

Ecclesiastes 1: An Introduction - Wisdom

Wednesday PM 04/08/20

I) The Words of the Preacher, v 1

A) Solomon

1. King David had two groups of children, those born in Hebron (6) where David reigned for 7½ years, **2 Samuel 3**
2. His children born in Jerusalem (11), **2 Samuel 5**.
3. David's sons were given the role of chief ministers (servants of an undefined nature), **2 Samuel 8.18b**.

B) Solomon became king over Israel

1. God spoke to Solomon in **1 Kings 3** and Solomon showed great wisdom by admitting he was unable to rule Israel by himself.
2. **1 Kings 3:5** At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, *"Ask! What shall I give you?"* 6 *And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. 7 "Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. 8 "And Your servant is in the*

midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. 9 "Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

- a. A sign of wisdom is knowing what you don't know.
 - b. Clint Eastwood: "Every man has to know his limitations."
3. God gave Solomon great wisdom and an understanding heart.
 4. **1 Kings 3:10** *The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. 11 Then God said to him: "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, 12 "behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you. 13 "And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days.*

II) Different Types of Wisdom

A) Distinction between wisdom and knowledge

1. Knowledge tends to be more fact oriented. Knowledge of God's word.
2. Wisdom – greater understanding and ability to apply what God's word says.
3. **Hebrews 5:14** *But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

B) Wisdom can be divided into two groups

1. Earthly wisdom- the kind of wisdom a lot of smart people have.
 - a. **James 3:13** *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.*
 - b. This is a wisdom void of God.
2. Wisdom from above.
 - a. **James 3:17** *But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who*

make peace.

- b. This is a wisdom that comes from knowing and respecting His word.

III) **Ecclesiastes 1**

A) **Written primarily from the worldly point of view, without consideration of God.**

1. Common term is "Life under the sun" simply life on his earth.
2. Solomon's perspective after accomplishing a lot.

B) ***Ecclesiastes 1:2 "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher; "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity."***

1. Vanity – brief, fleeting, temporary nature of things.
2. Examples given by Solomon.
3. ***Ecclesiastes 1:3*** *What profit has a man from all his labor In which he toils under the sun? 4 One generation passes away, and another generation comes; But the earth abides forever.*
 - a. Whatever we obtained is temporary.
 - b. ***Ecclesiastes 5:15*** *As he came from his mother's womb, naked shall he return, To go as he came; And he shall take nothing from his labor Which he may carry away in his hand.*
4. ***Ecclesiastes 1: 5*** *The sun also rises, and the sun goes down, And hastens to the place where it arose. 6 The*

wind goes toward the south, And turns around to the north; The wind whirls about continually, And comes again on its circuit. 7 All the rivers run into the sea, Yet the sea is not full; To the place from which the rivers come, There they return again.

5. Goes back to the idea expressed in **verses 3 & 4** --8 All things are full of labor; Man cannot express it. The eye is not satisfied with seeing, Nor the ear filled with hearing.
6. **Ecclesiastes 1.9** *That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, **And there is nothing new under the sun.** 10 Is there anything of which it may be said, "See, this is new"? It has already been in ancient times before us. 11 There is no remembrance of former things, Nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come By those who will come after.*
 - a. There is nothing new under the sun. Solomon is not talking about technology or medicine but the nature of man's life.
 - b. I have wondered what my mom and dad would think about the virus and stores being closed and not being able to buy certain items.
 - c. They would talk about the great depression and not being able to buy things.
 - d. They would talk about polio and its devastating effects on a generation of people.

IV) Application

- A) There is truly nothing new under the sun— our experiences are new to us but not to mankind.
- B) Wisdom without God at best is temporary and at worst is dangerous-- Man left to his own devices is dangerous.
- C) Wisdom without God is not going to save us – there are a lot of benefits of knowledge and wisdom but without God we are still lost.