

# FINDING MEANING IN GOD

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

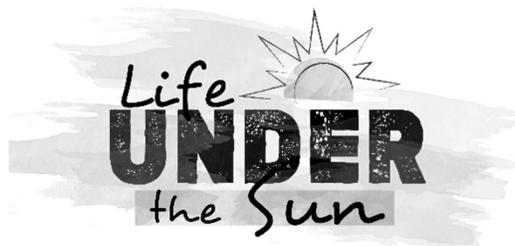
1. The preacher's grim assessment. (1:2-3)

2. Three essential needs that will never be met under the sun (without God). (1:4-11)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_



## **Ecclesiastes 1:1–11**

<sup>[1]</sup> The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

<sup>[2]</sup> Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher,  
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

<sup>[3]</sup> What does man gain by all the toil  
at which he toils under the sun?

<sup>[4]</sup> A generation goes, and a generation comes,  
but the earth remains forever.

<sup>[5]</sup> The sun rises, and the sun goes down,  
and hastens to the place where it rises.

<sup>[6]</sup> The wind blows to the south  
and goes around to the north;  
around and around goes the wind,  
and on its circuits the wind returns.

<sup>[7]</sup> All streams run to the sea,  
but the sea is not full;  
to the place where the streams flow,  
there they flow again.

<sup>[8]</sup> All things are full of weariness;  
a man cannot utter it;  
the eye is not satisfied with seeing,  
nor the ear filled with hearing.

<sup>[9]</sup> What has been is what will be,  
and what has been done is what will be done,  
and there is nothing new under the sun.

<sup>[10]</sup> Is there a thing of which it is said,  
"See, this is new"?

It has been already  
in the ages before us.

<sup>[11]</sup> There is no remembrance of former things,  
nor will there be any remembrance  
of later things yet to be  
among those who come after. (ESV)

# Finding Meaning In God

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April 11, 2021



**Open:** Before beginning this series, what has been your experience with the book of Ecclesiastes?

**Read:** Ecclesiastes 1:1-14

**Discuss:**

1. What word do other Bible versions use in their translation of this word vanity? What examples are given in verses 3-7 to support the thesis "all is vanity?" What other examples could you add to this list?
2. Verse 8 suggests that the pursuit of new experiences often does not lead to satisfaction or fulfillment as we were hoping it would. How have you found this to be true in your own life? Why, then, would we continue to pursue satisfaction in things that will not satisfy?
3. In what sense would you agree with what is said in verses 9-10? How do you believe it should impact how we live?
4. Why is there often "no [or little] remembrance of former things" (v. 11)? What role do lessons from the past play in your thinking? How does it affect you to know that you will one day be forgotten by others in this world?
5. Verse 13 speaks of seeking wisdom by looking only "under heaven" (or "under the sun" as verse 3 says it). What would such a pursuit have to ignore? If all you knew of life was based on what you could observe on earth, what might be your philosophy on life?
6. In what ways would you agree with the person who says here that "all is vanity"? As a Christian, how might you seek to refute his argument?
7. How would you explain to someone what it might look like to live a meaningful life? What warnings would you have, if any, about how it might be possible to live a life without meaning?

**Pray:** Ask God to help us see life from His perspective and enable us to know when we're being deceived by false philosophy or by a distorted view of reality.

## **Ecclesiastes 1:1-14**

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<sup>11</sup> There is no remembrance of former things,  
nor will there be any remembrance  
of later things yet to be  
among those who come after.

<sup>12</sup> I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. <sup>14</sup> I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind. (ESV)