Guard Your Steps
- Ecclesiastes 5:8-20 Rich-Poor-Righteous-Unrighteous
- Ecclesiastes 6 Riches, Wealth, Honor
- Ecclesiastes 7:1-6 Better-Than
- Ecclesiastes 7:7-14 Better Than - Part 2
- Ecclesiastes 7:15-8:1 Helping the Wisdom Challenged
- Ecclesiastes 8:2-9 Question Authority - Yes or No
- Ecclesiastes 8:10-17 Who Will Oppress the Oppressors?
- Ecclesiastes 9:1-12 Living While Dying
- Ecclesiastes 9:13-10:7 Don't Be a Fool
- Ecclesiastes 10:8-11:6 Sharpening Your Axe
- Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:8 Remember Your Creator
- Ecclesiastes 12:9 Well-Driven Nails

- Introduction
- Ecclesiastes 1 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 2 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 3 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 4 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 5 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 7 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 8 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 9 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 10 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 11 Commentary
Ecclesiastes 12 Commentary

JOHN GILL
Commentary on Ecclesiastes

- Ecclesiastes 1 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 2 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 3 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 4 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 5 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 7 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 8 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 9 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 10 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 11 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 12 Commentary

GOTQUESTIONS
Related to Ecclesiastes

- Book of Ecclesiastes - Bible Survey
- What is synonymous parallelism in Hebrew poetry?
- What is antithetical parallelism in Hebrew poetry?
- What is synthetic parallelism in Hebrew poetry?
- What is wisdom literature?
- Who is the Preacher in Ecclesiastes?
- Who is the Qoheleth in Ecclesiastes?
- What should we learn from the life of Solomon?
- Was Solomon saved?
- What is the meaning of life? Ecclesiastes 1:2?
- What does the Bible say about moderation? cf Ecclesiastes 2?
- What does the Bible mean that everything is meaningless?
- What does it mean that there is nothing new under the sun?
- What does it mean that there is a proper time for everything (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)?
- What does it mean that we have eternity in our hearts (Ecclesiastes 3:11)?
- How is sorrow better than laughter (Ecclesiastes 7:3)?
- What does it mean to be overrighteous and overwise (Ecclesiastes 7:16)?
- Is “eat, drink, and be merry” a biblical concept? cf Ecclesiastes 8:15?
- What does it mean that the dead know nothing (Ecclesiastes 9:5)?
- What does the Bible say about how to find purpose in life?
How should a Christian view wealth?

JOE GUGLIELMO
Ecclesiastes Notes

- Click Here
- Select Book for links by chapter

DAVID GUZIK
Commentary on Ecclesiastes

Note: Brief comments from a more modern perspective. Guzik has useful insights and practical applications.

- Ecclesiastes 1 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 2 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 3 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 4 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 5 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 7 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 8 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 9 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 10 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 11 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 12 Commentary

ROBERT HAWKER
Commentary on Ecclesiastes

- Introduction

Spurgeon: Full of devotion and sweetness....Gentlemen, if you want something full of marrow and fatness, cheering to your own hearts by way of comment, and likely to help you in giving to your hearers rich exposition, buy Dr Hawker's "Poor Man's Commentary. Dr Hawker was the very least of commentators in the matter of criticism; he had no critical capacity, and no ability whatever as an interpreter of the letter; but he sees Jesus, and that is a sacred gift which is most precious whether the owner be a critic or not. It is to be confessed that he occasionally sees Jesus where Jesus is not legitimately to be seen. He
allows his reason to be mastered by his affections, which, vice as it is, is not the worst fault in the world. There is always such a savor of the Lord Jesus Christ in Dr Hawker that you cannot read him without profit....not as a substantial dish but as a condiment, place the Plymouth vicar's work on the table. His writing is all sugar, and you will know how to use it, not devouring it in lumps, but using it to flavor other things. -- From Lectures to My Students.

- [Ecclesiastes 1 Commentary](#)
- [Ecclesiastes 2 Commentary](#)
- [Ecclesiastes 3 Commentary](#)
- [Ecclesiastes 4 Commentary](#)
- [Ecclesiastes 5 Commentary](#)
- [Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary](#)
- [Ecclesiastes 7 Commentary](#)
- [Ecclesiastes 8 Commentary](#)
- [Ecclesiastes 9 Commentary](#)
- [Ecclesiastes 10 Commentary](#)
- [Ecclesiastes 11 Commentary](#)
- [Ecclesiastes 12 Commentary](#)

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**E W HENGSTENBERG**

Commentary on Ecclesiastes

**Rossocup**: This is one of the finest, most scholarly old works on Ecclesiastes.

**Spurgeon**: Scholarly of course, and also more vivacious than is usual with Hengstenberg.

- [Ecclesiastes 1 Commentary](#)
- [Ecclesiastes 2 Commentary](#)
- [Ecclesiastes 3 Commentary](#)
- [Ecclesiastes 4 Commentary](#)
- [Ecclesiastes 5 Commentary](#)
- [Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary](#)
- [Ecclesiastes 7 Commentary](#)
- [Ecclesiastes 8 Commentary](#)
- [Ecclesiastes 9 Commentary](#)
- [Ecclesiastes 10 Commentary](#)
- [Ecclesiastes 11 Commentary](#)
- [Ecclesiastes 12 Commentary](#)

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**MATTHEW HENRY**
GEORGE HOLDEN
Commentary on Ecclesiastes

"An Attempt to Illustrate the Book of Ecclesiastes"

- Preface
- Preliminary Dissertation
- Of the Title Koheleth
- Style and Language
- Object and Design for Publication
- Analytical Table of Contents
- Paraphrase of the Book of Ecclesiastes

Spurgeon: Bridges says Holden "stands foremost for accuracy of critical exegesis," and Ginsburg considers his Commentary to be the best in our language. We may therefore be wrong in setting so little store by it as we do, but we are not convinced.
Ecclesiastes 9 Commentary
Ecclesiastes 10 Commentary
Ecclesiastes 11 Commentary
Ecclesiastes 12 Commentary

LEON HYATT
Commentary Notes
Book of Ecclesiastes

- Ecclesiastes 1 - 1:1-2 Authorship, Date, Theme and Structure
- Ecclesiastes 2 - 1:3-11 Introduction of the Book of Ecclesiastes
- Ecclesiastes 3 - 1:12-18 Surveying All Done On Earth Is Vanity
- Ecclesiastes 4 - 2:1-11 Pleasure Is Vanity
- Ecclesiastes 5 - 2:12-17 Great Knowledge Is Vanity
- Ecclesiastes 6 - 2:18-4:16 Hard Work Is Vanity
- Ecclesiastes 7 - 5:1-5 Hasty Speech Is Vanity
- Ecclesiastes 8 - 5:8-6:9 Great Wealth Is Vanity
- Ecclesiastes 9 - 6:10-7:29 Self-Righteousness Is Vanity
- Ecclesiastes 10 - 8:1-9:10 Human Wisdom Is Vanity
- Ecclesiastes 11 - 9:11-11:8 Human Achievement Is Vanity
- Ecclesiastes 12 - 11:9-12:8 Youth Is Vanity
- Ecclesiastes 13 - 12:9-12 Excessive Study Is Vanity
- Ecclesiastes 14 - 12:13-14 Conclusion

JAMIESON, FAUSSET, BROWN
Commentary Critical and Explanatory
on the Whole Bible

- Introduction

Note: One of the better older OT commentaries as it generally interprets the Scripture literally.

- Ecclesiastes 1 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 2 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 3 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 4 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 5 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 7 Commentary
Spurgeon: Keil's works are valuable helps towards obtaining the meaning of the text but for spiritual reflections and fruitful hints we must look elsewhere.
**LANGE'S COMMENTARY**

**Ecclesiastes**

Otto Zockler

**Spurgeon:** This volume contains much that we do not like, but its value is considerable.

**Rosscup:** Another of the very helpful older works, often rich in meaning on details, giving views, considering matters from different angles.

**ALEXANDER MACLAREN**

**Sermons on Ecclesiastes**

Excellent Expositor
Cyril Barber - MacDonald, James Madison. The Book of Ecclesiastes Explained. 1856. C. H. Spurgeon said of this work, "Thoroughly exegetical, with excellent, scopes of argument' following each division; to be purchased if found.' An excellent work.
J VERNON MCGEE
Thru the Bible - Mp3's
Ecclesiastes

- Ecclesiastes 1 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 2 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 3 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 4 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 5 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 7 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 8 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 9 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 10 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 11 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 12 Commentary

F B MEYER
Our Daily Homily
Our Daily Walk
Ecclesiastes

- Ecclesiastes 1
- Ecclesiastes 2
- Ecclesiastes 3
- Ecclesiastes 3:1 Timeliness (ODW)
- Ecclesiastes 4
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 The Value of Friendship (ODW)
- Ecclesiastes 5
- Ecclesiastes 6
- Ecclesiastes 7
- Ecclesiastes 8
- Ecclesiastes 9
- Ecclesiastes 10
- Ecclesiastes 11
- Ecclesiastes 12

HENRY MORRIS
Defender's Study Bible Notes
Ecclesiastes

- Ecclesiastes 1:1 - the Preacher. Solomon calls himself "the Preacher" no less than seven times in this book, using a word (Kehleth) used nowhere else in the Old Testament. He seems here to assume the role of a pastor over his flock rather than as a king over his subjects.
- Ecclesiastes 1:2 Vanity
- Ecclesiastes 1:3 under the sun
- Ecclesiastes 1:4 earth abideth for ever
- Ecclesiastes 1:5 sun goeth down
- Ecclesiastes 1:6 whirlth about continually
- Ecclesiastes 1:7 thither they return from whence they come
- Ecclesiastes 1:9 no new thing.
- Ecclesiastes 1:14 all the works all is vanity
- Ecclesiastes 1:18 is much grief
- Ecclesiastes 2:2 of laughter, It is mad
- Ecclesiastes 2:9 before me in Jerusalem
- Ecclesiastes 2:17 - vexation of spirit. This picturesque phrase occurs nine times in Ecclesiastes and only once elsewhere (Isaiah 65:14). When anyone finds, as did Solomon, that most of what he has devoted his life to is mere vanity, it will surely produce "vexation of spirit."
- Ecclesiastes 2:24 good in his labour hand of God
- Ecclesiastes 3:1 a time to every purpose
- Ecclesiastes 3:2 a time to die
- Ecclesiastes 3:11 every thing beautiful the world
- Ecclesiastes 3:14 shall be for ever
- Ecclesiastes 3:15 requireth that which is past
- Ecclesiastes 3:17 God shall judge
- Ecclesiastes 3:20 of the dust
- Ecclesiastes 3:21 goeth upward.
- Ecclesiastes 4:1 - such as were oppressed. Vast numbers of godly men and women have been oppressed and persecuted—sometimes even executed—for their Christian stand (e.g., John the Baptist, Paul the apostle), and they seemed to have had "no comforter," but they did have the divine Comforter (John 14:16; 2 Corinthians 1:4, 5). They were undoubtedly reminded of Christ, for "He was oppressed, and He was afflicted" also, and they realized that "in all their affliction He was afflicted" (Isaiah 53:7; 63:9).
- Ecclesiastes 4:5 eateth his own flesh
- Ecclesiastes 4:12 - threefold cord. Such a strong cord would be comparable, even superior, to many cables in use today.
- Ecclesiastes 5:1 Keep thy foot
- Ecclesiastes 5:2 let thy words be few
- Ecclesiastes 5:5 vow and not pay
- Ecclesiastes 5:6 before the angel
Ecclesiastes 5:19 gift of God
Ecclesiastes 6:3 - an hundred children. So far as the record goes, Solomon only sired one son and two daughters, but it would at least have been possible for a man such as he, with his multitude of wives and concubines, to beget a hundred children. untimely birth
Ecclesiastes 6:6 all go to one place
Ecclesiastes 7:1 better
Ecclesiastes 7:3 better than laughter
Ecclesiastes 7:7 - a wise man mad. The Hebrew word translated "mad" in this verse is usually translated "praise." The thought here may be that "oppression" imposed upon a truly wise man will actually cause him to praise the Lord. "Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, ... let him glorify God on this behalf" (1 Peter 4:16).
Ecclesiastes 7:16 righteous over much
Ecclesiastes 7:17 before thy time
Ecclesiastes 7:20 not a just man
Ecclesiastes 7:29 hath made man upright
Ecclesiastes 8:8 to retain the spirit
Ecclesiastes 8:11 not executed speedily
Ecclesiastes 8:15 to be merry
Ecclesiastes 9:1 in the hand of God. Despite the "under the sun" implications that things on earth seem to happen indifferently to both righteous and unrighteous, Solomon intuitively knew that "the Judge of all the earth" will certainly "do right" (Genesis 18:25) in the scales of eternity.
Ecclesiastes 9:2 come alike to all
Ecclesiastes 9:5 dead know not
Ecclesiastes 9:9 - Live joyfully. Solomon surely still deeply loved Naamah, the "wife of his youth," though she must have grieved over his later accumulation of his many pagan wives for politico/prestige purpose. In his old age, Solomon could at least give this wise counsel to young men. The word "joyfully" occurs only this once in the Old Testament. One should attempt to keep his marriage alive and happy as long as life continues.
Ecclesiastes 9:10 the wife whom thou lovest
Ecclesiastes 9:11 with thy might
Ecclesiastes 9:11 - time and chance. Evolutionists like to imagine that "time and chance" are sufficient to explain the origin and evolution of all forms of life, including men. These undoubtedly have a role in the vicissitudes of life, but random changes could never produce complex living creatures, no matter how many billions of years might be assumed.
Ecclesiastes 9:14 There was a little city
Ecclesiastes 10:1 a little folly
Ecclesiastes 10:2 heart is at his right hand
Ecclesiastes 10:16 eat in the morning
Ecclesiastes 10:20 - a bird of the air. The old saying, "A little bird told me," probably
had its origin in this verse. One should be especially cautious of blasphemy of word—or even of thought—against the King of kings.

- Ecclesiastes 11:1 bread upon the waters
- Ecclesiastes 11:5 how the bones do grow God who maketh all
- Ecclesiastes 11:6 sow thy seed
- Ecclesiastes 11:9 days of thy youth
- Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember now thy Creator
- Ecclesiastes 12:3 keepers of the house
- Ecclesiastes 12:4 doors shall be shut
- Ecclesiastes 12:5 which is high almond treelong home
- Ecclesiastes 12:6 pitcher be broken
- Ecclesiastes 12:7 dust return to the earth spirit shall return unto God
- Ecclesiastes 12:12 making many books
- Ecclesiastes 12:13 keep his commandments
- Ecclesiastes 12:14 every word into judgment

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**MISCELLANEOUS RESOURCES**

Commentaries, Sermons, Devotionals

**JOURNAL ARTICLES**

Journal Articles Online - Listing of these articles does not signify I agree with all of the content so Be a Berean!

- Gleason Archer - The Linguistic Evidence for the Date of Ecclesiastes
- Robert McCabe - Ecclesiastes 7:15-18 - audio
- Robert McCabe - Message of Ecclesiastes - 27 page paper
- Robert McCabe - Navigating Life in a World that has Been Scarred by the Fall: Reflections on Ecclesiastes 9;7-10 and Living in a World of Suffering
- Ecclesiastes Bibliography (Dave Beldman)
- Ecclesiastes Bibliography (Ted Hildebrandt)
- F. F. Bruce, "The Wisdom Literature of the Bible: The Book of Ecclesiastes,"


Crenshaw, James L. Ecclesiastes, A Commentary. Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1987. Posits the possibility of four writers, not one, contributing to the material found in Qohelet. Establishes the value of this book on its canonicity, not its inspiration. While up-to-date, sober, and instructive, what is presented here is highly critical. In spite of this, Crenshaw is an acknowledged specialist in wisdom literature, and there is much to learn from his judicious remarks.

Davidson, Robert. Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon. Daily Study Bible. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1986. Seeks to show the relevancy of these books to believers today. Directs the attention of readers to the importance of developing a strong Godward relationship.


and this volume deserves special consideration as an outstanding, detailed exposition of these three canonical books. Conservative in theology and thorough in scope, Garrett interacts with the different approaches to these books, comments on each verse, and treats technical matters in footnotes. The contents is readable and will be particularly apropos to pastors, Bible class teachers, and lay people desiring to study these seldom read portions of God’s Word.

- Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. Ecclesiastes: Total Life. Chicago: Moody Press, 1979. One of the most satisfying expositions on this portion of Scripture. **Highly recommended.**
- Keddie, Gordon J. Looking For the Good Life: The Search for Fulfillment in the Light of Ecclesiastes. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1991. A unique, popular approach to the book of Ecclesiastes. Covers the text in 13 chapters, each with questions for discussion. Addresses each of the pointed questions posed by the Biblical writer. Points the way out of depression and despair to a life of hope. Discusses the basics of a philosophy of life, the problems that inevitably arise, the quest for answers, and the decisions that must be made. Ideal for use in adult discussion groups
- Loader, J. A. Polar Structures in the Book of Qohlet. Berlin: Waiter de Gruyter, 1979. Analyzes the polar structures of Ecclesiastes and uses these to highlight the tensions created in the experience of the author. For use by the well-informed student.
- Longman, Tremper, III. The Book of Ecclesiastes. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998. The author provides an extensive introduction to Ecclesiastes, explores the traditional background matters as authorship, language, genre, structure, literary style, and theology. Longman argues that the author of Ecclesiastes is not Solomon, but a writer who adopts a “Solomonic persona.” In his verse-by-verse commentary this OT scholar clarifies what to many is the confusing message of Ecclesiastes
- MacDonald, James Madison. The Book of Ecclesiastes Explained. Minneapolis: Klock & Klock Christian Publishers, 1982. **C. H. Spurgeon said of this work,** "Thoroughly exegetical, with excellent, scopes of argument' following each division; to be purchased if found:' **An excellent work.**
- Murphy, Roland. Ecclesiastes. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, TX: Word Books, 1992. Murphy’s Introduction is extensive, and his bibliographies are of the utmost importance. Of particular significance is his interpretation of the text. It is clear, but not without its reliance on Redaktionsgeschichte and other higher critical theories. To Murphy, the key to understanding what “the preacher” has written is to be found in
his (i.e., Murphy's) definition of faith (i.e., trust) which he further defines as “accepting God on His terms.” Murphy then explains the stages of this book with this definition in mind.


