

“Meet the teacher!” Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 (v1-2)

Life feels frustrating, fleeting and hard to grasp...



1) nothing's gained (v3-7)

2) nothing satisfies (v8)

3) nothing's new (v9-10)

4) nothing lasts (v11)

Where do we go with all this...?

despair? ➡ Live with realism

“unbiblical”? ➡ Live with reverence (12:13-14)

Here's some questions on the first instalment of Ecclesiastes...

1. Which words describe your initial impressions of the book of Ecclesiastes?
2. Can you put the word “hebel”, translated meaningless (NIV) or vanity (ESV), in your own words? (You might like to look up Psalm 39:4-6 where the word is translated “breath” and “in vain”, and see also how the teacher uses it in 2:11, 2:21, 7:15 & 9:9).
3. List some things about your life that you are thankful for, and some things that you would love to be different.
4. Can you relate to any of the Teacher's experiences in v3-11? Is it OK to admit that?
5. What would change day by day if you had a more realistic perspective on life? Think about your work, relationships and evangelism.
6. What do you think the conclusion in 12:9-14 means in practice? Should it change the way that we read the book?

Some resources

- Charlie has put together a 2 page introduction to the series [here](#) which includes a list of who is preaching when and a number of Ecclesiastes resources.
- David Gibson has written an excellent [book](#) on Ecclesiastes “Living Life Backward”, but you may prefer his [articles](#), or [youtubes](#) from the 2022 Keswick Convention.