



ECCLESIASTES

Context

Who is the “Teacher?”

Setting within the narrative of salvation history

Theme

Meaningful! Meaningful! All is meaningful because all is ordered by an eternal, sovereign, and purposeful God. Therefore, we should fear God and rejoice in what He has given us to do and to have.

Structure of the Book

Vanity of Vanities – Ecclesiastes 1:1-2:23

The Book’s Thesis: Ecclesiastes 2:24-26

²⁴*There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God,* ²⁵*for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment?* ²⁶*For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.*

Ecclesiastes 3:12-14; 5:18-20; 8:15; 9:7-10

Eating and drinking

Who can enjoy?

God gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy

An opening for the gospel in our culture

The Remainder of the Book

Objection: The Problem of Evil

Three Answers

Practical Application

THE SONG OF SONGS

Context

A book about marriage? Or God's love for his people?

Theme

The Song of Solomon sings of the son of David, who is the ideal king of Israel, who is the seed of the woman, seed of the Abraham, seed of Judah, seed of David, who enjoys uninhibited, unashamed intimacy with his beloved, in a garden that belongs to him.

The Courtship

“Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.”

The Wedding

The Marriage

The Song of Solomon in light of Genesis 3

A Study Outline for Ecclesiastes

- I. Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 – Antithesis: All is vain.
- II. Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:23 – All is vain apart from a sovereign Creator.
- III. Ecclesiastes 2:24-26 – Thesis: All is meaningful if a sovereign God rules the universe.
- IV. Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 – The sovereignty of God affirmed.
- V. Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:16 – Objection: If God is sovereign, why are there so many problems in the world?
- VI. Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 – First answer: Who are you, the created, to point your finger at the Creator; you should be silent and worship in reverence instead.
- VII. Ecclesiastes 5:8-7:14 – Second answer: What is good/prosperity? Those who have it don't necessarily have a blessing from God, nor do those without it necessarily have a curse from God.
- VIII. Ecclesiastes 7:15-29 – Third answer: "Bad" things happen to "good" people because no one is good.
- IX. Ecclesiastes 8:1-12:14 – Practical application stemming from chapters 1-7.

A Study Outline for the Song of Songs

- I. Song of Solomon 1:1-3:5 – The Courtship
- II. Song of Solomon 3:6-5:1 – The Wedding
- III. Song of Solomon 5:2-8:14 – The Marriage