

## Ecclesiastes

### b. Fame And Power Lack. 2:9-11

#### 1). Number One.

9 Then I became great and increased more than all who preceded me in Jerusalem. My wisdom also stood by me.

#### 2). Satisfaction Was The Reward.

10 And all that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor.

#### 3). The Conclusion.

11 Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was **vanity** and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun.

### Summary:

1. Solomon became the greatest man on earth at his time.
2. Absolutely nothing was out of reach for him.
3. For a time, his works made him happy.
4. But happiness is fleeting and always needs recharged.
5. Solomon lacked the satisfaction that Paul enjoyed, even while in a prison cell. Php 4:12-13

### 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)

##### 4. The Futility of Materialism (2:12-23)

##### a. All Humanity Ends The Same. 2:12-17

##### 1). The Next Project.

12 So I turned to consider wisdom, madness and folly, for what will the man do who will come after the king except what has already been done?

##### 2). The Conclusion.

13 And I saw that wisdom excels folly as light excels darkness.

##### 3). The Problem.

14 The wise man's eyes are in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. And yet I know that one fate befalls them both.

##### 4). The Realization.

15 Then I said to myself, "As is the fate of the fool, it will also befall me. Why then have I been extremely wise?" So I said to myself, "This too is **vanity**."

**5). Why Bother?**

16 For there is no lasting remembrance of the wise man as with the fool, inasmuch as in the coming days all will be forgotten. And how the wise man and the fool alike die!

**6). The Psychological Result About Life.**

17 So I hated life, for the work which had been done under the sun was grievous to me; because everything is **futility** and striving after wind.

**Summary:**

1. **Solomon has seen the value of wisdom as it is compared to foolishness.**
2. **Foolishness involves a series of wrong decisions that seek no correction.**
3. **Yet the wise man and the fool both die, so what is the meaning of life?**
4. **A worldly attitude is a lifetime pursuing worthless things, thinking they will bring happiness and peace of soul.**

**b. Why Love Life? 2:18-23**

**1). The Psychological Result About Work.**

18 Thus I hated all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun, for I must leave it to the man who will come after me.

**2). The Psychological Result-Fear.**

19 And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the fruit of my labor for which I have labored by acting wisely under the sun. This too is **vanity**.

**3). The Psychological Result-Despair.**

20 Therefore I completely despaired of all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun.

**4). The Human Analysis.**

21 When there is a man who has labored with wisdom, knowledge and skill, then he gives his legacy to one who has not labored with them. This too is **vanity** and a great evil.

**5). The Question.**

22 For what does a man get in all his labor and in his striving with which he labors under the sun?

**6). The Psychological Result-Pain.**

23 Because all his days his task is painful and grievous; even at night his mind does not rest. This too is **vanity**.

**Summary:**

1. Solomon realizes that even with his great wisdom he cannot see the future.
2. His works will be taken over by someone who may lack his wisdom.
3. Humanly speaking to give the fruit of your labor to one who has not worked for it, is not good, but rather evil.
4. The pursuit of things or the protection of them will not provide the peace of soul that is so desperately sought.

I. **Futility:**

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

3. The Futility of Pleasure and Wealth (2:1-11)

4. The Futility of Materialism (2:12-23)

5. Conclusion: Enjoy and Be Content with the Providences of God (2:24-26)

a. Solomon's Conclusion.

24 There is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and tell himself that his labor is good. This also I have seen, that it is from the hand of God.

b. The Question.

25 For who can eat and who can have enjoyment without Him?

c. Solomon's Analysis And Conclusion.

26 For to a person who is good in His sight He has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, while to the sinner He has given the task of gathering and collecting so that he may give to one who is good in God's sight. This too is *vanity* and striving after wind.

**Summary:**

1. Solomon is starting to better understand the futility of life without God.
2. Labor in the name of the Lord is good. Col 3:23
3. If a person's labor is only to magnify self it is empty and will never produce the real desires of the heart.