

## Ecclesiastes 1:3ff

### I. Futility:

A. The Problem Stated (1:1-2)

B. The Problem Demonstrated (1:3-2:26)

1. The Futility of the Cycles of Life (1:4-11)

a. The Question.

3 What advantage (**YITRON = 10x; all in Eccl; true profit**) does man have in all his work, Which he does under the sun?

b. Analysis Of The Earth.

4 A generation (**DOR**) goes and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever.

c. Analysis Of The Sun.

5 Also, the sun rises and the sun sets; and hastening to its place it rises there again.

d. Analysis Of The Wind.

6 Blowing toward the south, then turning toward the north, the wind continues swirling along; and on its circular courses the wind returns.

e. Analysis of the Rivers.

7 All the rivers flow into the sea, yet the sea is not full. To the place where the rivers flow, there they flow again.

f. Analysis Of Sight And Hearing.

8 All things are wearisome; Man is not able to tell it. The eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor is the ear filled with hearing.

g. Conclusion.

9 That which has been is that which will be, and that which has been done is that which will be done. So, there is nothing new under the sun.

h. A New Question And Answer.

10 Is there anything of which one might say, "See this, it is new"? Already it has existed for ages which were before us.

i. New Conclusion.

11 There is no remembrance of earlier things; and also of the later things which will occur, there will be for them no remembrance among those who will come later still.

### Summary:

1. Solomon is giving an \_\_\_\_\_ analysis of the things in his life.
2. It is an evaluation of life without \_\_\_\_\_ viewpoint about the creation and sustaining work of God.
3. He is following an \_\_\_\_\_ view of thinking.

4. If one looks only at the present and does not consider the future the \_\_\_\_\_ is that nothing is new.
5. However, this analysis is from a \_\_\_\_\_ perspective because it is only based on what one can see.
6. Obviously, since 930 B.C. there have been \_\_\_\_\_ new things.
7. Daniel would prophesy about the massive increase in \_\_\_\_\_ which brings new things. Dan 12:2-4

I. **Futility:**

A. **The Problem Stated (1:1-2)**

B. **The Problem Demonstrated (1:3-2:26)**

1. **The Futility of the Cycles of Life (1:4-11)**

2. **The Futility of Human Wisdom (1:12-18)**

a. **The Quest for Human Wisdom. 1:12-15**

1). **Solomon's Position.**

12 I, the Preacher (**QOHELETH**), have been king over Israel in Jerusalem.

2). **Solomon's First Quest.**

13 And I set (**NATHAN = gave**) my mind (**heart**) to seek and explore by wisdom (**CHAKMAH**) concerning all that has been done under heaven. It is a grievous task which God has given to the sons of men to be afflicted with.

3). **Solomon's Conclusion.**

14 I have seen all the works which have been done under the sun, and behold, all is **vanity** and striving after wind.

4). **Solomon's Proof.**

15 What is crooked cannot be straightened, and what is lacking cannot be counted. (**But can it?**)

b. **Human Wisdom And Knowledge Lack. 1:16-18**

1). **Solomon's Experience.**

16 I (**the Preacher**) said to myself, "Behold, I (**myself**) have magnified (**Hiph PF GADHOL**) and increased (**Hiph PF YAsAPH**) wisdom more than all who were over Jerusalem before me; and my mind has observed a wealth of wisdom and knowledge."

2). **Solomon's Second Quest.**

17 And I set (**NATHAN = gave**) my mind (**heart**) to know wisdom and to know madness (**HOLEYLAH = 4x; all in Eccl;**) and folly (**sIKLUTH = 7x; all in Eccl**); I realized that this also is striving after wind.

3). **Solomon's Grief And Pain.**

18 Because in much wisdom there is much grief, and increasing knowledge results in increasing pain.

**Summary:**

1. **Solomon, who is the living definition of great wisdom desires to gain more wisdom.**

2. His wisdom is “new under the sun” so he is actually proving the *folly* of the statement of “nothing new.”
3. He does so by exploring the *opposites* of wisdom, which are madness and folly.
4. To explore madness he will delve into the thought process of *evil*.
5. His *conclusion* is that more knowledge leads to more grief, which leads to more pain.
6. In other words, ignorance is *bliss*.

## Ecclesiastes 2:1-26

### I. Futility:

#### A. The Problem Stated (1:1-2)

#### B. The Problem Demonstrated (1:3-2:26)

1. The Futility of the Cycles of Life (1:4-11)
2. The Futility of Human Wisdom (1:12-18)
3. The Futility of Pleasure and Wealth (2:1-11)
  - a. Fortune And Pleasure Lack. 2:1-8

##### 1). The Test And Results.

- 1 I (the Preacher) said to myself (in my heart), "Come now, I will test you with pleasure (**SIMCHAH**). So enjoy yourself." And behold, it too was *futility*.

##### 2). Evaluation Of Laughter And Pleasure.

- 2 I said of laughter, "It is madness," and of pleasure, "What does it accomplish?"

##### 3). The Plan And Reason.

- 3 I explored with my mind (**heart**) how to stimulate my body with wine while my mind was guiding me wisely, and how to take hold of folly, until I could see what good there is for the sons of men to do under heaven the few years of their lives.

##### 4). Works, Houses, Vineyards.

- 4 I enlarged my works: I built houses for myself, I planted vineyards for myself;

##### 5). Gardens, Parks And Fruit Trees.

- 5 I made gardens and parks for myself, and I planted in them all kinds of fruit trees;

##### 6). Irrigation Projects.

- 6 I made ponds of water for myself from which to irrigate a forest of growing trees.

##### 7). Slaves And Flocks.

- 7 I bought (**Qal PF QANAH**) male and female slaves, and I had homeborn slaves (**sons of the house, of Israel**). Also I possessed flocks and herds larger than all who preceded me in Jerusalem.

### 8). Treasures, Entertainers And Sex.

8 Also, I collected for myself silver and gold, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I provided for myself male and female singers and the pleasures of men-- many concubines.

#### Summary:

1. The desire for happiness only leads to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Solomon \_\_\_\_\_ himself through wine in order to think up "new things."
3. He made new things to look at with plenty to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. He made engineering projects with a clear \_\_\_\_\_.
5. He accumulated \_\_\_\_\_ through people and animals.
6. He had \_\_\_\_\_ amounts of silver and gold and hired entertainers.
7. Along with that he had \_\_\_\_\_ pleasure at his disposal at any time.



