

The Meaning of Life

“Vanity, futility, meaningless”; these are the words of King Solomon about life. Solomon was the wisest and wealthiest man who ever lived. He wrote the Song of Solomon in his early years, Proverbs in his middle years, and Ecclesiastes in his later years, which revealed the depression that inevitably results from seeking happiness in worldly things. God granted him great wisdom and immense riches. **1 Kings 3:12-13**: *“... I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for, both wealth and honor, so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings.”* And **1 Kings 10:23**: *“King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth.”* Solomon journals what he did with these God-given gifts. **Ecclesiastes 2:4-10**: *“... I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well—the delights of a man’s heart. I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me. I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure.”* So what’s the point, you might ask? As Christians, we have the opportunity to see the world through the eyes of a person who, though wise, seeks meaning in temporary, human things. Solomon explores nearly every form of worldly pleasure, yet none gives him a sense of meaning; everything is meaningless, a temporary diversion that, without God, has no purpose or longevity. There is no truth or meaning to life. Even the best of man’s achievements are worth nothing in the long run. All the vanities described in the Book of Ecclesiastes foreshadow the only answer: Jesus Christ. God judges the righteous and the wicked, and the righteous are only those who are in Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:21**: *“God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”* God has placed the desire for eternity in our hearts and has provided the only Way to eternal life through our Lord, Jesus Christ. **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**: *“... fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.”* We are reminded that striving after the world’s wealth is not only vanity because it does not satisfy, but even if we could attain it, without Christ we would lose our souls. Every disappointment and vanity described in Ecclesiastes has its remedy in Christ, the wisdom of God, and the only true meaning in life. Those without a saving faith in Christ face a life that ends and becomes irrelevant. If there is no salvation and no God, then not only is there no point to life, but there is also no purpose or direction. The world apart from God is brief, frustrating, cruel, unfair, and meaningless. But with Christ, life is a foreshadowing of the glories to come in heaven, accessible only through Him.