

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH  
BIBLE STUDY – CHRISTIANITY 101  
TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025

Stan Campbell, *Bible to Go: Genesis to Revelation in One Hour*, (New York: Faith Words, 2006)

**The Book of Ecclesiastes**

“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher, Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless” – Ecclesiastes 1:1. And with that jolly opening, the book of Ecclesiastes begins. Many believe the Teacher to be Solomon. If not, it was someone in a similar position of wealth, power, and opportunity. The writer leads a determined search for meaning in life. He seeks meaning in pleasure: “I denied myself nothing my eyes desired” – Eccl. 2:10. Yet he finds no satisfaction. He tries working hard, only to realize he will die and leave everything to someone else who hasn’t worked for it – Eccl. 2:21. He tries a number of pursuits, only to find them to be “meaningless, a chase after the wind” – Eccl. 2:26.

Eventually, he decides that the best anyone can do is “to eat, and drink, and to find satisfaction in his toilsome labor” – Eccl. 5:18. And his final conclusion? “Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man” – Eccl. 12:13.

Acknowledgement of God’s presence and involvement can add meaning to life when nothing else does.

**The Song of Songs**

From the frequently bleak and perplexing book of Ecclesiastes we come to the Song of Songs, which provides an altogether different experience. This writing, also attributed to Solomon, is a bold and sometimes explicit love story. It is structured as a dialogue between the Beloved (the girl) and the Lover (the guy), with occasional commentary from friends.

Among the more graphic passages is the Lover’s comment: “Your stature is like that of the palm, and your breast like clusters of fruit. I said, “I will climb the palm tree: I will take hold of its fruit” – Song of Songs 7:7-8. (Some Bible passages don’t need much

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expert interpretation.) But more true to the book as a whole is one of its closing comments:

Love is as strong as death,

Its jealousy unyielding as the grave.

It burns like the blazing fire,

Like a mighty flame.

Many waters cannot quench love;

Rivers cannot wash it away.

If one were to give

All the wealth of his house for love,

It would be utterly scorned. – Song of Songs 8:6-7.

Some people interpret the Song of Songs to be symbolic of the relationship between God and His people (whether Israel or the Church). Perhaps it is. But it also stands alone as a lasting and classic song of love, wisdom, and romance.

A few short summaries can't do justice to the beautiful poetry and sentiment expressed in these biblical writings. But since this is a *Bible to Go*, we must return to the action in the Old Testament...bleak though it is.

**Next Week's Focus: Next Week's Focus:**

- Divided and Conquered: The Fall of the Nation and Rise of the Prophets
- Ahab and Jezebel

**Note:** Your thoughts and feedback help to develop group understanding of the material covered. Please feel free to ask questions, send emails, and text for further discussion.

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