



# Ecclesiastes

CHASING WISDOM

# Ecclesiastes 1:1

1 The words of *Qohelet*, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

- Qohelet - “the one who gathers people around himself”; the Teacher/Preacher

## Ecclesiastes 1:2-5

2 “Vanity of vanities,” says the Teacher,  
“vanity of vanities! All is vanity. 3 What does  
man gain by all the toil at which he toils under  
the sun? 4 A generation goes, and a  
generation comes, but the earth remains  
forever. 5 The sun rises, and the sun goes  
down, and hastens to the place where it rises.

## Ecclesiastes 1:6-8

6 The wind blows to the south and goes around to the north; around and around goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns. 7 All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again. 8 All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

## Ecclesiastes 1:9-11

9 What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. 10 Is there a thing of which it is said, 'See, this is new'? It has been already in the ages before us. 11 There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be among those who come after.

*“Hevel, hevel, everything is utterly hevel.”*

**IRbRQh** *hevel* — “vanity”

- Hebrew: vapor, smoke → used 38 times
- 1) temporary, fleeting; 2) enigma, paradox

## Ecclesiastes 1:12-14

12 I, the Teacher, have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. 13 And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. 14 I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and look, all is *hevel* and a striving after wind.

## Ecclesiastes 1:15-16

15 What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be counted. 16 I said in my heart, "I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me, and my heart has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge."



## Ecclesiastes 1:17-18

17 And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind. 18 For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

Insight # 1 - The things we typically  
wear ourselves out for do not  
actually provide enduring  
satisfaction and meaning in this life.

Insight # 2 - No matter how you live,  
you are always going to find that  
there is something missing here on  
this earth.

Insight # 3 - The author wants to mess  
with us. His basic goal is to let the  
Teacher deconstruct all the ways we  
find meaning and purpose apart from  
God.

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.” (Matthew 7:24-25)