

THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL FOR A WORLD OF VANITY

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—January 7th, 2024

ECCLESIASTES 1:1-3

(ESV)

[1] *The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.*

[2] *Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.*

[3] *What does man gain by all the toil
at which he toils under the sun?*

INTRODUCTION

Wisdom Literature—Job, Psalms, Proverbs, _____, and Song of Solomon.

“The truest of all men was the Man of Sorrows, and the truest of all books is Solomon’s, and Ecclesiastes is the fine hammered steel of woe.”—Herman Melville

“Ecclesiastes is an inspired confession of failure and pessimism, when God is excluded, when man lives under the sun, and forgets the larger part, which is always over the sun, the eternal and abiding things.”—Campbell Morgan

In a world of vanity and meaninglessness, only Christ can move us from hopelessness to hopefulness.

WHO IS THE PREACHER?

‘*qohelet*’ = one who _____ people in order to teach them

Ecclesiastes is a _____ by The Preacher who preaches in order to impart wisdom in the hearts of those who assemble to listen to him.

WHAT IS VANITY?

‘*habel*’ = mist, vapor, _____ / something both elusive and _____.

Habel reveals the _____ that is alive and well in our hearts.

Jeremiah 29:11–[11] *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

Romans 8:28–[28] *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

The deepest kind of teaching is one that is filled with wisdom and _____.

- **Job 3:2–3–[2]** *And Job said: [3] “Let the day perish on which I was born, and the night that said, ‘A man is conceived.’*
- **Psalms 88:1–3–[1]** *O LORD, God of my salvation, I cry out day and night before you. [2] Let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry! [3] For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol.*
- **Jeremiah 20:14–[14]** *Cursed be the day on which I was born! The day when my mother bore me, let it not be blessed!*
- **Matthew 26:38–[38]** *My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.*

WHAT DOES “UNDER THE SUN” MEAN?

Under the sun refers to the realm that is ruled by vanity—the _____.

- **Matthew 16:26–[26]** *For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?*
- **Romans 12:2–[2]** *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*
- **James 4:4–[4]** *You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*
- **1 John 2:15–[15]** *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*
- **1 John 2:17–[17]** *And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.*

“Vanity Fair is the City of Destruction, the world, dressed in its best party dress. It is the place where the most seductive attractions of the world take center stage in an attempt to steal our gaze, cool our resolve, and shake our confidence, which is to be in the God who is the maker and builder of the yet unseen city.” John Bunyan, Pilgrim’s Progress

2 Corinthians 4:16–18–[16] *So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. [17] For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, [18] as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*

Ecclesiastes 12:13–[13] *The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.*

“Ecclesiastes is the question to which Christ is the answer.”—Bobbie Jamieson