- Swindoll, Charles Rozell. Living on the Ragged Edge: Coming to Terms with Reality. Waco, Tex.: Word Books, 1985. Addresses the contemporary milieu; explains from what God chose to reveal through His inspired penman the secret of contentment and the way to enjoy a sense of fulfillment. Each message is at once timely and relevant. The result is a work that deserves widespread circulation.

- Wardlaw, Ralph. Exposition of Ecclesiastes. Minneapolis: Klock & Klock Christian Publishers, 1982. These sermons, first published in 1868, adequately expound the ethical and practical principles of this portion of God's Word. Readers will find in them a richness of thought and a relevance of application that will reward their inquiry. **Recommended**


**WILLIAM BARRICK**

- Review of Iain Provan's "Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs. The NIV Application Commentary"
- Review of R E Murphy's Ecclesiastes in Word Biblical Commentary

**BEST COMMENTARIES**

- Best Commentaries on Ecclesiastes - Tim Challies
- Top 5 Commentaries - Ecclesiastes by Keith Mathison - Ligonier Ministries
- Best Commentary on Ecclesiastes - extensive collection but my least favorite as it is the least discerning
KENNETH BOA

- Ecclesiastes Overview

DICTIONARIES

- Ecclesiastes, Theology of - Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology
- Ecclesiastes, Book of - The 1901 Jewish Encyclopedia
- Fausset Bible Dictionary Ecclesiastes, the Book of
- Holman Bible Dictionary Ecclesiastes, Book of
- Morrish Bible Dictionary Ecclesiastes, Book of
- Ecclesiastes, or the Preacher - International Standard Bible Encyclopedia
- Ecclesiastes - Hastings' Dictionary of the Bible
- American Tract Society Ecclesiastes
- Bridgeway Bible Dictionary Ecclesiastes
- Chabad Knowledge Base Ecclesiastes
- Easton's Bible Dictionary Ecclesiastes
- Hitchcock Bible Names Ecclesiastes
- Hawker's Poor Man's Dictionary Ecclesiastes
- People's Dictionary of the Bible Ecclesiastes
- Webster Dictionary Ecclesiastes
- Watson's Theological Dictionary Ecclesiastes

BIBLE CHARTS

- Ecclesiastes - Interesting Facts - Chart with brief (but indeed interesting) facts some you know but some you make not

ARDEL B CANEDAY

- Ecclesiastes (Qoheleth): Enigmatic Pessimist or Godly Sage? (Grace Theological Journal 7.1, p 21-56, 1986)

IMANUEL CHRISTIAN

- On Wings of Eternity - The Message of Ecclesiastes

DAVID COLBURN

- Ecclesiastes, 1 Kings, 2 Chronicles, Proverbs (Solomon Reflects)

MARK DEVER

- Wisdom for the Successful - The Message of Ecclesiastes
This book is one long comment on the words of Christ, "Whoso drinketh of this water shall thirst again" [John 4:13].

The expression "under the sun" occurs no less than twenty-eight times, and nowhere else in the Bible. It may be taken as the Key-note of the book. "Under the heaven" is thrice mentioned, and "upon the earth" seven times. The word "vanity" occurs thirty-seven times [the Hebrew word means "a vanishing vapor," or, "emptiness'']. Nearly forty times in this book, does the Spirit of God name the earth and the things belonging to the earth. It is only in the last few verses that we get "above the sun."

If life be viewed apart from God, it becomes an insoluble problem; all is vanity and vexation of spirit. Exclude God from the world, and scepticism and materialism must be the inevitable result. The chief design of the book is to test things in order to prove how inadequate they are to satisfy the deepest and truest longings of the human heart. Its problem is-- Can the world, apart from God, meet man's need? The verdict is, "All is vanity."
What Shall It Profit? [Ecc 1:3; cp. Mark 8:36]

Who is it that propounds this problem? It is one who was in the very best position to judge. One who possessed everything the world could give, not only of material things, but of intellectual gifts also. Solomon--"the peaceful one"--was intended to be the great ideal king. In the First Book of Kings, we see the extent of his possessions. A large, well-defined, fertile territory, peace within and around his kingdom; an enormous revenue to spend, wealth practically limitless; all the interests of new commerce and exploration. Insight and penetration above all men, sympathy with all men and things, the interest of starting classifications of science, and of forming books of maxims and songs. The respect and admiration of all his contemporaries. The power of expressing his thoughts in words (1Kings ch. 4; 8; and 10; Ecc 2:1-11). Wealth, youth, and strength were all on his side at the commencement of his reign, and, unlike other Easterns, he was never idle. He spent a number of years in building the Temple, a worthy work for such a king. His actual possessions and his power of insight and penetration lift him into a position from which he can really view the whole of life, and the limit of what it can afford. Here is philosophical insight fully developed; the great problem stated, but not solved; the diagnosis of the disease, but not the remedy. The book presents the world in its best aspect, yet says emphatically, "Satisfaction is not there."

"Only in the last two verses do we find the solution [Eccl 12:13,14]. Here Solomon gets above the sun, and things begin at once to disentangle and straighten. Love God, obey Him, trust Him, and all will be well with you; for the judgment approaches in which all wrongs will be righted, and all mysteries cleared up, and you will be made glad with a joy unspeakable. This is the key to the book. Live under the sun, rise no higher, and doubt and unbelief will ensue. Live above the sun, spend the days with God, and light and peace you shall have." Outline Studies in the Books of the Old Testament, W. G. Moorehead]

A New Center.

In chapter 2, we have a striking parallel to Romans 7. Both chapters are bristling with the personal pronoun "I," and the result, in both, is failure and disaster. In Ecclesiastes 2, Solomon says, "I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth... I said, I sought, I made, I builded, I planted, I got, I gathered, so I was great. Then I looked, and behold all was vanity and vexation of spirit." The pronoun "I" occurs thirty-six times, and over thirty times in Romans 7. That New Testament chapter is the expression of what the Apostle's experience would be, any moment, apart from Christ. As he looks at himself, all is failure, vanity
and vexation. But in Romans 8, as he looks at Christ, he loses sight of himself. The pronoun of the first-person hardly occurs; he is taken up with the contemplation of God, of Christ, of the Spirit. The Divine Name occurs abundantly all through the chapter, and the result is "No condemnation," "more than conquerors," "no separation."

When self is the center of our life, and everything is looked at from that standpoint, all is failure. When we find in Christ a new center and everything revolves around Him, then all falls into its right place, and we find rest and satisfaction to our souls. We begin then to ask about everything-- not "How will this affect me?", but "How will this affect my Lord and Master?" Does it touch His honor? Does it bring glory to Him?

**White Robes.**

There is a verse in Ecclesiastes which takes us into the very atmosphere of John's first Epistle. "Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment." (Ecc 9:8). Obviously, this does not allude to outward things. But how can we keep ourselves unspotted in such an evil world? and how can we be continually "unto God a sweet savour of Christ"? [2Cor 2:15]. "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." [1Joh 1:7]. As we walk in the light as He is in the light, and abide under the power of His shed blood, we can be kept clean. "Ye have an unction from the Holy One... and the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you." [1Joh 2:20,27]. As we abide under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, He will abide with us for ever.

**The Little City.**

Again, this book contains a little parable. It is not a type, it is not a prophecy, but a simple little story with a beautiful truth hidden in it for those who believe that all parts of the Scripture converge towards One Center (Ecc 9:14,15).

"There was a little city, and few men in it"-- a picture of this earth which the Lord hath given to the children of men; a speck in His great universe, yet He is mindful of man.

"And there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it." "The Prince of this world cometh," Christ said; and he, the god of this world, has blinded the minds of men, lest the light of the glorious Gospel should shine unto them; so successfully has he laid siege to the city of Mansoul [ie., man's soul]. [cp. John 14:30; 2Cor 4:4]

"Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city." We know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, though He was rich, for our sakes became poor, and was found in
fashion as a man, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross [2Cor 8:9; Php 2:6-8]. The preaching of that Cross is unto them that perish foolishness, but unto us who are saved, it is the power of God and the wisdom of God [1Cor 1:18,24].

"Yet no man remembered that same poor man." "My people have forgotten Me days without number" [Jer 2:32], "forgotten that they were purged from their old sins" [2Pet 1:9]. "Of the ten cleansed there were not found that returned to give glory to God save this stranger" [Luke 17:17,18]. Oh, redeemed children of men, "forget not all His benefits!" [Psa 103:2]

"Both alike Good."

Chapter 11 contains words of encouragement to the worker for Christ. "Cast thy seed-corn on the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days." When the Nile overflows in Egypt, the rice grain is literally cast upon the fields while they are under water, to spring up in due season. In the parable of the sower, Christ tells us plainly that "the seed is the word" [Luke 8:4-15]. The ground, be it shallow, or trodden down, or preoccupied, or good-- that is, soft and empty, and receptive-- is the human heart. From this parable, we see that the heart of man contains nothing of the good seed of the Kingdom to begin with-- it has to be sown. The work of sowing the good seed of the Kingdom is always an act of faith. We cannot tell what sort of ground it will fall upon, but in this passage in Ecclesiastes, God gives the faithful sower the benefit of the doubt as to its success. "Thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good." Therefore, we are to be diligent in sowing, whether it be morning or evening, and whichever way the wind blows (11:6,4). "Preach the word," Paul says to the youthful Timothy; "be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and doctrine" [2Tim 4:2].

"Those that seek Me early shall find Me." [Prov 8:17; cp. Prov 1:24-33]

The book closes with a call to the young: "Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment" [Ecc 11:9]. The intention of the writer evidently is not to encourage the young to follow the dictates of their own heart without reference to God's will. He warns them of the result of such a course: "Therefore, remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity. Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.' [11:10 - 12:1-7].
This book is given as a danger-post, that we may be spared the bitterness of learning the vanity of the things of earth by finding their waters to fail; that we may choose the Lord's delightsome service of our own free will.

Those who have studied the subject have found that by far the largest proportion of men and women who are living to serve the Lord have chosen that service in childhood; that the proportion of those who are converted to God late in life is very small. How important, then, that the children should be won for Christ, that this most fertile soil should be claimed for Him, that the children should be led to accept His invitation: "Suffer [ie., allow] the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto Me" [Mark 10:14].

HOLMAN PUBLISHING

- Holman Christian Standard Bible Study Bible - Nice study notes

IMAGES

- Ecclesiastes Bible images - Google

DAN T. LIOY

- Life and Death in Biblical Perspective: Genesis 5, Ecclesiastes 1, 1 Cor 15:50-58

WILLIAM MACDONALD

- Overview of Ecclesiastes - only one page

DAVID MALICK

- The Book of Ecclesiastes - Introduction
- An Argument of the Book of Ecclesiastes
- Selected Bibliography of the Book of Ecclesiastes

JOHN MACARTHUR

- Ecclesiastes Introduction (same as MacArthur's study Bible introductions)

Author and Date - The autobiographical profile of the book’s writer unmistakably points to Solomon. Evidence abounds such as: 1) the titles fit Solomon, “son of David, king in Jerusalem” (Eccl 1:1) and “king over Israel in Jerusalem” (Eccl 1:12); 2) the author’s moral odyssey chronicles Solomon’s life (1Ki 2–11); and 3) the role of one who “taught the people knowledge” and wrote “many proverbs” (Eccl 12:9)
corresponds to his life. All point to Solomon, the son of David, as the author. Once Solomon is accepted as the author, the date and occasion become clear. Solomon was writing, probably in his latter years (no later than ca. 931 B.C.), primarily to warn the young people of his kingdom, without omitting others. He warned them to avoid walking through life on the path of human wisdom; he exhorted them to live by the revealed wisdom of God (Eccl 12:9–14). (Ed: Bolding added to emphasize that this is almost assuredly written by Solomon -- contrast the comment in the NIV Study Bible introduction below).

**Interpretive Challenges** - The author’s declaration that “all is vanity” envelops the primary message of the book (cf. 1:2; 12:8). The word translated “vanity” is used in at least 3 ways throughout the book. In each case, it looks at the nature of man’s activity “under the sun” as: 1) “fleeting,” which has in view the vapor-like (cf. James 4:14) or transitory nature of life; 2) “futile” or “meaningless,” which focuses on the cursed condition of the universe and the debilitating effects it has on man’s earthly experience; or 3) “incomprehensible” or “enigmatic,” which gives consideration to life’s unanswerable questions. Solomon draws upon all 3 meanings in Ecclesiastes.

While the context in each case will determine which meaning Solomon is focusing upon, the most recurring meaning of vanity is “incomprehensible” or “unknowable,” referring to the mysteries of God’s purposes. Solomon’s conclusion to “fear God and keep His commandments” (12:13, 14) is more than the book’s summary; it is the only hope of the good life and the only reasonable response of faith and obedience to sovereign God. He precisely works out all activities under the sun, each in its time according to His perfect plan, but also discloses only as much as His perfect wisdom dictates and holds all men accountable. Those who refuse to take God and His Word seriously are doomed to lives of the severest vanity.

**Outline** - The book chronicles Solomon’s investigations and conclusions regarding man’s lifework, which combine all of his activity and its potential outcomes including limited satisfaction. The role of wisdom in experiencing success surfaces repeatedly, particularly when Solomon must acknowledge that God has not revealed all of the details. This leads Solomon to the conclusion that the primary issues of life after the Edenic fall involve divine blessings to be enjoyed and the divine judgment for which all must prepare.

I. Introduction

A. Title (Ecclesiastes 1:1)

B. Poem—A Life of Activity That Appears Wearisome (Ecclesiastes 1:2-
II. Solomon’s Investigation (Ecclesiastes 1:12-6:9)

- A. Introduction—The King and His Investigation (Ecclesiastes 1:12-18)
- B. Investigation of Pleasure-Seeking (Ecclesiastes 2:1-11)
- C. Investigation of Wisdom and Folly (Ecclesiastes 2:12-17)
- D. Investigation of Labor and Rewards (Ecclesiastes 2:18-6:9)
  1. One has to leave them to another (Ecclesiastes 2:18-26)
  2. One cannot find the right time to act (Ecclesiastes 3:1-4:6)
  3. One often must work alone (Ecclesiastes 4:7-16)
  4. One can easily lose all he acquires (Ecclesiastes 5:1-6:9)

III. Solomon’s Conclusions (Ecclesiastes 6:10-12:8)

- A. Introduction—The Problem of Not Knowing (Ecclesiastes 6:10-12)
- B. Man Cannot Always Find Out Which Route is the Most Successful for Him to Take Because His Wisdom is Limited (Ecclesiastes 7:1-8:17)
  1. On prosperity and adversity (Ecclesiastes 7:1-14)
  2. On justice and wickedness (Ecclesiastes 7:15-24)
  3. On women and folly (Ecclesiastes 7:25-29)
  4. On the wise man and the king (Ecclesiastes 8:1-17)
- C. Man Does Not Know What Will Come After Him (Ecclesiastes 9:1-11:6)
  1. He knows he will die (Ecclesiastes 9:1-4)
  2. He has no knowledge in the grave (Ecclesiastes 9:5-10)
  3. He does not know his time of death (Ecclesiastes 9:11, 12)
  4. He does not know what will happen (Ecclesiastes 9:13-10:15)
  5. He does not know what evil will come (Ecclesiastes 10:16-11:2)
  6. He does not know what good will come (Ecclesiastes 11:3-6)
- D. Man Should Enjoy Life, But Not Sin, Because Judgment Will Come to All (Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:8)

IV. Solomon’s Final Advice (Ecclesiastes 12:9-14)
Author and Date - No time period or writer’s name is mentioned in the book, but several passages suggest that King Solomon may be the author (Eccl 1:1,12,16; 2:4–9; 7:26–29; 12:9; cf. 1Ki 2:9; 3:12; 4:29–34; 5:12; 10:1–8). On the other hand, the writer’s title (“Teacher,” Hebrew qoheleth; see note on 1:1), his unique style of Hebrew and his attitude toward rulers (suggesting that of a subject rather than a monarch—see, e.g., 4:1–2; 5:8–9; 8:2–4; 10:20) may point to another person and a later period. (Ed comment: While it "may point to another" the internal evidence almost assuredly points to Solomon as the author. See John MacArthur's comments above regarding the Authorship of Ecclesiastes. See also Swindoll's comments below).
- Eccl 5:6
- Eccl 5:8-17
- Eccl 5:8
- Eccl 5:10-12
- Eccl 5:13-17
- Eccl 5:18-6:7
- Eccl 5:18
- Eccl 5:19
- Eccl 6:2
- Eccl 6:3
- Eccl 6:6
- Eccl 6:7
- Eccl 6:8
- Eccl 6:10
- Eccl 7:1
- Eccl 7:2, 4
- Eccl 7:7
- Eccl 7:9
- Eccl 7:11-12
- Eccl 7:13-18
- Eccl 7:13
- Eccl 7:14
- Eccl 7:15
- Eccl 7:16-17
- Eccl 7:18
- Eccl 7:19
- Eccl 7:20
- Eccl 7:22
- Eccl 7:24
- Eccl 7:29
- Eccl 8:5-6
- Eccl 8:8
- Eccl 8:9
- Eccl 8:10-13
- Eccl 8:14
- Eccl 8:15
- Eccl 8:17
- Eccl 9:1-10
- Eccl 9:1
- Eccl 9:3
- Eccl 9:10
- Eccl 9:11-12
- Eccl 9:16
- Eccl 10:2
JAMES S. REITMAN

- The Structure and Unity of Ecclesiastes (Bib Sac 154: 297-319, 1997)

M. JAMES SAWYER

- The Theology of Ecclesiastes - Excerpt...

