

A Study of the Wisdom Literature **(OT Survey Lesson 294—Eccl. 1:1-11; 12:9-14)**

Introduction: No Biblical book challenges the modern secularist viewpoint more than Ecclesiastes. This wise work by Solomon (or someone who tells his story for homiletical purposes) shows us that the only meaningful life on earth is that which is lived with faith in God.

Lesson aim: To consider the authorship and theme of Ecclesiastes.

Prologue: The vanity of life under the sun—Eccl. 1:1-2

1. How does the author describe himself in the first chapter? (v. 1) What is the significance of these three designations?
2. With what theme does the book begin? (v. 2)

The argument begun: Why life under the sun is vanity—Eccl. 1:3-11

1. With what question does the wise man call attention to the vanity of life? (v. 3)
2. In what ways can one see life on earth as an endless cycle? (v. 4-7)
3. What is man's relationship to all these things? (v. 8)
4. What is the point of the statements and questions in v. 9-10?
5. Yet, what does each generation do? (v. 11)

Epilogue: The author and his “conclusion of the matter”—Eccl. 12:9-14

1. How does the preacher further describe himself? (v. 9-10) What were some of his activities?
2. To what did he compare the words of wise men? (v. 11) From what source do they come?

3. What warning did he issue? (v. 12)
4. What is the ultimate conclusion of this study? (v. 13) Check the last phrase in several versions. What is the meaning of this phrase?
5. Why does the writer affirm that this is the proper conclusion to the investigation of life under the sun? (v. 14)