

The Message of Ecclesiastes

- Ecclesiastes 12:9–14
- Song of Solomon
- Psalms 72 and 127
- 2 Peter 1:21–21

The Name of the Book, “Ecclesiastes”

Greek Old Testament, often called the “Septuagint” (meaning 70) and Abbreviated LXX

The Hebrew קהלת (Qoheleth) → The Greek Ἐκκλησιαστού → Transliterated to “Ekklesiastes” BUT translated as “Preacher” in most English Bibles.

The Genre of Ecclesiastes

Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes – Wisdom Literature

The Structure of Ecclesiastes

The *Inclusio* or “Envelope” of the book is 1:2 and 12:8.

1:2–2:26 – Division 1

3:1–5:20 – Division 2

6:1–8:15 – Division 3

8:16–12:8 – Division 4

12:9–12:14 – Epilogue

The Meaning of “Vanity” (*Hebel*)

English Use or Comparison to <i>Hebel</i>	OT Passages
Idols/Idolatry	Deut 32:21; Ps 31:6; Jer 8:19; 10:3, 8
Help from Egypt	Isaiah 30:7
Nothing and <i>Hebel</i>	Isaiah 49:4
Wind... <i>Hebel</i>	Isaiah 57:13
Customs of People	Jer 10:3
Falsehood, <i>Hebel</i> , no profit	Jer 16:19
Comfort of false prophets is <i>Hebel</i>	Zech 10:2
Best of man is only <i>Hebel</i>	Ps 39:6
Men of low degree/lighter than <i>Hebel</i> on scales	Ps 62:9
Days end in <i>Hebel</i> —years in sudden terror	Ps 78:33
Thoughts of men are <i>Hebel</i>	Ps 94:11
Treasure gained by deceit is <i>Hebel</i>	Prov 21:6
Charm is deceitful and beauty is <i>Hebel</i>	Prov 31:30
Job wonders why he should toil in <i>Hebel</i>	Job 9:29
Job is accused of opening his mouth in <i>Hebel</i>	Job 35:16 – <i>Hebel</i> = confusion and lack of understanding

Life under the Sun

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