

## Themes in Ecclesiastes

1. Vanity (something done without reason or value):
  - a. Of life
    - i. Whatever activity we find to do in life doesn't satisfy us
    - ii. There is nothing new under the sun
  - b. Of knowledge
    - i. He was a man of much wisdom (1:16)
    - ii. All understanding and wisdom do is cause more worries (1:18)
  - c. Of pleasure
    - i. Had tried all types of pleasures, without being satisfied (2:10-11)
    - ii. Had completed great projects without being satisfied
  - d. Of wisdom
    - i. Even though wisdom is greater than fame, the wise have the same ending as the fool (death)
  - e. Of work
    - i. Everything one gains by dint of hard work is consumed in just maintaining their life
    - ii. Work causes pain and sadness (2:23)
2. Opportunities in life:
  - a. There is time for everything (3:1-8)
    - i. God has control of everything in our lives
    - ii. Everything is predestined
  - b. Oppression (3:18 - 4:8)
  - c. Coming together in agreement brings strength (4:9-12)
  - d. Wisdom doesn't come through time (4:13-16)
    - i. Those who have wisdom, also have influence
3. The futility of being self-absorbed
  - a. Responsibility towards God (5:1-7):
    - i. Not giving only a pittance, or bribe to God
    - ii. Listen to Him, instead of always talking to Him
    - iii. Don't make rash promises
    - iv. Complete those promises that you make to God
  - b. Riches don't have any lasting value

- i. Rich people are never satisfied with what they have (5:10)
    - ii. Riches often damage the character of the person who has them
  - c. Our destiny is already determined
- 4. Wisdom:
  - a. What is best (comparisons) (7:1-14)
  - b. Avoiding extremes (7:15-24)
  - c. Wisdom in the king's court (8:2-5)
    - i. Obedience
  - d. Inequality in life (8:9-9:1)
    - i. They are vanity, but they are part of life
- 5. Death, everyone's destination
  - a. We all will die
  - b. The just have hope in death, while the sinner has none
  - c. Do what you can while you are here, because there won't be a chance to do it after death
  - d. Those who win aren't always those who deserve to win. Without God, everything is determined by "luck" or "chance." But, with God, there is hope.
  - e. Wisdom helps us in this life
- 6. The law of the seed
  - a. *Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days. – 11:1*
  - b. What we give to others, to help them, is the seed that we sow in this life
  - c. We need to plant seed, because we never know which seed will bring us the harvest we need
- 7. Live in reverence to God, all the days of your life
  - a. *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 - 12:1*