  Summary - “Because man’s existence is perforated with puzzles, the pieces of which he can never assemble, his only recourse is to attain a posture of faith toward his life under the sun and to live it to the hilt knowing that someday the puzzle will be assembled by the One who created it and who will judge every deed.” (Howard Baker, “Theology of Ecclesiastes”)

H CARL SHANK

- Ecclesiastes' (Qoheleth's) World and Life View as seen in His Recurring Phrases (Westminster Theological Journal 37: 57-73, 1974)

BEZA (THEODORE.). Ecclesiastes. Solomon's Sermon to the People, with an Exposition. Small [1594]. Sure to be weighty and instructive. It is exceedingly rare.

BRIDGES (CHARLES, M.A.) Exposition of Ecclesiastes. 1860 -After the manner of other works by this devout author, who is always worth consulting, though he gives us nothing very new.

BROUGHTON (HUGH. 1549—1612). A Comment upon Ecclesiastes, framed for the Instruction of Prince Henry. 1605. Broughton was a far-famed and rather pretentious Hebraist whom Dr. Gill quoted as an authority. His work is nearly obsolete, but its loss is not a severe one.

BUCHANAN (ROBERT, D.D.) Ecclesiastes; its Meaning and its Lessons, explained and illustrated. Sq. Loud., Glasg., & Edinb., Blackie & Sons. 1859. Dr. Buchanan has endeavored in every instance to give the true meaning of the text. His explanations were composed for the pulpit and delivered there. The work is most important, but strikes us as lacking in liveliness of style.

CHOHELETH, or "The Royal Preacher, a Poem." First published in the year 1768.- Reprinted, 1830. This is the work of which Mr. Wesley wrote:—"Monday, Feb. 8, 1768. I met with a surprising poem, intituled Choheleth, or the Preacher: it is a paraphrase in tolerable verse on the Book of Ecclesiastes. I really think the author of it (a Turkey merchant) understands both the difficult expressions and the connection of the whole, better than any other, either ancient or modern, writer whom I have seen." We defer to Mr. Wesley's opinion, but it would not have occurred to us to commend so warmly.


COTTON (JOHN. 1585—1652). A briefe exposition, with practical observations. 1654. [Reprinted in Nichol's series of Commentaries. See Muffet, No. 596.] By a great linguist and sound divine. Ecclesiastes is not a book to be expounded verse by verse; but Cotton does it as well as anyone.

COX (SAMUEL). The Quest of the Chief Good: Expository Lectures. Sq. 1868. We should find it hard to subscribe to Mr. Cox's views of Ecclesiastes, for, to begin with, we cannot admit that its author was not Solomon, but some unnamed Rabbi: nevertheless, "The Quest of the Chief Good" is full of valuable matter, and abundantly repays perusal.

DALE (THOMAS PELHAM, M.A.) Ecclesiastes. With a running Commentary and Paraphrase. Rivingtons. 1873. This author makes all that he can out of the errors of the Septuagint, which he seems to value almost as much as the correct text itself. The new translation is a sort of stilted paraphrase, which in a remarkable manner darkens the meaning of the wise man's words. Mr. Dale says he is a man of one book, and we are glad to hear it: for we should be sorry for another book to suffer at his hands.
DESVOEUX (A. V.) A Philosophical and Critical Essay on Ecclesiastes. 1760. A curious and elaborate production. Neither in criticism, nor in theology, is the author always sound, and his notes are a very ill-arranged mass of singular learning.

GINSBURG (CHRISTIAN D.) Coheleth, or Ecclesiastes; trans-lated, with a Commentary. 8vo. Lond., Longmans. 1857. The author does not believe that Solomon wrote the book, and his view of its design is not the usual, nor, as we think, the right one. His outline of the literature of the book is very complete.

GRANGER (THOMAS). A Familiar Exposition, wherein the World's Vanity and the true Felicitie are plainly deciphered. 1621. Very antique, containing many obsolete and coarse phrases; but pithy and quaint.


HAMILTON JAMES, D.D. (1814-1867). Royal Preacher: Lectures on Ecclesiastes. 1851; We have had a great treat in reading this prose poem. It is a charming production.

HENGSTENBERG (E. W., D.D.) Commentary on Ecclesiastes. To which are appended: Treatises on the Song of Solomon; on the Book of Job; on the Prophet Isaiah, &c. Edinb., T. & T. Clark. 1860. Scholarly of course, and also more vivacious than is usual with Hengstenberg.


HOLDEN (GEORGE, M.A.) An Attempt to illustrate the Book of Ecclesiastes. 1822. Bridges says that Holden "stands foremost for accuracy of critical exegesis," and Ginsburg considers his Commentary to be the best in our language. We may therefore be wrong in setting so little store by it as we do, but we are not convinced.

JERMIN (MICHAEL, D.D.) Ecclesiastes. The school to which Jermin belonged delighted to display their learning, of which they had no small share; they excelled in wise sayings, but not in unction. The fruit is ripe, but lacks flavour.

LLOYD (J., M.A.) An Analysis of Ecclesiastes: with reference to the Hebrew Grammar of Gesenius, and with Notes; to which is added the Book of Ecclesiastes, in Hebrew and English, in parallel columns. 1874. This will be esteemed by men who have some knowledge of the Hebrew. The repeated references to Gesenius would render the book tedious to the ordinary reader, but they make it all the more valuable to one who aspires to be a Hebraist.

[LUTHER]. An Exposition of Salomon's Booke, called Ecclesiastes, or the Preacher. Printed by J. Day. Even the British Museum authorities have been unable to find this octavo for us, though it is mentioned in their catalogue.

MACDONALD (JAMES M., D.D.) Princeton, Ecclesiastes. 1856. Thoroughly exegetical, with excellent "scopes of argument" following each division: to be purchased if it can be met with.

MORGAN (A. A.) Ecclesiastes metrically Paraphrased, with Illustrations. 1856. This is an article deluxe, and is rather for the drawing-room than for the study. A graphic pencil, first-class typography, and a carefully written metrical translation make up an elegant work of art.

MYLNE (G. W.) Ecclesiastes; or, Lessons for the Christian's Daily Walk. 1859.
author in this little publication does not comment upon the whole Book; but the
passages he touches are ably explained.

- **NISBET (ALEXANDER. Died about 1658).** An Exposition, with Practical Observations - One of those solid works which learned Scotch divines of the seventeenth century have left us in considerable numbers. In our judgment it is as heavy as it is weighty.

- **PEMBLE (WILLIAM, M.A 1591—1623).** Salomon's Recantation and Repentance; or, the Book of Ecclesiastes briefly and fully explained. Anthony a Wood calls Pemble "a famous preacher, a skilful linguist, a good orator, and an ornament to society." Moreover, he was a learned Calvinistic divine. This "Recantation" is a minor production. The style is scholastic, with arrangements of the subjects such as render it hard to read. We confess we are disappointed with it.

- **PRESTON (THEODORE, M.A.)** A translation of the Commentary of Mendelssohn from the Rabbinic Hebrew; also a newly-arranged English Version,-A book more prized by linguists than by preachers. We might with propriety have named this Mendelssohn's Commentary, for so it is.

- **PROBY (W. H. B., M.A.)** Ecclesiastes for English Readers. 1874. About 45 pages, and these are quite enough. What has come to a man's brain when he prophecies that Antichrist will take away the daily sacrifice, that is, "forbid the eucharistic bread and wine," and then adds: "To this awful time there is probably a mystical reference in the words of our present book (XII. 6), 'While the silver cord is not loosed, or the golden bowl broken, or the pitcher broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.' For silver and gold signify respectively, in the symbolic language of Scripture, love and truth: thus the loosening of the silver cord will mean the love of many waxing cold, and the breaking of the golden bowl will mean the failure of truth from the earth; and we understand, then, that in the last awful time there will be no longer any speaking of the truth in love. And as the 'wells of salvation' in Isaiah XII. 3, are the sacraments and other means of grace, so the breaking of the pitcher and the wheel may signify the cessation of those ministries by which the sacraments and other means of grace are dispensed."


- **SERRANUS, or, DE SERRES (JOHN. 1540—1598).** A Godlie and Learned Commentary upon Ecclesiastes, newly turned into English, by John Stockwood, Schoolmaster of Tunbridge. 1585. Serranus was a Protestant pastor at Nismes, of such moderate opinions, and such objectionable modes of stating them, that he was about equally abhorred by Romanists and Protestants. He is said to have been very inaccurate in his learning.

- **STUART (MOSES).** A Commentary on Ecclesiastes 1851.-Full and minute, with most instructive introductions. It is unnecessary to say that Moses Stuart is a great authority, though not all we could wish as to spirituality.

- **TYLER (Triowas, M.A.)** Ecclesiastes; a Contribution to its Interpretation. Williams & Norgate. 1875. This writer is no doubt a profound thinker, but we do not set much store by the result of his thoughts. He maintains that the writer of Ecclesiastes was a
Jew who had traveled abroad, and heard the Stoic philosophers and their opponents at Athens. He seems to think that his point is proved, but it is the merest surmise possible. The work is not at all to our taste.

■ WARDLAW (RALPH, D.D.) Lectures on Ecclesiastes. 1821. Wardlaw is always goad, though not very brilliant. He may be relied upon, when not critical, and he generally excites thought.

■ WEISS (BENJAMIN). New Translation and Exposition, with Critical Notes. 1856. It is pleasing to find a converted Jew engaged upon this Book. Mr. Weiss says many good things, but frequently his interpretations and remarks are more singular than wise.

■ YCARD (FR. Dean of Achonry). Paraphrase. 8vo. Lond., 1701. 1/6. The clean supposes the Royal Preacher to have been interrupted by an impudent sensualist, and so he gets rid of the difficulty of certain passages by putting them into the scoffer's mouth. The theory is not to be tolerated for a moment.

■ YOUNG (LOYAL, D.D.) Commentary, with introductory Notices by McGill and Jacobus. 1865. This American comment is high & spoken of by eminent judges. and appears to have been carefully executed. It is able and solid, and at the same time enlivened with originality of thought, vivacity of expression, and practical pungency.

■ SMITH (JOHN, M.D., M.R.C.P.L.) King Solomon's Portraiture of Old Age, wherein is contained A Sacred Anatomy both of Soul and Body, with an account of all these Mystical and Enigmatical Symptoms, expressed in the six former verses of the 12th Chap. of Ecclesiastes, made plain and easie to a mean Capacitie.-A curious book by a Physician, who brings his anatomical knowledge to bear upon the twelfth chapter of Ecclesiastes, and tries to show that Solomon understood the circulation of the blood, &c. Matthew Poole introduced the substance of this treatise into his Synopsis, and in that huge compilation he speaks eulogistically of the author, with whom he resided. We mention it because of its singularity.

RAY STEDMAN

■ Book of Ecclesiastes- The Inspired Book of Error

CHARLES SWINDOLL

■ Book of Ecclesiastes Overview - Insight for Living Ministries
■ Listen to Chuck Swindoll’s overview of Ecclesiastes
■ Click for summary chart of Ecclesiastes

Who wrote the book? The title “Ecclesiastes” comes from a Greek word indicating a person who calls an assembly, so it makes sense that the author identified himself in Ecclesiastes 1:1 by the Hebrew word qoheleth, translated as “Preacher.” Despite leaving only this rather mysterious name to indicate his identity, evidence in the book, along with most Jewish and Christian tradition, suggests that King Solomon authored Ecclesiastes. The Preacher went on to call himself “the son of
David, king in Jerusalem,” one who has increased in “wisdom more than all who were over Jerusalem before me,” and one who has collected many proverbs (Ecclesiastes 1:1, 16; 12:9). Solomon followed David on the throne in Jerusalem as the only Davidic son to rule over all Israel from that city (Eccl 1:12). He was the wisest man in the world during his time (1 Kings 4:29–30) and wrote most of the book of Proverbs (Proverbs 1:1; 10:1; 25:1). Therefore, we can safely identify Solomon as the qoheleth of the opening verse. (Bolding added)

Why is Ecclesiastes so important? Ecclesiastes presents us a naturalistic vision of life—one that sees life through distinctively human eyes—but ultimately recognizes the rule and reign of God in the world. This more humanistic quality has made the book especially popular among younger audiences today, men and women who have seen more than their fair share of pain and instability in life but who still cling to their hope in God.

What's the big idea? Ecclesiastes, like much of life, represents a journey from one point to another. Solomon articulated his starting point early in the book: “Vanity of vanities! All is vanity” (Ecclesiastes 1:2), indicating the utter futility and meaninglessness of life as he saw it. Nothing made sense to him because he had already tried any number of remedies—pleasure, work, and intellect—to alleviate his sense of feeling lost in the world. However, even in the writer’s desperate search for meaning and significance in life, God remained present. For instance, we read that God provides food, drink, and work (2:24); both the sinner and the righteous person live in God’s sight (Eccl 2:26); God’s deeds are eternal (Eccl 3:14); and God empowers people to enjoy His provision (Eccl 5:19). Ultimately, the great truth of Ecclesiastes lies in the acknowledgment of God’s ever-present hand on our lives. Even when injustice and uncertainty threaten to overwhelm us, we can trust Him and follow after Him (Eccl 12:13–14).

How do I apply this? We all desire meaning in life. Often that search takes us along winding, up-and-down paths filled with bursts of satisfaction that shine bright for a time but eventually fade. In one sense, it’s satisfying to see that experience echoed throughout Ecclesiastes. An appreciation for our common humanity emerges from reading its pages. We relate to the journey of Solomon because, for so many of us, it is our own. When we attempt to find meaning in the pursuit of pleasure, the commitment to a job, or through plumbing intellectual depths, we all eventually find in each of these pursuits a dead end. Ecclesiastes shows us a man who lived through this process and came out on the other side with a wiser, more seasoned perspective. When we’re surrounded by the temptation to proclaim life’s ultimate emptiness, we can find in Ecclesiastes a vision tempered
by experience and ultimately seen through divinely colored lenses. Life is destined to remain unsatisfying apart from our recognition of God’s intervention. It only remains to be seen whether or not we will place our trust in His sure and able hands. Have you struggled with misplaced pursuits in life? Does your life lack the meaning and purpose you desire? Hear the words of Solomon that they might encourage you to place your trust solely in the Lord. (Excerpt from Ecclesiastes Overview)

**JAMES VAN DINE**

- Ecclesiastes Introduction

**PAUL VAN GORDER**

- OT Reflections of Christ - Ecclesiastes

(Excerpt) The book of Ecclesiastes has been branded as a book of pessimism and denounced by the critics as unworthy of the Holy Spirit’s authorship. I must admit that it is indeed filled with hopelessness and despair. Quite often the materialists, the fatalists, and the sensualists support their teachings by sentences lifted from the book of Ecclesiastes.

The opening verse gives the title of the book: "The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem." The second verse gives the theme of the book: "Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity." But it must be remembered that he speaks only of that which is "under the sun," a phrase that is used 29 times in Ecclesiastes.

This book, given by divine inspiration, is a record of the bitter disappointment that awaits people whose faith soars no higher than the sun. The conclusion a man like that reaches is stated in this key text: "...all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun" (Ecc 2:11).

C.I. Scofield has written, "It is what man, with the knowledge that there is a holy God and that He will bring everything into judgment, discovers of the emptiness of setting the heart upon things under the sun."

**CHRIST IN ECCLESIATES**--I could find no better expression of the purpose of this book that that which was written by F. C. Jennings, a devout student of the Word of God. I am quoting from his book Meditations on Ecclesiastes. "No song brightens its pages; no praise is heard amid its exercises. And yet perfectly assured we may be that, listened to aright, it shall speak forth the praise of God’s beloved Son; looked at in a right light, it shall set off His beauty. If "He turns the wrath of man to praise Him," surely we may expect no rest from man’s sorrows and ignorances. This, then, we may take it, is the object of the book, to show forth by its dark background the glory of the Lord, to bring into glorious relief against the black cloud of man's need and ignorance the bright light of a perfect, holy..."
revelation; to let man tell out, in the person of his greatest and wisest, when he too is at
the summit of his greatness, with the full advantage of his matured wisdom, the solemn
questions of his inmost being; and show that greatness to be of no avail in solving them,
that wisdom foiled in the search for their answers. (emphasis ours)

ROY ZUCK

- **God and Man in Ecclesiastes (Bib Sac 148: 46-56, 1991) - recommended** - Is
Ecclesiastes a Misfit, Doctrine of God in Ecclesiastes, Doctrine of Man in Ecclesiastes.

