

Ecclesiastes

Overview

- Title (1:1)
- OPENING FRAME AND THESIS: VANITY OF VANITIES (1:2–3)
- The Thesis Demonstrated (1:4–2:26)
- God’s Design for Life (3:1–22)
- The Futility of the Various Circumstances (4:1–5:20)
- The Futility of Riches (6:1–12)
- Counsel for Living (7:1–12:7)
- CLOSING FRAME: VANITY OF VANITIES (12:8)
- Epilogue (12:9–14)

Detailed View

- Title (1:1)
- OPENING FRAME AND THESIS: VANITY OF VANITIES (1:2–3)
- The Thesis Demonstrated (1:4–2:26)
 - Futility of the cycles of life (1:4–11)
 - Futility of Human wisdom (1:12–18)
 - Futility of pleasure, wealth, and self-indulgence (2:1–11)
 - Futility of materialism (2:12–23)
 - Conclusion: enjoy and be content with the providences of God (2:24–26)
- God’s Design for Life (3:1–22)
 - God gives life’s order of events (3:1–8)
 - Nevertheless God’s work is inscrutable (3:9–11)
 - Still God gives the good gifts of life (3:12–13)
 - Judgment and the Future Belong to God (3:14–21)
 - Conclusion (3:22)
- The Futility of the Various Circumstances (4:1–5:20)
 - Oppression (4:1–3)
 - Work (4:4–8)
 - The Value of a friend (4:9–12)
 - Political Success (4:13–16)
 - Insincere Worship (5:1–7)
 - Hoarded riches (5:8–17)
 - Conclusion (5:18–20)
- The Futility of Riches (6:1–12)
- Counsel for Living (7:1–12:8)
 - Disillusioned view of life (7:1–14)
 - The riddles of life (7:15–29)
 - Obey the king and enjoy yourself (8:1–9)
 - God’s ways are inscrutable (8:10–17)
 - Take life as it comes (9:1–12)

- Wisdom superior to folly (9:13–18)
- In view of the uncertainties of life (10:1–20)
- In view of the aging processes of life (11:1–12:8)
 - Value of diligence (11:1–6)
 - Youth and old age (11:7–12:7)
- CLOSING FRAME: VANITY OF VANITIES (12:8)
- Epilogue (12:9–14)
 - First Conclusion (12:9–12, disciple affirms Qohelet's wisdom)
 - Second Conclusion (12:13–14; final editor's conservative summary)