

Ecclesiastes (Solomon)

OUTLINE

- Fulfilment in the fallen world (1-3) (Intro 1:1-15).
 - Not in Wisdom (1:16-18, 2:12-16), Escapism (2:1-11) nor Legacy (2:18-23).
 - Desire to find meaning should lead us to God (3:9-15, 18-22, 4:9-11, 12:13-14).
- Frustrations (3-7).
 - Don't expect justice, or fair reward (3:16-17, 4:1-3, 5:8, 6:1-2, 7:15).
 - 'Nothing new under the Sun' (no fundamental change)(1:1-11, 6:7-11),
 - Accept prosperity & adversity (4:4-8, 5:10-17, 8:14).
- Plotting a course through Life (8-12).
 - Wisdom is better than strength, but neither can avert death (5:1-7, 7:1-14+16-29, 8:2-9, 16-9:1, 11-18, 10:1-3, 4-20, 11:1-4).
 - Seek God above all else (His Words may hurt, but lead to life) (8:10-15, 9:7-10, 11:5-10, 12:1-12).

Key Themes

- Do not expect 'life' to be self-fulfilling, or fair.
 - Righteous 'crusades' (social justice) are not an end in themselves.
- Frustrations, and failure, in life are unavoidable.
 - Idealistic 'utopianism', or being resigned to sin, are dangerous deceptions.
- The season's of life must be accepted.
 - Change cannot bring fundamental change.
- Enjoyment of life comes only through a God centred worldview.
 - A Theological (not just 'religiously' moral) worldview.