**Excerpts:**

**Is Ecclesiastes a Misfit?** Through the centuries many people have questioned whether
the Book of Ecclesiastes belongs in the biblical canon, and especially in the wisdom
 corpus. Since it seems to underscore the futility and uselessness of work, the triumph of
evil, the limitations of wisdom, and the impermanence of life, Ecclesiastes appears to be a
misfit. Because it apparently contradicts other portions of Scripture and presents a
pessimistic outlook on life, in a mood of existential despair, many have viewed it as
running counter to the rest of Scripture or have concluded that it presents only man’s
reasoning apart from divine revelation....

**The Doctrine of God in Ecclesiastes** - Forty times Ecclesiastes uses the word Elohim,
and no other name, in speaking of God. As the transcendent God (“God is in heaven,” Eccl
5:2), He is the Creator (Eccl 12:1), “the Maker of all things” (Eccl 11:5). His created works
include man, giving him life (Eccl 8:15; 9:9) and a spirit (Eccl 3:21; 12:7), making him
upright (Eccl 7:29), and setting eternity in his heart (Eccl 3:11). In His sovereignty God has
planned the timing of all things (Eccl 3:1–8), which timing is beautiful (Eccl 3:13), though
incomprehensible (Eccl 3:11; 8:17; 11:5) and unalterable by man (Eccl 3:14; 7:13). The
events and activities God has under His control include positive elements of life such as
birth, planting, healing, upbuilding, joy, searching, keeping, mending, speaking, loving,
and enjoying peace—and all their negative opposites (Eccl 3:1–8). All of life is under divine
appointment and timing. Qohelet was not approving man’s killing, tearing, hating, or
engaging in war; he was simply affirming that these things occur in human experience
(because of man’s sin, Eccl 7:29) and that man cannot alter what God has planned....

**The Doctrine of Man in Ecclesiastes - Man's Nature** - Man’s finiteness is seen in the
fact that he is created (Eccl 11:5; 12:1), earthbound (Eccl 5:2), and subject to death (Eccl
3:19–20; 6:6; 7:2; 9:5). He is a rational creature, for he can be guided by his mind (Eccl
2:3), he can evaluate (Eccl 2:11), understand (Eccl 1:17), investigate (Eccl 1:13), observe
(Eccl 1:14; 2:12, 24; 3:10; 5:13; 6:1; 7:15; 8:9–10; 9:11, 13; 10:5, 7), reflect (Eccl 1:16; 2:1,
12, 15; 8:9; 12:9), and draw conclusions (Eccl 2:14, 17; 5:18). Human emotions, according
to Ecclesiastes, include joy (Eccl 2:10; 9:7, 9; 11:9), love (Eccl 9:1, 6, 9), hatred (Eccl 2:17–
18; 9:1, 6), contentment (Eccl 4:8), despair (Eccl 2:20), grief (Eccl 2:23), envy (Eccl 4:4),
anger (Eccl 7:9), and sadness (Eccl 7:4)....

**Man's Sin** - Sin is universal (Eccl 7:20) and inward (Eccl 9:3, “full of evil”). Man’s inner pull
toward sin accelerates if he feels he, like others, can get away with sin without immediate punishment (Eccl 8:11)....

**Man's Death** - Life is fleeting (“few days,” Eccl 2:2; 6:12), and death is certain. All will die (Eccl 2:14-16; 3:18-20; 6:6) including sinners (Eccl 8:10, 12-13; 9:2-3). Since God has appointed the time of each person’s death (Eccl 3:2), man cannot influence when it will occur (Eccl 8:8) or even know when it will occur (Eccl 9:12). Nothing can be taken from this life when a person dies; his exit is like his entrance (Eccl 5:15–16). The dead go to Sheol (Eccl 9:10), that is, the grave, where they have no more opportunity to participate in this life’s activities (Eccl 9:5–6). Death is final....

**Man's Responsibilities** - *(Ed: This conclusion summarizes what are probably the last written words of the wisest man in the OT and thus are worth reviewing)*. What responsibilities does man have in light of the futilities and mysteries of life? What actions did Qohelet say will aid man in his pursuit of life? At least six suggestions are given in the book.

1. **Be wise.** While wisdom has its drawbacks (Eccl 1:18), can be nullified by a little folly (Eccl 10:1), is transitory (Eccl 4:13-16; 9:13-16), and does not prevent death (Eccl 2:12), it does have advantages. It is better to be wise than foolish (Eccl 2:13) or famous (4:13-16), for wisdom can help preserve life (Eccl 7:11-12), gives strength (Eccl 7:19), causes one to reflect on the seriousness of life and death (Eccl 7:5), and can brighten a person’s countenance (Eccl 8:1). Mere human wisdom, wisdom acquired by intellectual pursuits, is inadequate, but divine wisdom enables man to rest in the sovereign ways of God and in His providential timing (Eccl 8:5).

2. **Worship and please God.** Proper worship entails a sense of caution and apprehension in God’s presence (Eccl 5:1-2). Making a commitment to the Lord should be done thoughtfully and without haste, but once having made it the worshiper should follow through on his promise (Eccl 5:4-6). Pleasing God should be man’s deepest desire (Eccl 2:26; 7:26).

3. **Remember God.** More than a mental exercise, this means to acknowledge His authority and respond with loyalty (Eccl 12:1, 6) and obedience (Eccl 12:13, “keep His commandments”).

4. **Fear God.** Fearing God stands at the heart of wisdom literature (Job 28:28; Ps. 111:10; Prov. 1:7; 9:10). Hence it is no surprise that in Ecclesiastes man is commanded five times to fear God (Eccl 3:14; 5:7; 7:18; 8:12-13; 12:13), to recognize who He is and to respond accordingly in worship, awe, love, trust, and obedience.

5. **Be diligent.** Life with its many uncertainties (Eccl 9:11-12) means man knows comparatively little. “You do not know” is stated three times in six verses (Eccl 11:2, 5-6) along with the words “you do not understand” (v. 5) to point up man’s ignorance of which disasters may come and when, where the wind will blow, how the human embryo develops in the womb, or which enterprise or investment will be successful. This ignorance need not paralyze man or stifle him into laziness. Instead one should forget trying to change things
that cannot be changed (Eccl 11:3) or trying to predict what cannot be known (Eccl 11:4, 6), and should be hard at work all day (Eccl 11:6), working wholeheartedly (Eccl 9:10) and leaving the results to the Lord. Laziness results in increased problems (e.g., sagging rafters and leaking roofs, Eccl 10:18).

6. Enjoy life. The fact that Solomon admonished his readers not to look for the answer to life in the pleasures of life itself did not rule out his encouraging them to accept their lot (פַּלְחָה) in life and to be glad for the simple pleasures of life including food, warmth, marriage, and doing good. This theme occurs seven times in the book: Eccl 2:24–26; 3:12–13, 22; 5:18–20; 8:15; 9:7–9; 11:8–9. “These modest pleasures are not goals to live for, but bonuses or consolations to be gratefully accepted.” The fact that these pleasures are for man’s joy and contentment rules out asceticism, and the fact that they are given by God rules out sinful hedonism.

Castellino well summarizes the message of Ecclesiastes: “Therefore: (a) set aside all anxious striving and labor (almart); (b) avoid all speculations on God’s ruling of the world and (c) be thankful to God for whatever satisfaction He gives you, valuing and measuring everything as a gift from Him and enjoying it, never forgetting that you shall have to render strict account to God Himself.”

SERMONS ON ECCLESIASTES

BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATOR

Sermons By Chapter and Verse - this resource is different from the one above in that it categorizes the sermons and illustrators verse by verse. Note that to go to the next verse click the arrow. You can also go to the address bar (at top of page) and select the chapter and verse of interest.

- Ecclesiastes 1:1 Sermons
- Ecclesiastes 2:1 Sermons
- Ecclesiastes 3:1 Sermons
- Ecclesiastes 4:1 Sermons
- Ecclesiastes 5:1 Sermons
- Ecclesiastes 6:1 Sermons
- Ecclesiastes 7:1 Sermons
- Ecclesiastes 8:1 Sermons
- Ecclesiastes 9:1 Sermons
- Ecclesiastes 10:1 Sermons
- Ecclesiastes 11:1 Sermons
- Ecclesiastes 12:1 Sermons
MIKE BLACK
- Ecclesiastes - 14 sermons - Believers Chapel Dallas

3RD MILLENNIUM
- Sermons on Ecclesiastes - 50 sermons - all of these are Audios.

    Sermons by Dr Michael Ross is recommended (click for list of his sermons).

IMANUEL CHRISTIAN
- On Wings of Eternity

W A CRISWELL
- Ecclesiastes 1:12 A True Value Heartware Store
- Ecclesiastes 1:3 The Profit of All our Labor
- Ecclesiastes 1:9 The Pattern of Pessimism
- Ecclesiastes 2:15-26 The Meaning of Life and Death
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 God's Time is Now
- Ecclesiastes 5:13 The Rich Man and God
- Ecclesiastes 7:1 Man's Two Days: Birthday and Death Day
- Ecclesiastes 8:4 The Word of King Jesus
- Ecclesiastes 9:10-11 Serving God Mightily
- Ecclesiastes 10:15 The Way to the City of God
- Ecclesiastes 11:1-3 Clouds of Blessing
- Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember Thy Creator
- Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remembering God
- Ecclesiastes 12:3-5 Our Home in Heaven
- Ecclesiastes 12:8-14 The Conclusion of the Whole Matter

GOSPEL COALITION
- Scripture Index - Ecclesiastes - 95 sermons most are Mp3's with only a few transcripts
  - e.g., Philip Ryken, Alistair Begg, Kent Hughes, Mark Dever,

JOHN HAMBY - Sermon Series
- Sermons on Ecclesiastes

STEVE KRELOFF - Mp3's only but high quality
- Ecclesiastes Overview
SERMONS VARIOUS - TRANSCRIPTS

- Ecclesiastes 12:12-14 Discovering God’s Plan for My Life - Steve Horn
- Ecclesiastes 12:1-14 Confessions of an Empty Life - Randy Manley

LIFEWAY

- Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; 2:22-23 Created for Work
- Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 The Preparation of Worship
- Ecclesiastes 6:1-7 Created for Rest
- Ecclesiastes 12:1-14 Life Question 4: Why Am I Here?

JONATHAN MCLEOD - Sermon series - 15 messages

- Ecclesiastes Sermons

DONALD MCCULLEY

- Ecclesiastes 1:1-18 The Purposeless Driven Life
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-22 Time Life Presents
- Ecclesiastes 4:1-16 I See Said The Blind Man!
- Ecclesiastes 5:1-20 Www.ecc5.com
- Ecclesiastes 6:1-12 The Mick Jagger Syndrome
- Ecclesiastes 7:15-29 Some Practical Pointers For Some Particular People
- Ecclesiastes 8:1-17 Leaders, Losers And Learners
- Ecclesiastes 9:1-18 918-365-Live
- Ecclesiastes 10:1-20 Csi
- Ecclesiastes 11:1-10 The Stewardship Of Life
- Ecclesiastes 12:1-14 The Three R's Of Redemption

MONERGISM

- MP3s by Chapter - Ecclesiastes

SERMON CENTRAL - most have transcripts

- Sermons on Ecclesiastes - these are of variable quality

TOM SHEPARD - Sermon series

- Sermons on Ecclesiastes

JEFF STRITE - Sermon series
DON ANDERSON

- Ecclesiastes - A Practical Study of Ecclesiastes - "Where Your Heart and Treasure Meet" - Simple questions and passage lessons

PAUL APPLE

- Chasing the Wind - A Life of Futility - 178 page commentary - Recommended

GEORGE AARON BARTON

- A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Book of Ecclesiastes (1908)

BRIAN BORGMAN - 10 page article in Southern Baptist Journal of Theology

- Redeeming the 'Problem Child': Qohelet's Message and Place in the Family of Scripture

CHARLES BRIDGES

- An Exposition of the Book of Ecclesiastes 1860

  Spurgeon - After the manner of other works by this devout author, who is always worth consulting, though he gives us nothing very new.

ROBERT BUCHANAN


  Spurgeon - Dr. Buchanan has endeavored in every instance to give the true meaning of the text. His explanations were composed for the pulpit and delivered there. The work is most important, but strikes us as lacking in liveliness of style.

A B CANEDAY - 15 page article in Southern Baptist Journal of Theology

- "Everything is Vapor": Grasping for Meaning Under the Sun
RICH CATHERS - Sermon notes

- Ecclesiastes 1-3
- Ecclesiastes 4-6
- Ecclesiastes 7-9
- Ecclesiastes 10-12

THOMAS P DALE

- Ecclesiastes Commentary (1873)

ERIC CHRISTIANSON

- Ecclesiastes - Blackwell Bible Commentary - I would have thought this was in copyright as it seems to include the entire 330 page book.

MARK COPELAND

- Introduction And Prologue (Ecclesiastes 1:1-3)
- The Preacher's Search For Meaning - I (Ecclesiastes 1:4-18)
- The Preacher's Search For Meaning - II (Ecclesiastes 2:1-26)
- The Preacher's Observations - I (Ecclesiastes 3:1-4:16)
- The Preacher's Observations - II (Ecclesiastes 5:1-6:12)
- Counsel For Better Living (Ecclesiastes 7:1-14)
- Counsel For Balanced Living (Ecclesiastes 7:15-29)
- Wisdom To Endure Life's Vanities - I (Ecclesiastes 8:1-9:18)
- Wisdom To Endure Life's Vanities - II (Ecclesiastes 10:1-11:8)
- The Preacher's Advice To The Young (Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:7)
- Epilogue And Conclusion (Ecclesiastes 12:8-14)

JOHN DUMMELOW

- Ecclesiastes Introduction
- Ecclesiastes Commentary - 10 pages
- Alternative resource - Ecclesiastes Notes Chapter by Chapter

WESTON FIELDS

- Ecclesiastes: Koheleth's Quest for Life's Meaning (232 page commentary -Submitted in partial fulfillment of requirements or the degree of Master of Theology in Grace Theological Seminary)

1599 GENEVA BIBLE
- **Notes on Ecclesiastes**

**SIDNEY GREIDANUS - 6 page article in Southern Baptist Journal of Theology**

- **How to Preach Christ from Ecclesiastes**

**E W HENGSTENBERG**

- **Ecclesiastes Commentary**

**Spurgeon** - Scholarly of course, and also more vivacious than is usual with Hengstenberg.

**DANIEL HILL**

- **Ecclesiastes notes - 65 pages generally verse by verse**

**WILLIAM KELLY**

- **Ecclesiastes Commentary**

**R J KIDWELL**

- **Ecclesiastes Commentary** - This is a relatively modern, in depth treatment. See page Pdf 307 for a nice listing of 22 "Vanities of Ecclesiastes Contrasted with the Fear of the Lord". Lengthy Bibliography on page 311 (Pdf pagination). "Fact questions" are interspersed throughout the commentary to aid your review. **This looks to be a fine resource to aid your study of Ecclesiastes.**

**JASON S DEROUCHE - 22 page article in the Southern Baptist Theological Journal**

- **Sherperding Wind and One Wise Shepherd: Grasping for Breath in Ecclesiastes**

**J VERNON MCGEE**

- **Ecclesiastes - Thru the Bible Commentary - 58 Mp3 Tracks**

**CHUCK MISSLER**

- **The Book of Ecclesiastes - Supplemental Notes (71 pages)**

**STUART MOSES**

- **Ecclesiastes or The Preacher, With Notes and Introduction (1851)**
RICHARD MOULTON

- Ecclesiastes and The Wisdom of Solomon (1902)

GEORGE MYLNE - book of short devotionals on multiple verses in each chapter

- Devotional and Practical Meditations on the Book of Ecclesiastes

E H PLUMPTRE

- Ecclesiastes or The Preacher, With Notes and Introduction (1881)

EDWARD REYNOLDS

- Commentary on Ecclesiastes
- Another Resource - Google book

RELEVANT BIBLE TEACHING - only 35 pages, summarizes a few passages

- Ecclesiastes Commentary

JOHN SCHULTZ

- Ecclesiastes Commentary - 103 Pages - Includes numerous quotes from other respected conservative sources, including almost 100 quotations from Michael Eaton's Tyndale OT Commentary (ranked as one of the best on Ecclesiastes).

