**Dismantling Sentimental Christianity and Secular Fools**



Ecclesiastes 1:1–2

How would you describe the book of Ecclesiastes? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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* Ecclesiastes is part of the biblical genre known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Wisdom literature—provide the skills necessary to navigate life successfully.

Two Major Themes:

* Dismantle sentimental religion.
* Demonstrate the absurdity of life apart from God.
1. **DISMANTLE SENTIMENTAL RELIGION.**
2. Authorship.
3. Who is *Qoheleth? Qahal* (assembly)—teacher, preacher, leader of assembly.
4. Solomon? Probably a later author using Solomon as a cautionary tale.
5. Context.
6. Written during a time of religious decline (postexilic).
7. Written during a time of economic expansion and opportunity (Ptolemies? 3rd century BC).
8. Written to aristocracy who were pursuing pleasure in materialism.
9. Purpose.
10. Bring back into balance a theology that had gotten off track (i.e., Proverbs).
11. The Jews had oversimplified the complexities of life.
12. Illustration: C.S. Lewis in *A Grief Observed.*
13. What are some aspects/presuppositions of sentimental Christianity? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. **DEMONSTRATE THE ABSURDITY OF LIFE APART FROM GOD.**
2. Vanity of Vanities.
3. *Hebel* (35x)—mist, vapor, smoke. Trans. meaningless, futility, mystery.
4. Absurdity of life apart from God.
5. Under the Sun (30x).
6. That which pertains to this age (secularism).
7. What are some of the pursuits that belong to life under the sun? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. What better cautionary tale could be told than the example of Solomon?
2. Apologetic Method of the Preacher.
3. Employs secular culture as his starting point and systematically dismantles their ideologies.
4. Illustration of Paul on Mars Hill (Acts 17). How does Paul approach proclaiming the gospel in a secular culture? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. What Is the Conclusion of the Matter?
2. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man (12:13–14).
3. Where is Christ in Ecclesiastes?
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