

Introduction and Illustrations of Vanity

Introduction: "Ecclesiastes is a profound book recording an intense \_\_\_\_\_ by the Preacher for meaning and satisfaction in life—in spite of the inequities, inconsistencies, and seeming absurdities of life on earth" (Wilkinson and Boa).

## I. Title and Author

- A. Ecclesiastes means "\_\_\_\_\_" or "congregator, one who speaks at an assembly."
- B. This book was written by \_\_\_\_\_ later in his life (1:16; 2:3-8).
- C. It was written around \_\_\_\_\_ B.C.

## II. Theme and Purpose

- A. "First of all, the book was included so that no one will ever have to live though Solomon's dismal \_\_\_\_\_, searching for satisfaction where it cannot be found" (MacDonald).
- B. The key word \_\_\_\_\_ means "emptiness, futility, vapor, that which vanishes quickly and leaves nothing behind."
- C. Vanity is found \_\_\_\_\_ times in this book.
- D. The phrase "under the sun" is found \_\_\_\_\_ times in Ecclesiastes; it refers to life from the human \_\_\_\_\_.
- E. "If this key—under the sun—is not kept constantly in mind, then this book will present mountainous \_\_\_\_\_" (MacDonald).

## III. Illustrations of Vanity (Eccl. 1:1-11)

- A. Solomon states his thesis \_\_\_\_\_ in this book.
- B. He illustrates this vanity with the monotony of \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Vanity is actually the result of \_\_\_\_\_ (Ro. 8:20).
- D. Life can be like a \_\_\_\_\_--working hard, but getting nowhere.
- E. Unless we have God's \_\_\_\_\_, our labor is in vain (Hag. 1:6).
- F. Life is like a continuous \_\_\_\_\_--generation after generation.
- G. Cyclic monotony can be seen in \_\_\_\_\_.
- H. Labor alone and possession of material things will never \_\_\_\_\_.
- I. "Natural man instinctively thinks he can make himself \_\_\_\_\_ through possessions, pleasure or travel on the one hand, or through drugs, liquor, or sexual indulgence on the other" (MacDonald).
- J. "You have made us, O Lord, for Yourself, and our heart will find no \_\_\_\_\_ until it \_\_\_\_\_ in You" (Augustine).
- K. History is constantly \_\_\_\_\_ itself.
- L. Human \_\_\_\_\_ never changes; the problems of today have always existed.
- M. \_\_\_\_\_ is another thing which is vain—quickly passes away.

Conclusion: "It is only as man takes account of that which is over the sun as well as that which is under the sun that things under the sun are seen in their true light" (Morgan).