*Ecclesiastes**

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 (1) The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.
(2) Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.
(3) What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?
(4) One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever.
(5) The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose.
(6) The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.
(7) All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.
(8) All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.
(9) The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.
(10) Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us.
(11) There is no remembrance of former things; neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come with those that shall come after.
The name "Ecclesiastes" is the Greek Septuagint word equivalent to the Hebrew word translated "The Preacher." The writer claims to be "the son of David, king in Jerusalem"—hence Solomon, and this is the traditional view of both Jews and Christians. However, many scholars, including a number of conservatives, have argued that, while the purported speaker is Solomon, it was actually written long

after his day. Nevertheless, there is good reason to believe that Solomon wrote it himself, probably in his old age, as he was looking back on the happy early years of his reign and regretting his tragic failures in his later years. He could give wise counsel if anyone ever could, concerning the "vanity" of a life centered "under the sun," in contrast to a life dedicated to the spiritual realm "above the sun." There is good reason to put the Lord first, turn with me to;

Ecclesiastes 12:5-8 (5) Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:

(6) Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

(7) Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

(8) Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity.

I have never heard or read words so beautifully spoken of the value of life than these, or perhaps more to the point, when a righteous person's spirit leaves the body, then the silver cord is loosed, the golden bowl is broken or the pitcher or the wheel is broken from the fountain of life. Then shall the body return to the earth as dust and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. But what of the soul, is not it a part of man? Notice in particular the behavior pattern of the soul when God created man; And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul (Gen 2:7).

Solomon did not persuade his audience by a simple progression of logical thoughts but instead utilized an overlapping of descriptions that conjured up different feelings and questions about life. The ones who need to read this book are least likely to, they are too busy enjoying life. They are the ones

who are driving wildly down that highway, unconcerned that it ends at a cliff, turn to;
Luke 12:16-20 (16) And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:
(17) And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?
(18) And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.
(19) And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.
(20) But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?
Not only does death often come inappropriately, but it also comes unaware. We have plans for everything, except death. We do not hold the trump card. There are two major events in a person's life that happen without his input: conception and death. If the way we come into the world and the way we exit are without our input, why does man have any confidence in living forever? Solomon says life is just like a fish caught in a treacherous net or birds trapped in a snare. Life of man, like the fish in a net or the trapped bird suddenly comes to a close. Death happens without planning. Many things in life happen only with planning. We are not trying to say God is not in command, but from an earthly perspective, death seems to spring its mouth wide open, swallow the life and closes before we have even thought of it. In Ecclesiastes we have read what will happen to the spirit and the body at death, but what shall happen to the soul? Who better to answer that than Jesus; And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell (Matthew 10:28).
Thankfully that is not the only alternative, listen to this; And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your

whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (1Thessalonians 5:23). *The very essence of man is spirit and soul and body, the body returns to dust, the soul awaits judgment, the spirit goes back to God.* And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them (Revelation 14:13).

Many people deceive themselves by proclaiming the Bible to be a fable. The book of Ecclesiastes contains a number of striking scientific insights that reject that idea. Consider; All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again (Ecclesiastes 1:7). *At first glance this may not seem that profound, but when considered with additional evidence and other Biblical passages, it becomes more remarkable. For example the Mississippi river when flowing at normal speed dumps about 6,052,500 gallons of water per second into the gulf of Mexico. That's just one river. Where does all that water go? The answer of course, lies in the hydrological cycle that is so well-illustrated in the Bible.* If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: (Ecclesiastes. 11:3). *Based on God's revelation to man of His nature, His designs, and His will, in Ecclesiastes there are numerous individual wise sayings, similar in style to the book of Proverbs. Indeed, the Preacher claims to have "sought out, and set in order many proverbs" (Ecclesiastes 12:9). Ecclesiastes is what is called a pre-evangelistic tract. Its purpose is not to explain how to be reconciled to God, but to persuade men to think how God needs to be the center of their lives. Ecclesiastes encourages us to contemplate the meaning of our lives in light of the presence of God the Creator. This is a very applicative message for our generation. Our generation is bent on squeezing out the sacred things so they can live for the world's vanity. Indeed the sacred is squeezed*

out when the supreme court approved same sex marriage, five openly gay people were elected to U.S. House seats, the first bisexual person was elected to a U.S. House seat and the first openly gay person was elected to the U.S. Senate in the Nov 2012 election. This is vanity and vexation of spirit. Turn with me to;

