

Theology of Ecclesiastes:

Theological Topic	References in Ecclesiastes
God's Sovereign Control over Man	1:13 (cf. 3:10); 2:26; 3:1, 11, 14, 18; 5:18–20; 6:1–2; 7:14, 26; 8:15; 9:1, 7
God's Providential Grace	2:24–26; 3:13; 5:18–20; 8:15
God's Eternality	3:11, 14; 12:5, 7
God's Creatorship	3:11, 14; 7:29; 8:16–17; 11:5; 12:1, 7
God's Perfection	3:14; 7:29; 8:16–17; 11:5
God's Justice and Holiness	2:24–26; 3:17; 5:4, 6; 7:26, 29; 8:2, 12–13; 11:9; 12:14
God's Abode	5:2
God's Omnipresence and Omniscience	5:2, 6; 8:2, 16–17; 11:5; 12:14
God's Omnipotence	7:13; 11:5
God's Preservation of His Saints	7:26; 8:12–13
God's Required Reverential Fear	3:14; 5:7; 7:18; 8:12–13; 12:1, 13
God's Required Obedience before Sacrifice	5:1, 4, 7; 8:2; 12:1, 13
God's Word	12:13

Table is from: William Barrick, *Ecclesiastes: The Philippians of the Old Testament* (Scotland, UK: Christian Focus Publications, 2011), 11.

Bibliology:

(Recommended resources: MacArthur & Mahue, *Biblical Doctrine*; Grudem, *Systematic Theology*; Culver, *Systematic Theology*)

1) Inspiration of Scripture

- a. Hebrews 1:1–2
- b. 1 Cor 2:6–16
- c. 2 Tim 3:16
- d. 2 Peter 1:20–21
- e. Isa 1:2
- f. Gen 1:3
- g. Malachi 4:3
- h. Word of God (Mk 7:13; Lk 5:1; Acts 4:31; 6:2; Acts 11:1, etc.)
- i. Distinctiveness of Scripture (Ps 19, 119; Prov 30:5–6; 2 Pet 1)
- j. Jesus affirming divine/human (Jn 5:45–47; Lk 20:42; Matt 13:14; Matt 24:15–16; Mk 12:36)

2) Authority of Scripture

- a. The Author's Authority as Creator (Gen 1–2; Ps 24:1; 2 Pet 3:10)
- b. Matt 38:18; Phil 2:10

3) Inerrancy and Infallibility of Scripture

- a. This is assumed because of the author
- b. This is the result of Divine Inspiration (Point #1)

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- b. This is the result of Divine Inspiration (Point #1)

- 4) Preservation of Scripture
 - a. Divine Preservation (Ps 119:89, 152; Isa 40:8; Matt 24:35)
 - b. Divine Preservation in spite of man (Moses with Tablets of Stone; Jehoiakim cutting up Jeremiah's scroll in 2 Kgs 22)
 - c. Human responsibility God has given (Deut 17:18–20) – reminds us of importance in copying accurately, and obeying what is copied; 2 Tim 2:2 faithfully teach to faithful men what has been taught in the presence of witnesses

- 5) Teaching and Preaching of Scripture
 - a. 2 Tim 3:16 – Teach all Scripture
 - b. Titus 2:10 – Teach out to apply Scripture

- 6) Obligation to Scripture
 - a. John 14 – If we love Him we will keep His commandments
 - b. From MacArthur/Mayhue
 - i. Receive 1 Thess 2:13
 - ii. Pray – Ps 119:18
 - iii. Feed – 1 Pet 2:2; Deut 8:3; Matt 4:4; 1 Cor 3:2; Ps 19:10; Job 23:12
 - iv. Obey – Num 14:22–24
 - v. Honor – Neh 8:5–6
 - vi. Study – Ezra 7:10; 2 Tim 2:15
 - vii. Preach/Teach – 2 Tim 4:2; 1 Pet 3:15
 - viii. Compel – Acts 18:24–28
 - ix. Disciple – 2 Tim 2:2
 - x. Tremble – Isa 66:2

Author of Ecclesiastes:

- 1) Ecc 1:1–2, 12–18; 2:1–11; 12:9–10
- 2) Summarized from Barrick: “No other king in all Israel fits the factors of Wisdom, Works, Wealth, and Words better than Solomon.”

WISDOM	Ecclesiastes 1:16	1 Kings 3:12
WORKS	Ecclesiastes 2:4–6	1 Kings 5:13–18; 7:1–8; 9:17–19
WEALTH	Ecclesiastes 2:7–9	1 Kings 10:14–20
WORDS	Ecclesiastes 12:9–10	1 Kings 4:32

Message of Ecclesiastes:

Prologue Ecc 1:1–18

Epilogue Ecc 12:9–14

We see:

- 1) Primary purpose is to teach wisdom (1:13–18)
- 2) Repeated use of *Hebel* (vanity, futility, enigma) brackets opening and closing
- 3) Seek and explore wisdom (1:13)
- 4) Presentation of delightful words and truth (12:9–10)
- 5) Fear of God and Obeying God (12:13)
- 6) God Judges all (12:14)

3) Preservation of Scripture

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