SERMONS ON ECCLESIASTES - Faith Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Mississippi

- Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 An Emptiness of Significance
- Ecclesiastes 1:12-15 Vanity Fair by Derek Thomas
- Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 The Search for Satisfaction by David Strain
- Ecclesiastes 1:2 God is Dead - Nihilism by J. Ligon Duncan
- Ecclesiastes 1:12-18;2:12-17 An Empty Life - The Emptiness of Wisdom
- Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 An Empty Life - The Emptiness of Hedonism

SPEAKER'S COMMENTARY

- Ecclesiastes or The Preacher

JAMES SMITH

- Ecclesiastes 3:11 - Eternity in the Heart: A Key to Ecclesiastes

RALPH WARDLAW
Lectures on Ecclesiastes (1821)

BOB UTLEY

Commentary on Ecclesiastes

ECCLESIASTES
By Chapter

ROBERT MORGAN

Ecclesiastes 1:1-9 Staying Happy in a Hollow World

WILLIAM S PLUMER

Ecclesiastes 1:2 The Sooner We Reach This Conclusion

J LIGON DUNCAN

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 An Empty Life (1)- Is Work Enough
Ecclesiastes 1:2 God is Dead - Nihilism

DEREK THOMAS

Ecclesiastes 1:1,12-15 Vanity Fair

CORNERSTONE

Ecclesiastes 1:1-18 Excerpt from the book (pages 263-267)

WILLIAM TIPTAFT

Ecclesiastes 1:2 To separate us from worldly things

DAN T LIOY

Life and Death in Biblical Perspective- An Examination of Genesis 5, Ecclesiastes 1, and 1 Corinthians 15-50-58

GEORGE W MYLNE (1856, 1859)

Spurgeon: The passages he touches are ably explained.
JOHN ANGELL JAMES

- Ecclesiastes 1:14 The sum total of worldly enjoyment in those two ciphers!

DAVID LEGGE

- Ecclesiastes 1:9 The Cynic's New Year
- Ecclesiastes 2 - Beatitudes Part 2 - What Is Happiness-

BRIAN BILL

- Ecclesiastes 1:1-12:14 Searching for Significance

ALEXANDER MACLAREN

- Ecclesiastes 1:4: What Passes and What Abides
- Ecclesiastes 1:9: The Past and the Future
- Ecclesiastes 1:13: Two Views of Life

RALPH ERSKINE

- Ecclesiastes 1:2 The Vanity of Earthly Things

ROBERT NEIGHBOUR

- Ecclesiastes 1 - Living Water Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 2 - Living Water Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 3 - Living Water Commentary

F B MEYER

- Ecclesiastes 1
- Ecclesiastes 2

DAVID LEGGE
- **Ecclesiastes 1:9** The Cynic's New Year

**JOE STOWELL**

- **Ecclesiastes 1:14** Setting the Record Straight - Strength for the Journey
- **Ecclesiastes 2:11** The Missing Piece - Strength for the Journey

**ROBERT S. RAYBURN**

- **Ecclesiastes 1:1-11** Introduction to Ecclesiastes
- **Ecclesiastes 2:1-26** Introduction to Ecclesiastes No. 2
- **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8** The Catalog of Time

**THOMAS BROOKS**

- **Ecclesiastes 2:1-2** A Beautiful Harlot Sitting in Her Chariot

**J LIGON DUNCAN**

- **Ecclesiastes 2:1-11** An Empty Life (3)- The Emptiness of Hedonism
- **Ecclesiastes 2:18-26** An Empty Life (4)- The Emptiness of Work

**GEORGE W MYLNE (1856, 1859)**

- **Ecclesiastes 2:2** Lessons for Life
- **Ecclesiastes 2:14** Lessons for Life
- **Ecclesiastes 2:17** Lessons for Life
- **Ecclesiastes 2:24** Lessons for Life

**BRIAN BILL**

- **Ecclesiastes 3:1-7** Funeral Message sermon
- **Ecclesiastes 4:9-4:12** Wedding Message sermon
- Live Like You’re Dying

**BILLY DEMPSEY**

- **Ecclesiastes 3:1-15** For Everything a Season

**GEORGE W MYLNE (1856, 1859)**

- **Ecclesiastes 3:1-11** Lessons for Life
- **Ecclesiastes 3:11** Lessons for Life
- **Ecclesiastes 3:18** Lessons for Life
- **Ecclesiastes 3:20** Lessons for Life
DAN T. LIOY - 95 page paper on Ecclesiastes 3

- Ecclesiastes 3 - The Divine Sabotage: An Exegetical and Theological Study of Ecclesiastes 3

F B MEYER

- Ecclesiastes 3
- Ecclesiastes 3:1 Timeliness (ODW)

JAMES HASTINGS

- Ecclesiastes 3-2 Eternity in the Heart - Lengthy discourse

ALEXANDER MACLAREN

- Ecclesiastes 3:2: A Time to Plant
- Ecclesiastes 3:11: Eternity in the Heart

J C PHILPOT

- Ecclesiastes 3:3, 4 Spiritual Times and Seasons (Part 1)

BRIAN GAULT

- Ecclesiastes 3:11 A Reexamination of "Eternity" in Ecclesiastes 3:11

JAMES SMITH

- Ecclesiastes 3:11 - Eternity in the Heart: A Key to Ecclesiastes

GEORGE WHITEFIELD

- Ecclesiastes 3:9-12 Necessity of Benefits of Religious Society

GEORGE W MYLNE (1856, 1859)

- Ecclesiastes 4:1 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 4:5 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 4:6 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 4:12 Lessons for Life

F B MEYER

- Ecclesiastes 4
Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 The Value of Friendship (ODW)

GEORGE WHITEFIELD

- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 Necessity of Benefits of Religious Society

F B MEYER

- Ecclesiastes 5

J R MILLER

- Ecclesiastes 5:1

GEORGE W MYLNE (1856, 1859)

- Ecclesiastes 5:1 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 5:1 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 5:1 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 5:2 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 5:2 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 5:6 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 5:7 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 5:7 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 5:7 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 5:13 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 5:16 Lessons for Life

BRUCE GOETTSCHE

- Ecclesiastes 5:10-20 Searching for Contentment

ALEXANDER MACLAREN

- Ecclesiastes 5:1-12: Lessons for Worship and for Work
- Ecclesiastes 5:15: Naked or Clothed?

ANDREW MURRAY

- Ecclesiastes 5:1,2 Discretion (from his book The New Life)

F B MEYER

- Ecclesiastes 6
- Ecclesiastes 7
GEORGE W MYLNE (1856, 1859)

- Ecclesiastes 6:9 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 7:1 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 7:2 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 7:5 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 7:10 What Were the Old Days Better Than These?

THOMAS BROOKS

- Ecclesiastes 7:1 Look Upon Death

GEORGE W MYLNE (1856, 1859)

- Ecclesiastes 7:1 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 7:2 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 7:5 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 7:5 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 7:10 What Were the Old Days Better Than These?

WILLIAM S. PLUMER

- Ecclesiastes 7:2-4 Balm for Wounded Spirits

FAVELL LEE MORTIMER

- Ecclesiastes 7:4 The vain delights of this world

A W PINK

- Ecclesiastes 7:6 Over-Righteous

ALEXANDER MACLAREN

- Ecclesiastes 7:8: Finis Coronat Opus

COLIN S. SMITH

- Ecclesiastes 7:29 - The Life You Never Knew

GEORGE W MYLNE (1856, 1859)

- Ecclesiastes 7:1 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 7:2 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 7:5 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 7:8 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 7:9 Lessons for Life
WAYNE A BRINDLE

- Ecclesiastes 7:15-16 Righteousness and Wickedness - excellent

GEORGE WHITEFIELD

- Ecclesiastes 7:16 Folly & Danger of not being righteous enough
- Ecclesiastes 7:16 Preservative against unsettled Notions

GEORGE W MYLNE (1856, 1859)

- Ecclesiastes 7:16 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 7:17 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 7:18 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 7:20 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 7:21 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 7:23 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 7:24 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 7:25 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 7:28 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 7:28 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 7:29 Lessons for Life

RAY PRITCHARD

- Ecclesiastes 7:19-22 I Am a Sinner Too- What Pastors Need to Remember

F B MEYER

- Ecclesiastes 8

GEORGE W MYLNE (1856, 1859)

- Ecclesiastes 8:1 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 8:1 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 8:2 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 8:2 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 8:3 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 8:4 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 8:5 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 8:7 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 8:8 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 8:9 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 8:10 Lessons for Life

ALEXANDER MACLAREN

- Ecclesiastes 8:11: Misused Respite

ALAN CARR

- Ecclesiastes 8:12: Everything's Gonna Be All Right

F B MEYER

- Ecclesiastes 9

GEORGE W MYLNE (1856, 1859)

- Ecclesiastes 9:1 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 9:4 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 9:7 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 9:8 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 9:9 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 9:10 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 9:10 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 9:11 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 9:14-16 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 9:17 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 9:18 Lessons for Life

RAY PRITCHARD

- Ecclesiastes 9:10 Overcoming Boredom
- Ecclesiastes 9:10 Have a Blast While You Last

JAMES HASTINGS
- **Ecclesiastes 9:10** Do it Well and Do it Now
- **ALEXANDER MACLAREN**
  - Ecclesiastes 10:8: Fences and Serpents
  - Ecclesiastes 10:15: The Way to the City
- **GEORGE W MYLNE (1856, 1859)**
  - Ecclesiastes 10:1 Lessons for Life
  - Ecclesiastes 10:2 Lessons for Life
  - Ecclesiastes 10:4 Lessons for Life
  - Ecclesiastes 10:10 Lessons for Life
  - Ecclesiastes 10:11 Lessons for Life
  - Ecclesiastes 10:12 Lessons for Life
  - Ecclesiastes 10:15 Lessons for Life
  - Ecclesiastes 10:18 Lessons for Life
  - Ecclesiastes 10:20 Lessons for Life
- **F B MEYER**
  - Ecclesiastes 10
- **HARRY IRONSIDE**
  - Ecclesiastes 10:15 Charge That to My Account
- **ANDREW MURRAY**
  - Ecclesiastes 10:19 Money (from his book The New Life)
- **F B MEYER**
  - Ecclesiastes 11
- **C H SPURGEON**
  - Ecclesiastes 11 Exposition
- **ALEXANDER MACLAREN**
  - Ecclesiastes 11:9, 12:1: A New Years Sermon to the Young
- **JAMES HASTINGS**
Ecclesiastes 11:1 Giving and Receiving - Lengthy discourse
Ecclesiastes 11:9 After that the Judgment - Lengthy discourse

PULPIT PAGES

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 Simple Living in a Complex World

GEORGE W MYLNE (1856, 1859)

- Ecclesiastes 11:1 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 11:3 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 11:5 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 11:8 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 11:9,10 Lessons for Life

CHRIS BENFIELD

- Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 Simple Living in a Complex World

THOMAS BROOKS

- Ecclesiastes 11:9 The Evils of Youth (see under "Evil 2"

THOMAS GLASSON


C H SPURGEON

- Ecclesiastes 12 Exposition

ROBERT S. RAYBURN

- Ecclesiastes 12:1-8 Ecclesiastes No. 4

F B MEYER

- Ecclesiastes 12

ROBERT NEIGHBOUR

- Ecclesiastes 12 - Living Water Commentary

GEORGE W MYLNE (1856, 1859)
- Ecclesiastes 12:1 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 12:1 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 12:2 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 12:4 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 12:5 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 12:5 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 12:6 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 12:7 Lessons for Life

BARRY DAVIS

- Ecclesiastes 12:1-8 Death, An Impetus for Life (Bib Sac 148: 298-317)

ALEXANDER MACLAREN

- Ecclesiastes 12:1-7, 13-14: The Conclusion of the Matter

GEORGE WHITEFIELD

- Ecclesiastes 12:1 The Benefits of an early Piety

ALAN CARR

- Ecclesiastes 12:1-8 The Days Of Our Lives

RICHARD BAXTER

- Ecclesiastes 12:1--12 Guide to the Value of A Book

P. G. MATHEW

- Ecclesiastes 12:1-14 How to Die Well

BARRY DAVIS

- Ecclesiastes 12:1-8 Death, An Impetus for Life

JAMES HASTINGS

- Ecclesiastes 12:1 Timely Remembrance - Lengthy discourse
  - Ecclesiastes 12:13 The Whole Duty of Man - Lengthy discourse

GEORGE W MYLNE (1856, 1859)
- Ecclesiastes 12:11 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 12:12 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 12:12 Lessons for Life
- Ecclesiastes 12:13 Lessons for Life

J C RYLE
- Ecclesiastes 12:12 Simplicity in Preaching - Excellent!

JOHN NEWTON
- Ecclesiastes 12:12 A Christian Library

ALAN CARR
- Ecclesiastes 12:13 The Fear Of The Lord

BRIAN BILL
- Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 Our God of the Second Chance

JOHN ANGELL JAMES
- Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 Take the following maxims for your guide

WILLIAM S PLUMER
- Ecclesiastes 12:14 The Rock of Our Salvation

WILLIAM S PLUMER
- Ecclesiastes 12:14 Judgment!

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TOMMY NELSON
Sermon Series - Mp3's
Ecclesiastes - Sure Footing in an Unsure World

- Ecclesiastes 1:18 The Only Answer to the Ultimate Question
- Ecclesiastes 2:1-26 The Enigma of Life, Inequities and God
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-22 A Healthy Perspective in Life’s Mysteries
- Ecclesiastes 4:1-16 Getting Down Wind of Yourself; Solid Counsel for Life
- Ecclesiastes 5:1-20 The Discipline of Poise
- Ecclesiastes 6:1-12 Wisdom in the Unpredictability of Life
NET BIBLE
Commentary Notes
Ecclesiastes

Note: NETBible notes are in the right panel. You can also select the tab for "Constable's Notes." As you scroll the Bible text in the left panel, the notes are synchronized and will scroll to the same passage. Also has a nice parallel Bible feature (see Tab = "Parallel"). Select a different Bible translation (see Tab = "Bible"). Open Greek/Hebrew tab. Mouse over shows corresponding English word and has short definition at bottom of right panel.

- Ecclesiastes 1
- Ecclesiastes 2
- Ecclesiastes 3
- Ecclesiastes 4
- Ecclesiastes 5
- Ecclesiastes 6
- Ecclesiastes 7
- Ecclesiastes 8
- Ecclesiastes 9
- Ecclesiastes 10
- Ecclesiastes 11
- Ecclesiastes 12

JAMES NISBET'S CHURCH PULPIT COMMENTARY
Ecclesiastes
Commentary in form of Sermons

- Introduction
- Ecclesiastes 1 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 2 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 3 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 4 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 5 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 7 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 8 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 9 Commentary
OUR DAILY BREAD
Devotional Illustrations
Ecclesiastes

Updated January 12, 2016

Note: Each Link Below is to One or More Devotionals in that chapter

- Ecclesiastes 1
- Ecclesiastes 2
- Ecclesiastes 3
- Ecclesiastes 4
- Ecclesiastes 5
- Ecclesiastes 6
- Ecclesiastes 7
- Ecclesiastes 8
- Ecclesiastes 9
- Ecclesiastes 10
- Ecclesiastes 11
- Ecclesiastes 12

Below Are Additional Links to Individual Devotionals

- Ecclesiastes 1:2 The Cure For Futility
- Ecclesiastes 1:1-9 Routinely Fresh
- Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 What's the Point?
- Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 Gone With The Wind
- Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 Just Living?
- Ecclesiastes 1:12-18 Knowing Too Much
- Ecclesiastes 1:8 True Satisfaction
- Ecclesiastes 1:14 Setting the Record Straight
- Ecclesiastes 2:1 The Pursuit Of Pleasure
- Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 True Satisfaction
- Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 Sunshine Chaser
- Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 Why Do I Sigh?
- Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 Breathtaking
- Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 Tantalized Sinners
- Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 The New Religion
Spurgeon has an interesting note: Dr Parker is an able though somewhat----. But stop, he is a near neighbor of ours!

Note: Covers each chapter but not verse by verse. Comments tend to be long and require one to "wade through" for the "gold." Very, very long prayers!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pastoral Life Sermons on Book of Ecclesiastes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Looking Beyond the Bucket List</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecclesiastes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death; Eternity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin L. Kirksey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Fear of God</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecclesiastes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>God, Fear of; Fear of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin L. Kirksey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>For A Season</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time; Purpose; Will, God's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan Stewart</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ecclesiastes 12 Commentary

E H PLUMPTRE
Ecclesiastes; or, The Preacher
With Notes and Introduction
1888

Preface & Intro Notes -105 pages
Ecclesiastes 1 Commentary
Ecclesiastes 2 Commentary
Ecclesiastes 3 Commentary
Ecclesiastes 4 Commentary
Ecclesiastes 5 Commentary
Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary
Ecclesiastes 7 Commentary
Ecclesiastes 8 Commentary
Ecclesiastes 9 Commentary
Ecclesiastes 10 Commentary
Ecclesiastes 11 Commentary
Ecclesiastes 12 Commentary

RAY PRITCHARD
Ecclesiastes Devotionals
Something New Under the Sun

Be patient - These open very slowly.

