

A Study of the Wisdom Literature

(OT Survey Lesson 296—Eccl. 2:24-3:22)

Introduction: Having shown the inadequacy of the secularist world view, the Preacher now shows us a better way to view life—with faith in God. In this part of Ecclesiastes we are impressed with the emphasis upon understanding God’s providence and judgment as giving life on earth meaning.

Lesson aim: To show the spiritual view of life.

The alternative to pessimism, faith in God—Eccl. 2:24-26

1. What course does the preacher encourage one to pursue in life? (v. 24) Is this equivalent to a hedonistic lifestyle? From whom does he say one has this ability? (v. 24-25)
2. What does God give to those who are good in His sight? (v. 26) What does He give to the sinner?

Faith in God’s providence—Eccl. 3:1-15

1. What heading begins this section? (v. 1) What do you think the preacher means by these statements?
2. How does the Preacher describe the “times” of life? (v. 2-8) What do you think is the point of this lengthy and specific analysis of life’s events?
3. What question is now raised for the second time in the book? (v. 9-10)
4. These questions are answered in part by the affirmation that God does what two things? (v. 11) What you think these two statements mean?
5. Consequently, what should these two truths imply about how the life of faith is lived? (v. 12-13)

6. Did the preacher believe that life under the sun would change? (v. 14-15)
What did he believe was the reason for the order God has established in the world?

Faith in God's judgment—Eccl. 3:16-22

1. What observation did the preacher make about life? (v. 16) How did faith enable him to offer a satisfactory explanation of this feature of life's vanity? (v. 17)
2. What explanation did the preacher offer to the fact that all die? (v. 18-21)
In what way was the preacher affirming that there is no difference between man and beast?
3. Consequently what course of life does he recommend? (v. 22)