

## ECCLESIASTES: WHERE TO FIND CONTENTMENT

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- A. AUTHOR:** Solomon (advanced in age)  
**B. TITLE:** Greek: *Ecclesiastes* (one called out); Hebrew: *Koheleth* (preacher)  
**C. THEME:** Everything in life is meaningless without God.  
**D. OUTLINE:**

#### 1. The Prologue (1)

- Everything Is Empty “Under the Sun” (1:1-3)
- The Earth Is a Circle of Life “Under the Sun” (1:4-7)
- Nothing Is New “Under the Sun” (1:10)

#### 2. The Emptiness of Pleasure (2)

- Wine (2:3)
- Houses (2:4)
- Servants (2:7)
- Money (2:8)
- All Pleasure (2:10)

#### 3. Times & Seasons (3-4)

- Everything Has a Time (3:1-8)
- Everything Is Beautiful in Its Time (3:11)
- Yet, Injustice and Selfishness Still Prevail (3:17; 4:6,9-12)

#### 4. The Emptiness of Religion (5-6)

- Prescription for True Worship (5:1-5)
- Riches Cannot Buy What God Can Give (5:15,19; 6:7)

#### 5. The Value of Wisdom (7:1-11:8)

- God Is Lord of Good Days & Bad (7:14)
- We cannot blame God for Sin (7:29)
- The wicked may prosper for a season (8:11; 9:2)
- A little evil spoils the whole person (10:1)
- We receive in the measure to which we give (11:1)

#### 6. The Sum of Life (11:8-12:14)

- Seek God Early in Life (11:9; 12:1)
- Fear God & Keep His Commandments (12:13)
- Trust in God to Make Things Right in the End (12:14)

### E. REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM ECCLESIASTES

1. Life Was Not Meant to Be Lived “Under the Sun.”
2. Everything Done “Under the Sun” is Empty.
3. Pleasure Cannot Satisfy Our Deepest Longings.
4. The World Is a Mixture of Order & Chaos.
5. Even Religion Cannot Satisfy “Under the Sun.”
6. True Wisdom Is Found in a Relationship with God.
7. Fearing God & Keeping His Commandments Brings Contentment.
8. God Will Rule in Life “Above the Sun.”