Something New Under the Sun- Ancient Wisdom for Contemporary Living – Introduction
Ecclesiastes 1:1-2 Scott’s Story
Ecclesiastes 1:3 The Ultimate Question
Ecclesiastes 1:4-8 The Treadmill
Ecclesiastes 1:9-10. Rainbows, If you see Them
Ecclesiastes 1:11 Faded Photographs
Ecclesiastes 1:12-14 – Big God and Little Me
Ecclesiastes 1:15 Cut It Down and Forget About It
Ecclesiastes 1:16-18 What Knowledge Can't Do
Ecclesiastes 2:1-3 Eat Dessert First
Ecclesiastes 2:4-7 The Man Who Had It All
Ecclesiastes 2:8 Money, Sex and Power
MATTHEW POOLE
Commentary
Ecclesiastes

- Introduction
- Ecclesiastes 1 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 2 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 3 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 4 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 5 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 7 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 8 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 9 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 10 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 11 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 12 Commentary

PULPIT COMMENTARY
Ecclesiastes

The first list below are to the Expositions (they also have the homilies if you scroll down)

- Overview
- Ecclesiastes 1 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 2 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 3 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 4 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 5 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 7 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 8 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 9 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 10 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 11 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 12 Commentary

BELOW ARE HOMILIES
ON ECCLESIASTES
Sermon Series on 
Book of Ecclesiastes

Mp3 only but Recommended. Messages are each 40-60'

**Suggestion** - Take a several weeks (take your time) and read through Ecclesiastes day by day, reading each chapter several times (consider reading in different translations). Then supplement your time in the holy Word illuminated by the Holy Spirit by listening to Dr Ross' wonderful messages. You might even keep a small "Ecclesiastes Notebook" to record your own observations (see the value of inductive Bible study), the points you need to apply to your life and the prayers you would like to pray to your God. You can supplement your observations with Dr Ross' expository messages. **Beloved, if you are struggling with trying to find the rare jewel of Christian contentment, Ecclesiastes is for you!** There has never been a man who had more than Solomon, only to come to the end of his life and find that true and lasting contentment is found ONLY in God, ultimately ONLY in Christ Jesus, "in Whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." (Col 2:3-note). I would suggest that if you dare accept this challenge, your life will never be the same, for you will come to realize that NOTHING in this world will bring the contentment you will find in Jesus!

- The Mysterious Hand of God Ecclesiastes
- Ecclesiastes 1:1-3 Life Under the Sun — Life Under the Sun
- Ecclesiastes 1:1-18 Life Under the Sun — The Endless Cycles of Life:
- Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 Life Under the Sun — Wine, Women and Song!
- Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 The Pursuit of Pleasure
- Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 The Pursuit of Pleasure
- Ecclesiastes 2:12-17 The Search for Knowledge
- Ecclesiastes 2:12-26 Life Under the Sun — The Search for Significance
- Ecclesiastes 2:18-26 The Drive Toward Success
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-22 Time and Change
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-22 Life Under the Sun — Time and Change Will Surely Show
- Ecclesiastes 4:1-16 Life Under the Sun — Living in a System That's Broken
- Ecclesiastes 4:1-16 A Bent World
- Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 Life Under the Sun — Practical Atheism
- Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 Business with God
- Ecclesiastes 5:8-9 Life Under the Sun — God and Politics
- Ecclesiastes 5:8-20 Work, Worry and Wealth
- Ecclesiastes 5:10-20 Life Under the Sun — The Poverty of a Rich Man
- Ecclesiastes 6:1-12 Life Under the Sun — The Shadowy Snapshots of Life
- Ecclesiastes 7:1-14 Life Under the Sun — The Better Things of Life
- Ecclesiastes 7:15-29 Life Under the Sun — The Four Sides of Wisdom
- Ecclesiastes 7:15-29 Four Hard-Learned Lessons
- Ecclesiastes 8:1-15 Life Under the Sun — God and Government
- Ecclesiastes 8:1-15 Between Washington and Heaven
Note: Brief verse specific excerpts from sermons from a variety of preachers.

SERMONS BY VERSE
Ecclesiastes
Older Exposition

Click here for links at bottom of this page for over 600 older sermons and illustrations arranged by chapter and verse

TOM SHEPHERD
Sermons on Ecclesiastes
Verse by Verse

Ecclesiastes 1 Commentary
Ecclesiastes 2 Commentary
Ecclesiastes 3 Commentary  
Ecclesiastes 4 Commentary  
Ecclesiastes 5 Commentary  
Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary

**NOTE:** If you are not familiar with the great saint Charles Simeon see Dr John Piper's discussion of Simeon's life - you will want to read Simeon's sermons after meeting him! - click [Brothers We Must Not Mind a Little Suffering (Mp3 even better)](Brothers_We_Must_Not_Mind_a_Little_Suffering_Mp3_Even_Better)

- **Ecclesiastes 1:2** The Vanity of the Creature  
- **Ecclesiastes 1:14, 15** The Creature is Vanity and Vexation  
- **Ecclesiastes 2:3** The Emptiness of Worldly Mirth  
- **Ecclesiastes 2:13** The Excellency of Wisdom  
- **Ecclesiastes 2:26** The Different Portions of the Righteous and Wicked  
- **Ecclesiastes 5:4,5** Duty of Paying our Vows  
- **Ecclesiastes 7:4** The House of Mourning to be Preferred  
- **Ecclesiastes 7:10** Contentment Recommended  
- **Ecclesiastes 7:12** The Excellency of Spiritual Wisdom  
- **Ecclesiastes 7:16** Against An Over-Righteous Spirit  
- **Ecclesiastes 7:29** Man's Original and Present State  
- **Ecclesiastes 8:11** Man's Abuse of God's Patience  
- **Ecclesiastes 8:12** The Blessedness of Fearing God  
- **Ecclesiastes 9:3** The Wickedness, Madness and Misery of Unregenerate Men  
- **Ecclesiastes 9:10** Earnestness in Religion Recommended  
- **Ecclesiastes 9:14-16** Wisdom Notionally Approved, but Practically Disregarded  
- **Ecclesiastes 9:18** The Destructive Influence of Sinners  
- **Ecclesiastes 11:1** Liberality Encouraged  
- **Ecclesiastes 11:9** Youth Warned of the Future Judgment  
- **Ecclesiastes 12:1** Remembering God in our Youth  
- **Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14** The Sum of All True Religion

**CHUCK SMITH**  
Sermon Notes  
Ecclesiastes

- **Ecclesiastes 1:1** Vanity, Vanity All is Vanity
Sermons on Ecclesiastes. Recommended


- **Ecclesiastes 1:1-1:8** The Search for Meaning
- **Ecclesiastes 2 Life in the Fast Lane**
- **Ecclesiastes 3 That Wonderful Plan for Your Life**
- **Ecclesiastes 4:1-5:20 Why Does God Allow This?**
- **Ecclesiastes 6:1-7:14 Things Are Not What They Seem**
- **Ecclesiastes 7:15-8:1 Whoever Said Life Was Fair?**
- **Ecclesiastes 8:2-8:15 Can We Trust Government?**
- **Ecclesiastes 8:16-9:10 Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life**
- **Ecclesiastes 9:11-10:15 The Only Way to Go**
- **Ecclesiastes 10:16-11:10 How Then Should We Live?**
- **Ecclesiastes 12:1-12:14 Before It's Too Late**

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**THE POWER OF HIS PRESENCE**

Ray Stedman

Daily Devotions in Ecclesiastes for February -- Things That Don't Work **Recommended**

- **1**<sup>st</sup> **The Search (Ecclesiastes 1:1-3)** — Has our pursuit of knowledge and worldly pleasure left us sated and cynical? Do we need to redirect our pursuit from a wholly different perspective?
- **2**<sup>nd</sup> **The Endless Cycle (Ecclesiastes 1:4-7)** — Solomon sagely ponders why we strive, often desperately, to prolong our lives forever? Is something backwards in our human existence?
- **3**<sup>rd</sup> **The Restless Life (Ecclesiastes 1:8-18)** — Do we shop until we drop, always hoping to buy into the ultimate satisfaction? Is life simply an empty pursuit after things that never fully satisfy our deepest desires?
4th **The Pursuit Of Pleasure (Ecclesiastes 2:1-11)** — Do we live as consumers, using every resource & person in our quest for fulfillment? Has the well of hedonistic pleasures gone dry? Where do we go after burn out?

5th **A Note Of Joy (Ecclesiastes 2:12-26)** — Shall we choose to live each day as grateful receivers, acknowledging every good gift as God's provision? Have we seen His intent for joy in everything we experience?

6th **A Time For Everything (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)** — Are we learning to see God's wise direction and providence in the contrasting experiences of our lives? If we were in charge would the result be wholeness & joy?

7th **Eternity On My Mind (Ecclesiastes 3:9-11)** — What is it that clearly differentiates us humans from animals? Are we living in denial of that basic element, yet wondering why life seems meaningless?

8th **Let God Be God (Ecclesiastes 3:12-22)** — God has sovereignly, independently, set up the plan of life in a way with which we cannot interfere. Why has He done this and what is the secret of life?

9th **Ambition (Ecclesiastes 4:1-8)** — To what degree are admiration and ambition a driving force behind our activity in life? Do we need to redirect our motivation & resources to invest in things that matter?

10th **Two Are Better Than One (Ecclesiastes 4:9-16)** — Companionship and fellowship are certainly advantageous in life. Does teamwork play an important role in our ministry or do we tend to go it alone?

11th **Watch Your Step (Ecclesiastes 5:1-17)** — What is the first thought that pops into our mind when we ask: Who is in charge? Have we learned to let God be God and to humbly inquire and listen to His wisdom?

12th **How To Enjoy Life (Ecclesiastes 5:18-20)** — True enjoyment in life comes from a specific knowledge which results in constant thanksgiving. What is a great lesson and gift of God that enables us to enjoy life?

13th **The Power To Enjoy (Ecclesiastes 6:1-12)** — Experiencing joy certainly pleases us. Faith and obedience based on faith is what pleases God. Have we assimilated where the enabling power to enjoy originates?

14th **Who Is In Charge? (Ecclesiastes 7:1-14)** — Life is full of the adversity. Does this make us anxious or fearful? Have we discovered and trusted God's wisdom and love or do we try to control our future?

15th **Fearing God (Ecclesiastes 7:15-22)** — Are we waiting to acknowledge God's presence at the end of our life someday, or do we know His presence now? What are some components of fearing God?

16th **Looking For Love (Ecclesiastes 7:23-28)** — The billion dollar industry of internet pornography is a snare today for many. Devoid of any relationship, it takes one away from the only relationship that truly satisfies.

17th **The Benefits Of Wisdom (Ecclesiastes 7:29-8:1)** — Media bombardment encourages us to always imitate and copy somebody else, but God made us individually unique. Have we discovered the benefits of godly wisdom?
18th *Can We Trust The Government? (Ecclesiastes 8:2-15)* — Obedience is sometimes difficult and produces uncertainty. Does God want us to struggle & puzzle over what we should do? What about trusting the government?

19th *Ah, Sweet Mystery Of Life (Ecclesiastes 8:16-9:6)* — We soon run out of brain power when trying to find answers to the mystery of life. Is understanding everything in Scripture necessary before accepting it as truth?

20th *The Gift Of God's Approval (Ecclesiastes 9:7-10)* — God's approval is always received and not earned. How many of us struggle to please God? Why is this always a vain attempt on our part?

21st *Who Wins The Race? (Ecclesiastes 9:11-12)* — The sovereignty of God is an important attribute of God to realize and trust. Our own efforts will never trump God's sovereignty. Have we rested in that knowledge?

22nd *The Wisdom That Frees (Ecclesiastes 9:13-18)* — Real wisdom is the application of the knowledge & freedom contained in God's word. Do we lean on our own understanding or simply seek to know the Reality revealed?

23rd *The Dangers Of Digging Pits (Ecclesiastes 10:1-15)* — Without thinking we follow the secular wisdom around us, wisdom that looks good and feels right, but nevertheless is foolishness. What about the wisdom of the Word?

24th *A Little Bird Told Me (Ecclesiastes 10:16-20)* — When supportive talk seems out of vogue, how easy it is to passionately complain about the government. Do our conversations betray a lack of trust in the Godhead?

25th *Live Generously (Ecclesiastes 11:1-6)* — Giving is a way of relieving need, but oftentimes needs are not expressed because people in their pride hide their needs. Do we have a sensitive spirit of generosity?

26th *What To Do While You're Young (Ecclesiastes 11:7-10)* — Youth with all its glory and energy is full of opportunity. While still young are we increasingly thoughtful and mindful of our relationship with the living Lord? How so?

27th *Before Its Too Late (Ecclesiastes 12:1-8)* — Have we experienced the joy of learning the Scriptures while young? As we get older it is more difficult to change, yet it's never too late to willingly root and grow in Christ.

28th *The Need For The Truth (Ecclesiastes 12:9-12)* — The truth is always attacked by a multiplicity of lies. Have we been guided by the Word of God? Have we discovered the simple, powerful, and restful truth in Christ?

29th *The Secret Of Wholeness (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)* — We all desire to be complete and whole in all areas of our lives. But what is the secret of this wholeness? What does it mean to fear God and how are we to do it?

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**JOHN STEVENSON**

Sermons on Ecclesiastes

- Introduction to Ecclesiastes
MOSES STUART
Sermons on Ecclesiastes
Verse by Verse
1851

Spurgeon: Full and minute, with most instructive introductions. It is unnecessary to say that Moses Stuart is a great authority, though not all we could wish as to spirituality.

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Sermons on Ecclesiastes
More Topically Arranged

- Introduction to Ecclesiastes
- Life Under the Sun
- Ecclesiastes 1 - The Vanity of Wisdom
- Ecclesiastes - The Vanity of Pleasure
- Ecclesiastes - Wisdom vs Folly
- Ecclesiastes - The Vanity of Labor
- Ecclesiastes 3 - A Time for Everything
- Ecclesiastes - God's Sovereignty Over an Evil World
- Ecclesiastes - The Allowances of a Sovereign God

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- Introduction
- Ecclesiastes 1 Commentary
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- Ecclesiastes 5 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 7 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 8 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 9 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 10 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 11 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 12 Commentary

JOHN TRAPP
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Spurgeon: "Would it be possible to eulogize too much the incomparably sententious and suggestive folios of John Trapp? Trapp will be most valuable to men of discernment, to thoughtful men, to men who only want a start in a line of thought, and are then able to run alone. Trapp excels in witty stories on the one hand, and learned allusions on the other. You will not thoroughly enjoy him unless you can turn to the original, and yet a mere dunce at classics will prize him. His writings remind me of himself: he was a pastor, hence his holy practical remarks; he was the head of a public school, and everywhere we see his profound scholarship; he was for some time amid the guns and drums of a parliamentary garrison,
and he gossips and tells queer anecdotes like a man used to a soldier's life; yet withal, he comments as if he had been nothing else but a commentator all his days. Trapp is my especial companion and treasure; I can read him when I am too weary for anything else. Trapp is salt, pepper, mustard, vinegar, and all the other condiments. Put him on the table when you study, and when you have your dish ready, use him by way of spicing the whole thing. Yes, gentlemen, read Trapp certainly, and if you catch the infection of his consecrated humor, so much the better for your hearers." - Lectures to My Students

- Ecclesiastes 1 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 2 Commentary
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- Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 7 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 8 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 9 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 10 Commentary
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- Ecclesiastes 12 Commentary

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- Preface & Intro Notes - 110 pages
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- Ecclesiastes 6 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 7 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 8 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 9 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 10 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 11 Commentary
- Ecclesiastes 12 Commentary

RALPH WARDLAW
Lectures on Ecclesiastes
1821
Spurgeon: Wardlaw is always good, though not very brilliant. He may be relied upon, when not critical, and he generally excites thought.

Cyril Barber - These sermons...adequately expound the ethical and practical principles of this portion of God's Word. Readers will find in them a richness of thought and a relevance of application that will reward their inquiry. Recommended

- Ecclesiastes 1:1-11
- Ecclesiastes 1:12-18
- Ecclesiastes 2:1-11
- Ecclesiastes 2:12-26
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
- Ecclesiastes 3:16-22, 4:1-3
- Ecclesiastes 4:4-16
- Ecclesiastes 5:1-7
- Ecclesiastes 5:8-20
- Ecclesiastes 6:1-12
- Ecclesiastes 7:1-6
- Ecclesiastes 7:7-14
- Ecclesiastes 7:15-22
- Ecclesiastes 7:23-29
- Ecclesiastes 8:1-8
- Ecclesiastes 8:9-17
- Ecclesiastes 9:1-10
- Ecclesiastes 9:11-18
- Ecclesiastes 10:1-10
- Ecclesiastes 10:11-20
- Ecclesiastes 11:1-8
- Ecclesiastes 1:9, 10, 12:1-7
- Ecclesiastes 12:8-14

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Ecclesiastes
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- Ecclesiastes 1
- Ecclesiastes 2
- Ecclesiastes 3
- Ecclesiastes 4
- Ecclesiastes 5
- Ecclesiastes 6
Ecclesiastes 1:1-12 Is Life A Treadmill?
Ecclesiastes 1:1-18 The Way To Blessing
Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26 Having It All--Having Nothing
Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 Treasure and Heart
Ecclesiastes 2:18-22 Work and Worry
Ecclesiastes 2:24-26, 5:18-20 Wisdom, Knowledge, And Joy
Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 Is Anyone Listening?
Ecclesiastes 3:16-20 Justice and Love
Ecclesiastes 4:4-9, 5:10-6:6 What Money Can't Buy
Ecclesiastes 4:13-16, 8:2-9 God And Government
Ecclesiastes 9:1-6 Choices That Matter
Ecclesiastes 11:7-12 Before It's Too Late
Ecclesiastes 12:1-8 Preparing for the End: Teaching with Authority

7 lessons approaching Ecclesiastes through Sermon on the Mount.

