

# Ecclesiastes

Author: Probably Solomon

Theme: Life Under the Sun is Vanity (apart from God, all is vanity) - Ecclesiastes 1:2

*hevel* ('vanity') – occurs 38x, lit. means “a puff of wind” or “a breath of air”

*tachath hashamesh* (“under the sun”) – occurs 28x

VANITY = ephemeral - short-lived, transient, fleeting, passing, brief, momentary, transitory, temporary

What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be counted.

- Ecclesiastes 1:15

Consider the work of God: who can make straight what he has made crooked?

- Ecclesiastes 7:13

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, **and the crooked shall become straight**, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

- Luke 3:4-6

## Quick Outline

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11	Introduction
Ecclesiastes 1:12-6:12	Everything in Life is Ephemeral
Ecclesiastes 7:1-12:7	How to Live with Ephemerality
Ecclesiastes 12:8-14	Conclusion

“The power of this book is in the absence rather than in the presence of Christ. This is a testimony to everything that is good and virtuous in life being tested and tried and found wanting.”

- Gareth Crossley

See Ephesians 2:12,

Romans 1:25

John 4:10, 6:48 7:37, 10:10

## Ecclesiastes in a Week

Thursday	Ecclesiastes 1:1-11	Introduction
Friday	Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26	Satisfaction is Evasive (part 1)
Saturday	Ecclesiastes 3:1-6:12	Satisfaction is Evasive (part 2)
Sunday	Ecclesiastes 7	The Well-Ordered Life
Monday	Ecclesiastes 8-9	Live Life Wisely & Soberly (part 1)
Tuesday	Ecclesiastes 10-12:7	Live Life Wisely & Soberly (part 2)
Wednesday	Ecclesiastes 12:8-14	Conclusion

Life Under the Sun		Life Under the Son
Ecclesiastes 1:3	What advantage is work under the sun?	Philippians 1:6
Ecclesiastes 1:9	Nothing new under the sun	2 Corinthians 5:17
Ecclesiastes 1:14	All deeds are vanity under the sun	1 Corinthians 15:58
Ecclesiastes 2:18	The fruit of labour is hated under the sun	Colossians 1:10
Ecclesiastes 6:12	Man is mortal under the sun	John 3:16
Ecclesiastes 8:15	Pleasure is temporary under the sun	Philippians 2:13
Ecclesiastes 8:17	Man cannot discover God's work under the sun	1 Corinthians 13:12
Ecclesiastes 9:3	All men die under the sun	1 John 5:11
Ecclesiastes 9:11	Strength and speed under the sun	1 Corinthians 1:27
Ecclesiastes 12:2	Life under the sun will cease	1 John 5:13

\*from Gareth Crossley's *The Old Testament Explained and Applied*

# Proverbs 31 Chapters, the perfect monthly devotional

## From Jeremiah Montgomery's *Concise Summary of The English Bible*

- **Authorship:** Solomon; 'Agur' (30.1) and 'Lemuel' (31.1) either pen-names for Solomon or unknowns
- **Date:** 970-686 BC (cf. 25.1: portions copied out by the men of Hezekiah, who reigned until 686)
- **Circumstances:** The golden age of the Solomonic kingdom (1Ki 4.29-34)
- **Theme:** "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction." (1.7)

### Content Outline

- The Life of Wisdom (1-9)
  - Wisdom's Call (1-2)
  - Faith's Centrality (3-4)
  - Adultery's Danger (5-7)
  - Wisdom's Blessing (8-9)
- The Collected Wisdom (10-31)
  - Of Solomon (10-22.16)
  - Of the Wise (22.17-24.34)
  - Of Solomon – via Hezekiah (25-29)
  - Of Agur (30)
  - Of Lemuel (31)

See Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom in **2 Chronicles 1:7-12, 1 Kings 3:5-15, 4:29-32**

*Absence of References to the nation of Israel in the Wisdom Books (Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes)*

*"The book of Proverbs is, therefore, a primer on street smarts." -Michael Williams*

*It's a Cheatbook for Life. Poetry of Parallelism. Humorous & Playful. Case Study: 26:4-5*

*Proverbs References to Immortality of the Soul: 10:2, 16, 11:4, 19, 12:28, 14:32, 23:18*

*Study Book of Proverbs Topically: <http://fridaysunset.net/Articles/ClassifiedProverbs.pdf>*

### Christ in Proverbs:

**1 Corinthians 1:30** "You are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption..."

**Colossians 2:1-3** "For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

See **Proverbs 8:22-36**

### Proverbs and the New Testament:

\*James: the Proverbs of the New Testament

\*\*Another word for Proverb: Parable (Proverb used 19x, Parable 18x)

\*\*\*The Mind of Christ - Full of Psalms & Proverbs - Remember Psalm 1

Proverbs in the NT	
Proverbs 3:11-12	Hebrews 12:5-6
Proverbs 3:34	James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5
Proverbs 10:12	1 Peter 4:8
Proverbs 11:31	1 Peter 4:18
Proverbs 25:21-22	Romans 12:20
Proverbs 26:11	2 Peter 2:22

Proverbs Alluded to in the NT	
Proverbs 3:7	Romans 12:16
Proverbs 4:26	Hebrews 12:13
Proverbs 24:21	1 Peter 2:17
Proverbs 25:6-7	Luke 14:8-10
Proverbs 27:1	James 4:13-14