

ECCLESIASTES SERIES FOUR
COTTON CANDY
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ECCLESIASTES 1:1-18
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King Solomon—the teacher, son of David, King in Jerusalem (Ecclesiastes 1:1)—was one of the wisest, wealthiest, and best looking men who ever lived. Solomon had it all!--But!!! There came a time in his life when, frankly, he grew tired of running the country, building the temple and hearing the people complain.

So, it was like one day he walked out of the office and said, “I am sick of giving and giving and giving. I want to experience life and run wild and let myself go. I am out of here!”

So he left—and when he finished his fling, he wrote the book of Ecclesiastes to tell us what he learned. Ecclesiastes is Wisdom literature. It gives us advice on how to live.

Ecclesiastes 1:2: “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”

“Meaningless” is the key to this book. It does not mean worthless and empty. It does not mean vain! This is the Hebrew word for morning mist. By 9:00 AM the mist is gone. Solomon learned that it is easier to grab and hold onto a handful of mist than to hang onto the things of this life. Life is like mist. It is like cotton candy—biting into nothing.

Ecclesiastes 1:3: What does a man gain from all his labor at which he toils under the sun?

- Solomon Observed In Nature That What Goes Around Comes Around. Man Is A Tiny-Transitory Part Of The Life Cycle. His Existence Is Fleeting. He Is Not As Important As He Thinks.

Ecclesiastes 1:4: Generations come and generations go but the earth remains forever.

No one knows how long the world has been here—only it was here a long time before we got here and it will be here a long time after we are gone.

Ecclesiastes 1:5: The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises.

Ecclesiastes 1:6: The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course.

Solomon used language and terms consistent with scientific understanding today. Here he refers to low pressure and high pressure areas.

Ecclesiastes 1:7: All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place where streams come from, there they return again.

Here Solomon described the water cycle of evaporation and condensation into rain.

Ecclesiastes 12:6-8 is a remarkable, poetic description of death.

- Solomon Observed That Nothing Brings Ultimate Satisfaction. No Matter How Much We Have, We Always Want More.

Ecclesiastes 1:8: All things are wearisome, more than one can say. The eye never has enough of

seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing.

Satisfaction comes when we step off the escalator of desire and say, “This is enough. What I have will do.

In Song of Solomon we learn that if we turn from the world and set our hearts on knowing Christ that we cannot fathom the infinite preciousness of His love—Jesus Christ is too large for the human heart. He alone can satisfy.

● SOLOMON OBSERVED THAT NOTHING IS NEW. IT HAS ALL BEEN SAID OR DONE BEFORE.

Ecclesiastes 1:9-10: What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which one can say, “Look! This is something new”? If it was here already, long ago; it was here before our time.

The things we may think are new are just another form of mist.

The one exception is the New Birth which we personally receive when we surrender our lives to Jesus Christ as our savior and Lord.

● SOLOMON OBSERVED THAT EVERY ONE—EVEN THE WELL KNOWN—ARE FORGOTTEN ALL TOO SOON!

Ecclesiastes 1:11: There is no remembrance of men of old, and even those who are yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow.

● SOLOMON OBSERVED FROM HUMAN WISDOM AND PHILOSOPHY THAT LIFE WITH CHRIST IS BLEAK.

Ecclesiastes 1:12-18

Human philosophy is a search for truth based on what man can reason and figure out.

Human wisdom and philosophy are always searching. By definition, they can't arrive because there is always more to learn.

Much of Ecclesiastes is from an “under-the-sun” perspective. Since Solomon seldom looks “above the sun” to find reassurance, life seems depressing, hopeless and meaningless. In spite of the extent to which he went to find happiness, because he left God out of the picture, nothing satisfied.

WHAT WE MIGHT LEARN FROM SOLOMON?

1. HOLD ALL THINGS LOOSELY. THEY WILL NOT LAST LONG.
2. STOP LIVING “UNDER THE SUN.” BRING GOD INTO THE PICTURE.
3. ENJOY LIFE EVERY DAY. IT IS ALL PASSING QUICKLY AWAY.
4. THERE IS ONE FINAL DESTINATION WE DON'T WANT TO MISS.