- Eccl. 1:1-18, Matt. 5:1-12 The Way To Blessing
- Eccl. 2:1-11, Matt. 6:19-24 Treasure and Heart
- Good Stewards - Various Scriptures
- Eccl. 2:18-22, Matt. 6:25-34 Work and Worry
- Eccl. 3:16-20, Matt. 5:43-48 Justice and Love
- Eccl. 3:1-11, Matt. 7:7-11 Is Anyone Listening
- Eccl. 9:1-6, Matt. 7:13-23 Choices That Matter
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All is Vanity D. Thomas Ecclesiastes 1:2
Is All Vanity T. C. Finlayson. Ecclesiastes 1:2
The Folly of Solomon R. Collyer. Ecclesiastes 1:2
The Trial of Vanity H. Smith. Ecclesiastes 1:2
The Vanity of Earthly Things J. Maude. Ecclesiastes 1:2
The Vanity of the World E. Hopkins, D. D. Ecclesiastes 1:2
Vanity of Vanities Canon Liddon. Ecclesiastes 1:2
The Summary of a Life's Experience J. Willcock Ecclesiastes 1:1-11
Human Life and Human Labor W. Clarkson Ecclesiastes 1:2, 3
The Vanity of Man's Life D. Thomas Ecclesiastes 1:3, 4
The Stability of Nature W. Clarkson Ecclesiastes 1:4-7
Opposite Ideas of Life Homilist Ecclesiastes 1:4-10
The Abiding Earth U. R. Thomas. Ecclesiastes 1:4-10
The Durability of the Earth Contrasted with Human Mortality J. Foster. Ecclesiastes 1:4-10
The Earth Permanent, Man Transitory J. A. Jacob, M. A. Ecclesiastes 1:4-10
The Law of Circularity H. Macmillan, D. D. Ecclesiastes 1:4-10
The Passing of Humanity H. Macmillan, D. D. Ecclesiastes 1:4-10
The Passing of Humanity S. Hillyard. Ecclesiastes 1:4-10
What Passes and What Abides A. Maclaren, D. D. Ecclesiastes 1:4-10
The Cycles of Nature D. Thomas Ecclesiastes 1:5-7
Pursuit of Happiness E. S. Hicks, M. A. Ecclesiastes 1:7
The Turn of the Year F. Wagstaff. Ecclesiastes 1:7
Views of Life; False and True J. A. Campbell, M. A. Ecclesiastes 1:7
Weariness and Rest W. Clarkson Ecclesiastes 1:7, 8
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Insatiability of Sense</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Unsatisfied Eye</td>
<td>E. H. Chapin.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imaginary Schemes of Happiness</td>
<td>J. Saurin.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On the Resemblance Between the Future and the Past</td>
<td>F. D. E. Schleiermacher.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Helpful Past</td>
<td>G. Dawson.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Past and the Future</td>
<td>Alexander Maclaren</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Standpoints</td>
<td>G. Matheson, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novelty</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:9, 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Changing and the Abiding</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:9, 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life in the Light of Christ</td>
<td>T. C. Finlayson.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Something New</td>
<td>T. M. Morris.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oblivion and its Consolations</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speculative Study of the World</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:12-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Vanity of Human Wisdom</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:12-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Views of Life</td>
<td>Alexander Maclaren</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mysteries of Human Life</td>
<td>G. Dawson.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:13-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Pursuit of Wisdom and Knowledge</td>
<td>R. Wardlaw, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:13-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insatisfaction</td>
<td>J. Bennet.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pessimism</td>
<td>P. T. Forsyth, M. A.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Vanity of a Worldly Life</td>
<td>W. G. Jordan, B. A.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making the Crooked Straight</td>
<td>J. H. Jowett, M. A.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Crooked Things Straightened</td>
<td>R. Newton, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Experience of Wisdom and Knowledge</td>
<td>W. D. Horwood.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Wisdom, of Self-Communion</td>
<td>C. R. Panter, LL. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase of Knowledge Attended with Sorrow</td>
<td>R. South, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase of Knowledge, Increase of Sorrow</td>
<td>John Ker, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge and Sorrow</td>
<td>H. Melvill, B. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge and Sorrow</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1:18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Acquisition of Knowledge Attended with Sorrow
S. Robins.  Ecclesiastes 1:18

The Heritage of Knowledge
T. Hughes.  Ecclesiastes 1:18

The Pursuit of Knowledge
T. C. Finlayson.  Ecclesiastes 1:18

ECCLESIASTES 2

An Experiment: Riotous Mirth
J. Willcock  Ecclesiastes 2:1-3

The Trial of Pleasure
W. Clarkson  Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

The Vanity of Wealth, Pleasure, and Greatness
D. Thomas  Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

A Strange Experiment
C. L. Thompson, D. D.  Ecclesiastes 2:1-26

The Pleasures of Sin and the Pleasures of Christ's Service Contrasted

The Threefold View of Human Life
W. L. Watkinson.  Ecclesiastes 2:1-26

The Wit and the Madman
H. Melvill, B. D.  Ecclesiastes 2:2

Another Experiment: Refined Voluptuousness
J. Willcock  Ecclesiastes 2:4-11

Love not the World
J. Parsons.  Ecclesiastes 2:11

The Failure of Pleasures
R. Thomas.  Ecclesiastes 2:11

The Review

The Vanity of Life
A. P. Peabody.  Ecclesiastes 2:11

The Vanity of Worldly Happiness
Absp. Sharp.  Ecclesiastes 2:11

Sagacity and Stupidity
W. Clarkson  Ecclesiastes 2:12-14

The Comparison Between Wisdom and Folly
D. Thomas  Ecclesiastes 2:12-17

The Value and the Futility of Wisdom
J. Willcock  Ecclesiastes 2:12-17

The Advantage of Wisdom Over Folly
R. Wardlaw, D. D.  Ecclesiastes 2:14

The Wisdom of the Eye
J. Eyre, M. A.  Ecclesiastes 2:14

Wisdom and Folly Compared
T. C. Finlayson.  Ecclesiastes 2:14

Disgust with Life
J. Saurin.  Ecclesiastes 2:17

Is Life Worth Living
J. G. James, B. A.  Ecclesiastes 2:17

Life with and Without God
G. S. Barrett, D. D.  Ecclesiastes 2:17
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pessimism and Optimism</td>
<td>A. Crawford, M. A.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 2:17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tired of Life</td>
<td>Homilist</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 2:17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Dirge of the Dead Hand</td>
<td>Thomas G. Selby</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 2:18-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concern for Posterity</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 2:18-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riches, Though Obtained by Much Toil, are Vanity</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 2:18-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Complaint of the Successful</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 2:18-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Good is from God</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 2:24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Condition of Pure Enjoyment</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 2:24-26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Simple Joys of Godly Industry</td>
<td>T. C. Finlaysen</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 2:24-26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joy in Religion</td>
<td>G. H. Conner, M. A.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 2:26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piety and Impiety; Recompense and Penalty</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 2:26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retribution</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 2:26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>True Goodness</td>
<td>W. L. Watkinson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 2:26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ECCLESIASTES 3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opportuneness</td>
<td>J. Willcoc</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Fall of the Leaf</td>
<td>H. Macmillan, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Manifold Interests and Occupations of Life</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Realities of Life</td>
<td>W. Walters</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Times and Seasons in the Church</td>
<td>Bp. Harvey Goodwin</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity; Opportuneness; Ordination</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:1-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Time to Plant'</td>
<td>Alexander Maclaren</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to Make the Most of Life</td>
<td>H. M. Field, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Christian View of Recreation</td>
<td>J. G. Rogers, B. A.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amusements</td>
<td>Bp. H. C. Potter</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual Times and Seasons</td>
<td>J. C. Philpot</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision and Perseverance Needed by the Christian</td>
<td>J. W. Hardman, LL. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silence</td>
<td>Homilist</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Autumn Musings  W. Burkitt Dalby.  Ecclesiastes 3:9-11
Desiderium Ceterinitatis  J. Willcoc  Ecclesiastes 3:9-11
The Mystery and the Meaning of Life  D. Thomas  Ecclesiastes 3:9-13
All Thirsts Beautiful in Their Season  H. Allen, D. D.  Ecclesiastes 3:11
Beauty  A. P. Peabody.  Ecclesiastes 3:11
Eternity  T. T. Shore, M. A.  Ecclesiastes 3:11
Eternity in Man  Homilies  Ecclesiastes 3:11
Eternity in Man's Heart  W. Park, M. A.  Ecclesiastes 3:11
Eternity in the Heart  J. H. Jowett, M. A.  Ecclesiastes 3:11
Eternity in the Heart  D. B. Williams.  Ecclesiastes 3:11
Eternity in the Heart  A. Maclaren, D. D.  Ecclesiastes 3:11
Everything Beautiful  R. C. Cowell  Ecclesiastes 3:11
Noble Discontent  T. M. Herbert, M. A.  Ecclesiastes 3:11
The Author of Beauty  J. H. Ecob, D. D.  Ecclesiastes 3:11
The Beauty of Change and Glory of Permanence  D. Davies.  Ecclesiastes 3:11
The Beauty of the World  W. S. Davis.  Ecclesiastes 3:11
The Divine Worker and the Human Student  W. Jones.  Ecclesiastes 3:11
The Hope of Immortality  J. Stalker, D. D.  Ecclesiastes 3:11
The World in the Soul  Homilist  Ecclesiastes 3:11
This Unintelligible World  W. Clarkson  Ecclesiastes 3:11
Doing Good and Rejoicing  W. Baldwin, M. A.  Ecclesiastes 3:12
Life Enjoyed and Improved  W. Jay.  Ecclesiastes 3:12
Another Condition of Pure Happiness  J. Willcoc  Ecclesiastes 3:12, 13
The Conclusion of Folly or the Faith of the Wise?  W. Clarkson  Ecclesiastes 3:12, 13, 22
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Scripture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Eternity and Perfection of the Divine Purposes and Doings</td>
<td>J. O. Parr, M. A.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Purposes of Providence</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divine Constancy and Human Piety</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:14, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Present Use and Enjoyment of the Gifts of God is Advisable</td>
<td>J. Willcoc</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:14-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>God Requireth that Which is Past</td>
<td>A. Goodrich, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life an Organic Unity</td>
<td>R. S. Storrs, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overhauling the Past</td>
<td>T. De Witt Talmage.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past Years Returning</td>
<td>Homilist</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of Life</td>
<td>W. Jay</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Impotency of Time</td>
<td>Homilist</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Indelibility of the Past</td>
<td>J. C. Coghlan, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Past</td>
<td>W. D. Horwood</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Permanence of the Past</td>
<td>H. Macmillan, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man's Unrighteousness Contrasted with God's Righteousness</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:16, 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Reasonableness and Equity of a Future Judgment</td>
<td>Isaac Barrow, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before and After Christ</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:18-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Common Destiny of Death</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:18-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Darkness of the Grave</td>
<td>J. Willcoc</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:18-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Earthly Portion</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3:22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ECCLESIASTES 4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Scripture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Comforter</td>
<td>W. M. Statham.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 4:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nature and Wickedness of Oppression</td>
<td>Job Orton, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 4:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Oppressed and the Oppressor</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 4:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woman's Work and Overwork</td>
<td>T. DeWilt Talmage.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 4:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oppression of Man by His Fellows</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 4:1-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pessimism and Christian Life  
W. Clarkson  
Ecclesiastes 4:1-3

Praising the Dead More than the Living  
Homilist  
Ecclesiastes 4:2

The Applause of the Dead Regulated, Vindicated and Improved  
J. Clayton  
Ecclesiastes 4:2

Pessimism  
D. Thomas  
Ecclesiastes 4:2, 3

Envy  
D. Thomas  
Ecclesiastes 4:4

Ambition and Indolence  
J. Willcock  
Ecclesiastes 4:4-6

Practical Wisdom in the Conduct of Life  
W. Clarkson  
Ecclesiastes 4:4-6

An Old Portrait of Modern Men  
Homilist  
Ecclesiastes 4:4-8

Envy  
H. E. Nolloth, B. D.  
Ecclesiastes 4:4-8

How the Success of Others Should Affect Us  
J. Bonnet  
Ecclesiastes 4:4-8

Quality Better than Quantity  
T. C. Finlayson  
Ecclesiastes 4:6

The Handful with Quietness  
D. Thomas  
Ecclesiastes 4:6

Friendship a Gain in Life  
J. Willcock  
Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

The Pain of Loneliness  
D. Thomas  
Ecclesiastes 4:8

Mutual Service  
W. Clarkson  
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

The Advantages of Fellowship  
D. Thomas  
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

The Necessity and Benefits of Religious Society  
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two Better than One  
C. R. Barnes  
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

A Threefold Cord  
T. Spurgeon  
Ecclesiastes 4:12

A Threefold Cord  
J. F. Dempster  
Ecclesiastes 4:12

The Threefold Cord  
W. Clarkson  
Ecclesiastes 4:12

Folly a Worse Evil than Poverty  
D. Thomas  
Ecclesiastes 4:13, 14

Circumstance and Character  
W. Clarkson  
Ecclesiastes 4:13-16

Mortifications of Royalty  
J. Willcock  
Ecclesiastes 4:13-16

On the Advantages of Christian Knowledge to the Lower Orders of Society  
T. Chalmers, D. D.  
Ecclesiastes 4:13-16

The Old King and the Youth  
T. C. Finlayson  
Ecclesiastes 4:13-16

ECCLESIASTES 5

Lessons for Worship and for Work  
Alexander Maclaren  
Ecclesiastes 5:1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Passage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Temple and the Worshippers</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanity in Religion: 1. Thoughtlessness</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceptable Service</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behaviour in Church</td>
<td>Homilist</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:1-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverence and Fidelity</td>
<td>De Wm. S. Clark.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:1-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverence and Fidelity</td>
<td>D. J. Burrell, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:1-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Prayer and the Dream</td>
<td>J. Bonnet</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:1-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverence, Reticence, and Brevity in Devotion</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanity in Religion: 2. Rash Prayers</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of Remembering and Keeping Our Vows</td>
<td>J. Slade, M. A.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Law of the Vow</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:4, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Vow</td>
<td>J. Bonnet</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vowing and Paying</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:4-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanity in Religion: 3. Broken Vows</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:4-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Misgoverned State</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Oppressor's Accountability</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comfort in Confusion</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:8-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Well-Ordered State</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Earth and Man</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver and Satisfaction</td>
<td>Homilist</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:10-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Unsatisfactoriness of Material Wealth</td>
<td>J. S. Swan</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:10-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Vanity of Riches</td>
<td>J. Hamilton, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:10-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Unsatisfying Nature of Riches</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:10-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Drawbacks Upon Wealth</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:10-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naked or Clothed?</td>
<td>Alexander Maclaren</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Difference At Death</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:15, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour</td>
<td>T. A. Leonard.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Good Things Appointed for Man by God</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5:18-20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ECCLESIASTES 6**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Book and Chapter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Unsatisfactoriness and Transitoriness of Earthly Good</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 6:1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Without Enjoyment Valueless</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 6:1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Insufficiency of Circumstance</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 6:1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorrows of Old Age Without Religion</td>
<td>J. M. Sherwood, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 6:3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sorrows of Old Age</td>
<td>S. H. Tyng, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 6:3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Gloom of Disappointment</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 6:3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Men's Place</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 6:6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfaction Better than Desire</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 6:7-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Insatiability of Desire</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 6:7-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contending Against Power</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 6:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroism; Infatuation; Wisdom</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 6:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How is the Adherent Vanity of Every Condition Most Effectually Abated by Serious Godliness</td>
<td>S. Annesley, LL. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 6:10-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inexorable Destiny</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 6:10-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solomon's Dark Ideas of Life</td>
<td>J. Hamilton, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 6:10-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is Man's Good?</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 6:11, 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object of Human Life</td>
<td>G. A. Bartol.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 6:12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On Our Ignorance of Good and Evil in This Life</td>
<td>H. Blair, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 6:12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Known and the Unknown</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 6:12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ECCLESIASTES 7</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Good Name</td>
<td>H. W. Beecher.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Good Name</td>
<td>J. Hamilton, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Well-Grounded Good Name</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative Estimate of Life and Death</td>
<td>S. Summers.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of the Birthday and the Dying-Day</td>
<td>T. Boston, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reputation</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reputation</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Believer's Deathday Better than His Birthday

The Charm of Goodness

The Day of the Christian's Death

The Fragrance of Moral Worth

A Divine Paradox

On the Benefits to be Derived from the House of Mourning

On the Dangers of Pleasure

The House of Mourning

Compensations of Misery

The Evil, the Unprofitable, and the Blessed Flying

Sorrow Better than Laughter

The Service of Sorrow

The Advantages of Visiting the Mansions of Distress

The Mischief of Oppression and Bribery

Patience Under Provocation

Finis Coronat Opus

Patience and Pride

The End Better than the Beginning

The End of a Good Man's Life is Better than the Beginning

The New Year

The Power of Patience

The Folly of Pride, Hastiness, and Anger

Discontent with the Present Unreasonable

Foolish Comparison and Complaint

Former Things not Better

Laudator Temporis Acti
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Books Referenced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mistaken Signs</td>
<td>W. L. Watkinson.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vain Thoughts Concerning the Past</td>
<td>H. Melvill, B. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisdom and Riches</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:11, 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christianity the Guardian of Human Life</td>
<td>H. Melvill, B. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Education</td>
<td>J. B. Patterson, M. A.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crooked Things</td>
<td>Homilist</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:13-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resignation to Providence</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:13, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Crook in the Lot</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:13-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Crooked in Life</td>
<td>W. Jay.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:13-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Irremediable</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:13, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Perplexities of Life</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:13-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compensations for a Poor Harvest</td>
<td>W. G. Herder.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Considerations</td>
<td>Homiletic Review</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard Times</td>
<td>F. H. Marling.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prosperity and Adversity</td>
<td>J. Jortin, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunshine and Shadow</td>
<td>Thomas Spurgeon.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Righteousness and Wickedness</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:15-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Lower and the Higher Standard</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:15-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be not Righteous Overmuch</td>
<td>J. Jortin, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:16-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderation</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:16, 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overmuch</td>
<td>W. M. Taylor, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:16-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Righteous Overmuch</td>
<td>G. D'Oyly, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:16-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strained Piety</td>
<td>W. L. Watkinson.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:16-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Danger of Being Over-Righteous or Over-Wise</td>
<td>Bishop Stillingfleet</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:16-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Righteous Overmuch</td>
<td>Dean Hook.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:16-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisdom a Protection</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:19-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man's Inability to Keep the Law Perfectly</td>
<td>T. Boston, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perfection is not on Earth</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:20, 29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Listeners Hear no Good of Themselves, Degradation and Elevation
W. Park, M. A., W. Clarkson
Ecclesiastes 7:21, Ecclesiastes 7:23-28