Romans 1:24-32 (24) Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:
(25) Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.
(26) For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:
(27) And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.
(28) And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;
(29) Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,
(30) Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,
(31) Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:
(32) Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

How true is the Psalm; The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God (Psalm 9:17). *The more we look around, the more it seems mankind is bent upon perilous*

things. Turn with me to;
2Timothy 3:1-5 (1) This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.
(2) For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
(3) Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
(4) Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
(5) Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.
How can one have a form of Godliness but deny the power, how about a gay priest? When man lives apart from God, it is more than a non-religious statement. He is forcing the meaning of life to be centered around his perspective when his objective should be making God his prime reference point for living. Solomon could not figure out everything. But he encouraged us to do the most wise thing, seek the Lord, now turn to;
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (1) To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
(2) A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;
(3) A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
(4) A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
(5) A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
(6) A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
(7) A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

(8) A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.
The writer of Ecclesiastes makes clear that all that is important in life is to live before God and to do His will. All else is vanity. Although initially he searches everywhere for meaning, significance, permanence and true satisfaction, he concludes that it is not to be found on earth. True meaningfulness, he concludes, is only to be found by knowing God, and walking with Him. For in the end God will call all men into judgment; I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work (Ecclesiastes 3:17). And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: (Hebrews 9:27). *Understand, King Solomon gives wise counseling in many areas of life, of which people of the New Testament can relate, for instance.* Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun (Ecclesiastes 9:9). *To live joyfully does not mean to live extravagantly or frivolously. It means to rejoice in the favors that God has given to you. However there are rules for a happy home, are you listening?, turn to;*
Colossians 3:18-21 (18) Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.
(19) Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.
(20) Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.
(21) Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.
What about this; Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless, turn to;
Ecclesiastes 5:10-13 (10) He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with

increase: this is also vanity.
(11) When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes?
(12) The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.
(13) There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt.
1Timothy 6:7-11 (7) For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.
(8) And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.
(9) But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.
(10) For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
(11) But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.
The mere fact of possessing wealth is not wrong. The danger is in placing one's affections on it, and in that case men are keeping the wealth to their hurt. For a man to accept his lot and be happy in his work -- this is a gift of God, turn to;
Ecclesiastes 5:18-19 (18) Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion.
(19) Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God.
Matthew 6:25-29 (25) Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

(26) Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?
(27) Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?
(28) And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:
(29) And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.
Solomon did not condemn a man for enjoying the good things of this life. What he lamented was to see those who were so greedy for riches to hoard, so that they could not appreciate the blessings which God had given them. Some men cannot appreciate the blessing of understanding. Of all that God has done. No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun...man cannot discover its meaning, turn to;
Ecclesiastes 8:16-17 (16) When I applied mine heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done upon the earth: (for also there is that neither day nor night seeth sleep with his eyes:)
(17) Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea further; though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it.
1Timothy 6:20-21 (20) O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:
(21) Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.
The Foundation of Science Is Absolute Truth of which the Bible is not in opposition to. "Science falsely so called" is not absolute truth, but is touted as such even in the absence of observed or predicted phenomena. "Science falsely so called" is what the Bible is in opposition to, because it lacks

observable or predicted phenomena. While the Bible does not object to using ones intelligence and abilities, it does object to false teaching to further an agenda that is anything but absolute reality. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death (Rev 21:8). *'Science falsely so called' is fearful of truth, is unbelieving of truth, its theories are abominable, it murders souls, it is spiritual adultery, it embraces magical unnatural theories, it is a false idol men look up to, it is a lie. Despite the Preachers book questioning the pitfalls of human reasoning, the Preacher never doubts the existence of God, He wrote;* Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man (Ecclesiastes 12:13). *In sum, the book of Ecclesiastes is actually a fascinating treasure of deeper spiritual insights and faith that is unlike earthly ideas. A deeper spiritual insight should be; while on earth Jesus established the ordinance of baptism, He accordingly has declared all men without distinction, who through faith, heed, follow, and practice what faith contains, to be His children and lawful heirs. Faith in Christ is the effect of belief, and baptism is the effect of faith; only those who have first believed the testimony of God, and by faith repented of their sins, and made that confession of faith, and by faith have been baptized into His death, have the full and explicit testimony of pardon. This is the gospel, will you accept it's plea? Or if one needs prayer for other reasons, come while we sing.*

This message approved by
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Essence--the basic, real, and invariable nature of a thing or its significant individual feature or features:

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