

Ecclesiastes

LEARNING TO LIVE LIFE
AS A GIFT NOT GAIN

PASTOR BILLY M. GOTCHER

JANUARY 14, 2018

ECCLESIASTES 1:1-11

**Facing Life In A Fallen World So That
We Might Know How To Live**

A. Introductory Title, v. 1

➤ **Ecclesiastes 1:1**

The words of the Preacher (Qohelet), the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

B. Introductory Poem, vv. 2-11

1. The Subject of the Book, v. 2

➤ Ecclesiastes 1:2

“Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher; “Vanity of vanities, all *is* vanity.”

➤ Ecclesiastes 12:8

“Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher, “All *is* vanity.”

➤ Psalm 39:5

Indeed, You have made my days *as* handbreadths, And my age *is* as nothing before You; Certainly **every man at his best state *is* but vapor (hebel)**. Selah”

➤ Psalm 144:4

Man is like a breath (hebel); His days *are* like a passing shadow.

➤ **Pastor's Suggested Translation:**

“Most frustratingly puzzling!” says the Teacher.

“Most frustratingly puzzling! Everything is frustratingly puzzling.”

2. The programmatic question, v. 3.

- ³ What profit has a man from all his labor in which he toils under the sun?
- McCabe: “What does man profit from all his work at which he toils under the sun?”

3. The Poem, v.v. 4-11.

- **The Theme - The Cycles of Life vs. the Permanence of the Cosmos.**
- ⁴ *One* generation passes away, and *another* generation comes; But the earth abides forever.

The Cycles Of Life Developed

- 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. ⁸ All things *are* full of labor (**wearisome**); Man cannot express *it*. The eye is not satisfied with seeing, Nor the ear filled with hearing.

The Permanence Of The Earth Developed

➤ 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.**

➤ McCabe's Translation:

⁹ What has been will be again. What has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.

¹⁰ Is there anything about which one can say, "Look at this! It is new!" It was here already in ancient times; it was here before we were.

¹¹ There is **no remembrance of men** in the past; and even those who are yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow.

C. What do we need to know/believe about our lives in this fallen world?

C. What do we need to know/believe about our lives in this fallen world?

1. Life is Short.

C. What do we need to know/believe about our lives in this fallen world?

1. Life is short.
- 2. Life is elusive.**

C. What do we need to know/believe about our lives in this fallen world?

1. Life is short.
2. Life is elusive.
- 3. Life is repetitive.**

D. How does this help us to live?

Summary of the Message of Ecclesiastes

Life is a frustrating puzzlement for finite, fallen humanity who, along with our world, have been devastated by the fall. This frustrating puzzlement called life is still a gift from God that can be judiciously enjoyed by those with a vital relationship with the Sovereign God, and who are prepared to give an account to God for how we have used this gift.