Woman
J. Willcock
Ecclesiastes 7:23-29

Bad Women a Curse to Society
D. Thomas
Ecclesiastes 7:25-28

Solomon's Estimate of Woman
J. Bennet
Ecclesiastes 7:28

Man in His Original and in His Lapsed Stage
E. Payson, D. D.
Ecclesiastes 7:29

Man's Creation in a Holy, But Mutable, State
John Howe, M. A.
Ecclesiastes 7:29

Man's Fall
Homilist
Ecclesiastes 7:29

The Fall
H. Melvill, B. D.
Ecclesiastes 7:29

The Original State of Man, and the
Covenant of Works
J. Guyse, D. D.
Ecclesiastes 7:29

The State of Innocence
T. Boston, D. D.
Ecclesiastes 7:29

ECCLESIASTES 8

Gospel of the Shining Face
Homiletic Review
Ecclesiastes 8:1

Sweetness and Light
J. Willcock
Ecclesiastes 8:1

The Human Face
T. De Witt Talmage.
Ecclesiastes 8:1

The Tokens of Wisdom
D. Thomas
Ecclesiastes 8:1

Obedience to the Civil Government
T. Payne, M. A.
Ecclesiastes 8:2

Allegiance of Subjects
J. Willcock
Ecclesiastes 8:2-5

The Ruler and the Subject
D. Thomas
Ecclesiastes 8:2-5

The King's Word
T. Spurgeon.
Ecclesiastes 8:4

The Word of a King
Ecclesiastes 8:4

The Wise Man's Improvement of Time
John Weir.
Ecclesiastes 8:5

The Doom of Tyrants
J. Willcock
Ecclesiastes 8:6-8

Christian Life-Service
S. H. Tyng, D. D.
Ecclesiastes 8:8

Death - Our Power and Our Powerlessness
W. Clarkson
Ecclesiastes 8:8

Death an Unpreventable Exit of the Spirit
Homilist
Ecclesiastes 8:8

The Battle of Life
T. Spurgeon.
Ecclesiastes 8:8

The Uncertainty of Life
A. Williamson, M. A.
Ecclesiastes 8:8

The Contemplation of Human Life
J. Foster.
Ecclesiastes 8:9
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sin in Power</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:9, 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unequal Lots</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:9, 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Funeral of the Wicked</td>
<td>Homilist</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Wicked Man's Life, Funeral and Epitaph</td>
<td>Charles Haddon Spurgeon</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Hasty and Foolish Inference</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abused Goodness</td>
<td>Joseph A. Seiss, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>God's Delay of Executing the Sentence of Condemnation Against Ungodly Men Often Miserably Abused by Them</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misused Respite</td>
<td>Alexander Maclaren</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present Forbearance no Argument Against Future Retribution</td>
<td>J. H. Rylance</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sin and its Sentence</td>
<td>T. Hammond</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Abuse of Divine Forbearance</td>
<td>W. Jay</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Impunity of Bad Men in the World</td>
<td>P. Falle</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Longsuffering of God</td>
<td>J. Tillotson, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Longsuffering of God with Individuals</td>
<td>J. Saurin</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retribution Certain</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:11-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Perversion of God's Patience</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:11-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five Fears</td>
<td>Charles Haddon Spurgeon</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five Fears</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well with These Who Fear God</td>
<td>Homilist</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Certainty of Retribution</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:12-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apparent Discrepancy Between Character and Circumstances</td>
<td>Homilist</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Way Out of Perplexity</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:14, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Benefits of Wholesome Recreation</td>
<td>F. F. Statham, B. A.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man's Busy Life</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanity of Philosophizing</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:16, 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Impenetrable, Inscrutable Mystery</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 8:17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ECCLESIASTES 9</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Hand of God</td>
<td>J. M. Gibson, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 9:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Antidote to Despondency</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 9:1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inexorable Destiny</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 9:1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providence</td>
<td>Z. Cradock, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 9:2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Impartiality of Providence</td>
<td>Homilies</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 9:2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sufferings of Good Men</td>
<td>R. Fiddes.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 9:2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moral Insanity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moral Madness</td>
<td>Homiliest</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 9:3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scriptural Statement of the Doctrines of Human Corruption</td>
<td>E. Cooper.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 9:3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Unconverted World</td>
<td>A. Robertson, M. A.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 9:3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life is Everything</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 9:4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lion or Dog</td>
<td>F. Hastings.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 9:4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reality Versus Show</td>
<td>A. J. Bray.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 9:4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinners, Living and Dead</td>
<td>Homilist</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 9:4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Delusion of Common Lily Rebuked and Corrected</td>
<td>J. Hughes.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 9:4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Funeral Sermon</td>
<td>Bp. E. Hopkins.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 9:5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festival Joy</td>
<td>Plain Sermons by</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 9:7-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contributors to the</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Tracts for the Times.&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Robes</td>
<td>G. F. Prentiss.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 9:7-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Joy of Human Life</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 9:7-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enjoyment of the Present</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 9:7-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Home Mission Sermon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Home Mission Sermon</td>
<td>Charles Haddon</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 9:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spurgeon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Contributors to the *"Tracts for the Times.*"
An Earnest Life
G. B. F. Halleck
Ecclesiastes 9:10

Diligence
D. Thomas
Ecclesiastes 9:10

Diligence in Our Spiritual Concerns
J. Balguy
Ecclesiastes 9:10

Do Thy Best

Earnestness
T. De Witt Talmage
Ecclesiastes 9:10

Entire Devotion to Duty
N. Emmons, D. D.
Ecclesiastes 9:10

Impulse, Will, and Habit
H. W. Beecher
Ecclesiastes 9:10

Industry
Isaac Barrow, D. D.
Ecclesiastes 9:10

Industry
H. Melvill, B. D.
Ecclesiastes 9:10

Life the Season for Action
J. F. Pridgeon
Ecclesiastes 9:10

Life's Duty
D. Davies
Ecclesiastes 9:10

Much Work to be Done on Earth, and Short Time to Do It
James Henderson, D. D.
Ecclesiastes 9:10

Of Industry in General
Isaac Barrow, D. D.
Ecclesiastes 9:10

On Diligence in Our General and Particular Calling
J. Tillotson, D. D.
Ecclesiastes 9:10

The Day of Opportunity
W. Clarkson
Ecclesiastes 9:10

The Duty of Diligence and Earnestness in Religion
The Evangelist
Ecclesiastes 9:10

The Gospel of Hard Work
John McNeill
Ecclesiastes 9:10

The Improvement of Present Time
J. Guyse, D. D.
Ecclesiastes 9:10

The Labour of Life
Hamilist
Ecclesiastes 9:10

The Lapse of Time
John Henry Newman
Ecclesiastes 9:10

The Lesson of Diligence
R. Newton, D. D.
Ecclesiastes 9:10

The Spur

The True Idea of Life
W. G. Barrett
Ecclesiastes 9:10

With Your Might
W. R. Nicoll, LL. D.
Ecclesiastes 9:10

The Powerlessness of Man
D. Thomas
Ecclesiastes 9:10, 11

Many Endeavours of the Creature are Often Frustrated of Their End When There is Greatest Probability of Success
Ecclesiastes 9:11

Success not Always Answerable to the
Probability of Second Causes
J. Tillotson, D. D.  
Ecclesiastes 9:11

The Client of Things not Always Answerable to Second Causes
S. Clarke, D. D.  
Ecclesiastes 9:11

Prosperity - the Rule and the Exception
W. Clarkson  
Ecclesiastes 9:11, 12

Time and Chance
J. Willcock  
Ecclesiastes 9:11, 12

Blessed Ignorance
Homilist  
Ecclesiastes 9:12

Expectation of Long Life Unwise
N. Emmons, D. D.  
Ecclesiastes 9:12

Man Knoweth not His Time
B. Beddome, M. A.  
Ecclesiastes 9:12

Man's Ignorance of the Time of His Death
Ecclesiastes 9:12

Snares in the Path of the Young
G. Fisk, LL. B.  
Ecclesiastes 9:12

The Uncertainty of Human Life
E. D. Griffin, D. D.  
Ecclesiastes 9:12

An Apologue
J. Willcock  
Ecclesiastes 9:13-16

The Praise of Wisdom
D. Thomas  
Ecclesiastes 9:13-18

Wisdom and Strength
W. Clarkson  
Ecclesiastes 9:13-18

The Little City and the Poor Wise Man
W. H. M. H. Aitken, M. A.  
Ecclesiastes 9:14-18

The Poor Wise Man
W. Jones, M. A.  
Ecclesiastes 9:14-18

The Destructiveness of Sin
Homiletic Review  
Ecclesiastes 9:17-18

The Superiority of Moral to Military Force
Homilist  
Ecclesiastes 9:17-18

The Destructiveness of One Evil Life
W. Clarkson  
Ecclesiastes 9:18

ECCLESIASTES 10

Dead Flies
Homiletic Magazine  
Ecclesiastes 10:1

Dead Flies
J. Hamilton, D. D.  
Ecclesiastes 10:1

Dead Flies
J. Willcock  
Ecclesiastes 10:1

The Dead Fly in the Ointment
W. Clarkson  
Ecclesiastes 10:1

Folly Self-Betrayed
D. Thomas  
Ecclesiastes 10:1, 3

Heart and Hand
J. E. Henry, M. A.  
Ecclesiastes 10:2

Heart and Hand
Fergus Ferguson, D. D.  
Ecclesiastes 10:2

Influence of a Good Heart
N. Emmons, D. D.  
Ecclesiastes 10:2

The Wholesome Influence of Wisdom and
the Baneful Effects of Folly  J. Willcock  Ecclesiastes 10:2-15
A Pacifying Spirit  D. Thomas  Ecclesiastes 10:4
Social Paradoxes  D. Thomas  Ecclesiastes 10:5-7
For They that are After the Flesh Do Mind  Hugh Binning  Ecclesiastes 10:6
A Social Scene in Human Life  D. Thomas, D. D.  Ecclesiastes 10:7
Fences and Serpents  A. Maclaren, D. D.  Ecclesiastes 10:8
Respect the Hedge  W. L. Watkinson  Ecclesiastes 10:8
Sin Suicidal  W. Clarkson  Ecclesiastes 10:8
Sin; and the Serpent's Bite  H. Parrish, B. A.  Ecclesiastes 10:8
The Broken Hedge  W. Clarkson  Ecclesiastes 10:8
The Hedges of Life  H. Wonnacott  Ecclesiastes 10:8
The Serpent Behind the Hedge  W. Osborne Lilley  Ecclesiastes 10:8
The Rebound of Evil  D. Thomas  Ecclesiastes 10:8, 9
Good Workmanship - Ourselves and Our  Tools  W. Clarkson  Ecclesiastes 10:9, 10
Blunt Axes  Homilist  Ecclesiastes 10:10
Blunt Tools: a Counsel and Consolation  M. G. Pearse  Ecclesiastes 10:10
Force and Wisdom  D. Thomas  Ecclesiastes 10:10
God's Provision Concerning Labour  H. Melvill, B. D.  Ecclesiastes 10:10
The Iron Blunt, and the Iron Whetted  Homilist  Ecclesiastes 10:10
The Obtrusiveness and the Condemnation of Folly  D. Thomas  Ecclesiastes 10:11-15
The Way to the City  Alexander Maclaren  Ecclesiastes 10:15
Wickedness in High Places  T. De Witt Talmage  Ecclesiastes 10:16
Statesmanship  D. Thomas  Ecclesiastes 10:16, 17
Duties of Rulers and Subjects  J. Willcock  Ecclesiastes 10:16-20
Ruin - its Forms and its Sources  W. Clarkson  Ecclesiastes 10:17, 18
The Curse of Sloth  D. Thomas  Ecclesiastes 10:18
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>After Many Days</td>
<td>J. S. Mayer, M. A.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowing on the Waters</td>
<td>A. F. Muir, M. A.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cast Thy Bread Upon the Waters</td>
<td>Brooke Herford</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cast Thy Bread Upon the Waters</td>
<td>W. L. Watkinson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certainties and Uncertainties</td>
<td>Caleb Morris</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encouragement to Christian Toilers</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excitements to Missionary Effort</td>
<td>R. Watson, M. A.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith and Duty</td>
<td>Prof. Elmslie</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sowing on the Waters</td>
<td>C. Stanford, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual Efforts not Lost</td>
<td>H. Melvill, B. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Poor Man's Portion</td>
<td>A. Fuller</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Social Agency of Good Men</td>
<td>Homilist</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uninviting Work</td>
<td>W. L. Watkinson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Works of Charity</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incentives to Christian Work</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:1-4, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for the Future</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Clouds and Bright Blessings</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulties Vanquished</td>
<td>David Hughes, B. A.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optimism and Pessimism Versus Christianity</td>
<td>Canon Liddon</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sowing in the Wind, Reaping Under Clouds</td>
<td>Charles Haddon Spurgeon</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sowing in the Wind; Reaping Under Clouds</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The True Workman</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too Late</td>
<td>J. A. Jacob, M. A.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulfill Duty and Disregard Consequences</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:4, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Agnosticism</td>
<td>J. H. Stowell, M. A.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnificent Failures</td>
<td>C. F. Dole</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Seed-Time of Life</td>
<td>R. C. Cowell</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes References</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Sweet Light of Life</td>
<td>Homilist</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sweetness of Light</td>
<td>J. Jenkinson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enjoyment of the Present</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:7, 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light and Darkness</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:7, 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Shadow of the Tomb</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:7, 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A New Years Sermon to the Young</td>
<td>Alexander Maclaren</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth and Age</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Warning to Youth</td>
<td>N. Emmons, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:9-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advice to Youth</td>
<td>Bp. Perowne</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:9-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Joy and Divine Judgment</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:9, 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Joy Remember Judgment!</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:9, 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remembrance in Youth of Judgment to Come</td>
<td>R. Hall, M. A.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:9-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Judgment to Come</td>
<td>J. Guyse, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:9-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youthful Pleasures</td>
<td>Homilist</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:9-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Vanity and Glory of Youth</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11:10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ECCLESIASTES 12**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Ecclesiastes References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Conclusion of the Matter</td>
<td>Alexander Maclaren</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 12:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Vanity and Glory of Youth</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 12:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youthful Religion</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 12:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Old Sermon for Young Hearers</td>
<td>C. S. Robinson, D. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 12:1-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days of Youth</td>
<td>Homilist</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 12:1-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Piety</td>
<td>W. Barrow, LL. D.</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 12:1-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Life</td>
<td>Homilist</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 12:1-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation for Old Age</td>
<td>H. W. Beecher</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 12:1-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remember Thy Creator</td>
<td>W. Whale</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 12:1-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remembering God</td>
<td>G. A. Gordon</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 12:1-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes Verses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Vanities</td>
<td>T. De Witt Talmage</td>
<td>12:8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Reviews of Life</td>
<td>C. B. Symes, B. A.</td>
<td>12:8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Epilogue</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>12:8-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Religious Thinker and Teacher</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>12:9-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Function of the Teacher</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>12:9-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Wise Preacher Aims to Move His Hearers</td>
<td>N. Emmons, D. D.</td>
<td>12:11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Words of the Wise</td>
<td>Archdeacon Perowne</td>
<td>12:11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>T. De Witt Talmage</td>
<td>12:12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Scholar's Sorrow</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>12:12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making the Most of Life</td>
<td>J. M. Sherwood, D. D.</td>
<td>12:13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Fear of God</td>
<td>H. J. Hastings, M. A.</td>
<td>12:13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Moral of it All</td>
<td>E. Johnson, M. A.</td>
<td>12:13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Purpose of Life</td>
<td>W. Walters</td>
<td>12:13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Summary of Manhood</td>
<td>R. C. Cowell</td>
<td>12:13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Whole Duty of Man</td>
<td>J. M. Buckley, D. D.</td>
<td>12:13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the Whole Duty of Man</td>
<td>L. O. Thompson</td>
<td>12:13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divine Requirement and Human Response</td>
<td>W. Clarkson</td>
<td>12:13, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion, Righteousness, and Retribution</td>
<td>D. Thomas</td>
<td>12:13, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Last Word</td>
<td>J. Willcock</td>
<td>12:13, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Responsibility</td>
<td>H. Melvill, B. D.</td>
<td>12:14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Great Day of Judgment</td>
<td>W. Barns.</td>
<td>12:14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Reasonableness and Credibility of This Great Principle of Religion</td>
<td>Bp. Wilkins.</td>
<td>12:14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>