

## The Bible Panorama – Poetry IV: Ecclesiastes

“Life in the Lord”

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

*Going Beyond* the sermons into the Scripture preached by Pastor Peter Oh on February 18, 2018

### ***Entering In:***

*Define life using a part of nature, such as, sun, stars, wind, tree, water, snow, flower, etc.*

*Share one proverb (wisdom words) about life which has impacted you in your life.*

1. Why is this book called “Ecclesiastes”? What does the word “Ecclesiastes” mean?

Who do you think the human writer of the book might be?

What is Solomon’s conclusion about the significance of all our work? (verse 2)

What does this tell you about this book?

2. What rhetorical question does Solomon ask in verse 3?

Before we discuss Solomon’s observations, what do you think you gain from all your labor?

3. Name four cycles that Solomon cites in verses 4 – 7.

Name four facts of life that Solomon cites in verses 8 – 11.

How are the words of the wise like goads? (v.11)

How may “study weary the body”? (v.12)

4. In 12:9, how did Solomon impart knowledge to the people?

Using the principle of Biblical interpretation, “Scripture interprets Scripture”, find a proverb of Solomon that shows that when he says our labor is meaningless (vanity), he does *not* mean the following when he uses the word *meaningless*. [You may use research tools, e.g. concordance, search function on Bible app on your phone, etc.]

- Our work is pointless
- Our work is useless
- Our work is fruitless
- Our work is futile

Which of the following best captures what Solomon means when he says all our labor is *meaningless* with respect to the cycles of nature (vv.4-7) and the facts of life (vv.8-11)? Explain why.

- A. Our labor is like a hamster running in its exercise wheel.
- B. Nothing we produce has any lasting benefit for us.
- C. Our achievements, in which we take great pride, have no lasting significance.
- D. Our work is not really what gives our life meaning.
- E. Believing that we made the world a better place by our work is a delusion.
- F. Other

5. What do you think the phrase “there is nothing new under the sun” means (verse 9b)?

- A. No technological advances will be able to fulfill our life.
- B. We will always have the same problems, i.e. poverty, illnesses, natural disasters, etc.
- C. Human destiny (death) hasn’t changed.
- D. History repeats itself.
- E. Progress is just an illusion.
- F. Other

6. What are the three messages of Ecclesiastes that were mentioned in the sermon?

- A.
- B.
- C.

How does each message appeal to you today?

7. What is Solomon’s conclusion after all his study? (vv.12:13, 14)

In Ecclesiastes, Solomon teaches us why we need to have a God-centered (as opposed to *self*-centered) worldview. Following are some basic elements of a self-centered world view. How would a God-centered worldview differ?

- The material universe is all that exists
- If there is a “God”, he must somehow be part of the material universe
- All knowledge is obtained by reason and experience
- This life is all there is
- People decide for themselves what is right/wrong
- All events either occur *by chance*, or are *determined* by all previous events

What gives your life meaning (purpose, significance)?

***Living It Out:***

*How can the teaching of Solomon in Ecclesiastes be useful in evangelism?*

*Take time to read Ecclesiastes this week with that question in mind.*