



Chasing after the Wind

Ecclesiastes 1-2

Words of the Preacher

Qoheleth “preacher, who gathers the assembly”

- 1:1 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.
- 1:12,16 I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem... I have attained greatness, and have gained more wisdom than all who were before me in Jerusalem.
- 12:9-10 because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out *and* set in order many proverbs. ¹⁰ The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and *what was* written *was* upright—words of truth.

The Vanity of Life

The apparent meaninglessness of human activities

- 1:2 “Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher; “Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.”
 - “hebel” (breath, vapor, fleeting, quickly passing away)
 - (Empty, meaningless, futile, not satisfying)
- 1:3 What profit has a man from all his labor in which he toils under the sun?
 - One may work hard, yet it may profit nothing
 - Under the sun – material life here on earth

Cycles of Nature

- 1:4-7 *One* generation passes away, and *another* generation comes; But the earth abides forever.
 - The sun rises and sets
 - The wind blows back and forth
 - The rivers run into the sea
- 1:8-11 Man himself is caught up in this futility
 - All things are full of labor (wearisome)
 - Our eyes are never satisfied
 - Nothing is new, nothing lasts, we are forgotten

Search for Wisdom

- 1:12-18 I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; this burdensome task God has given to the sons of man, by which they may be exercised. ¹⁴ I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.
 - What is crooked cannot be made straight
 - Search for wisdom could not remove feeling of futility
 - As wisdom increases, so does sorrow

Seeking Pleasure/Luxury

- 2:1-3 I said in my heart, “Come now, I will test you with mirth; therefore enjoy pleasure”; but surely, this also *was* vanity. ² I said of laughter—“Madness!”; and of mirth, “What does it accomplish?”
 - Mirth, laughter (merrymaking, partying, entertainment)
 - Pursuing pleasure while maintaining wisdom
- 4-11 Finding meaning through making a legacy
 - Great building projects, gardens, pools of water
 - Servants, Great possessions, wealth, enjoyments
 - Became great more than all before him
 - Same feeling at the end: all vanity, grasping wind

Comparing Wisdom and Folly

- 2:12-14 Then I saw that wisdom excels folly As light excels darkness.
¹⁴ The wise man's eyes *are* in his head, But the fool walks in darkness.
 - Wisdom is better than folly, but they share the same fate
 - Death signals the passing of both life and legacy
- 2:17 I hated life..the work done was distressing to me
- 2:18-22 The hope of leaving an inheritance for his son..
 - Who knows whether he will be wise or a fool
 - His legacy cannot be guaranteed

The One Approach to Enjoy Life

- 2:24-26 Nothing is better for a man *than* that he should eat and drink, and *that* his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God. ²⁵ For who can eat, or who can have enjoyment, more than I? ²⁶ For *God* gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who is good in His sight; but to the sinner He gives the work of gathering and collecting, that he may give to *him who is* good before God. This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.
 - Enter into the present
 - Life must be enjoyed as a gift from God
 - God gives wisdom, joy to a good man



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