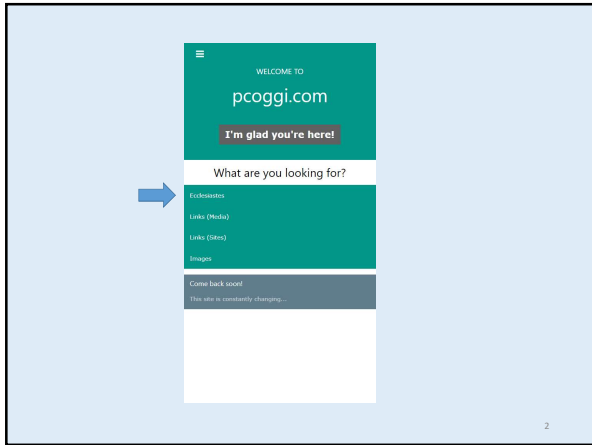
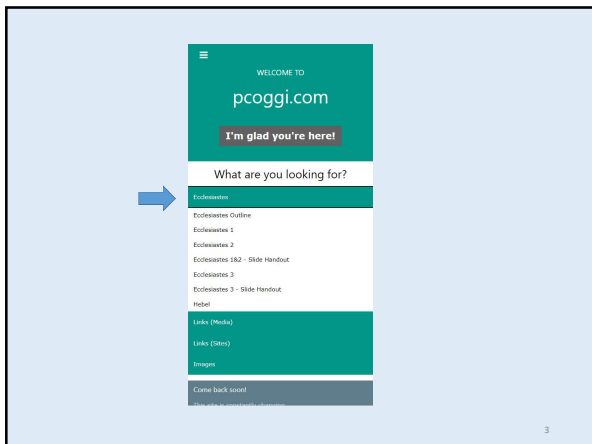


Ecclesiastes

Chapters 1-2
Winter 2023

1





Ecclesiastes 1:12-15 (ESV)

¹² I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem.

¹³ 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.

4

Ecclesiastes 1:12-15 (ESV)

¹⁴ I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.

¹⁵ What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be counted.

5

V13: heart *thought and emotion*

V13: God=Elohim (*focus is on sovereignty.*)

V13: under heaven <> **under the sun**

V14: vanity *“mere breath”*

V15: what is crooked... Contrast with Is 40:3-4

6

Isaiah 40:3-4 (KJV)

³ The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

7

Ecclesiastes 1:15 (KJV)

¹⁵ That which is crooked cannot be made straight, and that which is wanting cannot be numbered.

Isaiah 40:4 (KJV)

⁴ Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

8

Ecclesiastes 1:15 (KJV)

cannot be made straight ← by man

Isaiah 40:4 (KJV)

the crooked shall be made straight ← by God

9

Ecclesiastes 1:16-18 (ESV)

16 I said in my heart, "I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me, and my heart has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge."

17 And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind.

18 For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

10

Romans 8:18-23 (ESV)

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope

21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

11

Romans 8:18-23 (ESV)

22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

12

Subjected to futility ← ESV
 Subjected to frustration ← NIV
 Subjected to vanity ← KJV

“meaningless”

13

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 (ESV)

¹ I **said in my heart**, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself.” But behold, this also was vanity.

² I said of laughter, “It is mad,” and of pleasure, “What use is it?”

³ I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine—my heart still guiding me with **wisdom**—and how to lay hold on **folly**, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life.

14

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 (ESV)

⁴ I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself.

⁵ I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees.

⁶ I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees.

⁷ I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house. I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem.

15

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 (ESV)

⁸ I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines, the delight of the sons of man.

⁹ So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me.

16

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 (ESV)

¹⁰ And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil.

¹¹ Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

17

Ecclesiastes 2:3 (ESV)

I said of laughter, "It is mad," and of pleasure, "What use is it?"

Prov 14:13 (ESV) (p 537)

**Even in laughter the heart may ache,
and the end of joy may be grief.**

18

Ecclesiastes 2:3 (ESV)

³ I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine—**my heart still guiding me with wisdom**—and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life.

19

Proverbs 9:1-4a

¹ **Wisdom** has built her house;
she has hewn her seven pillars.
² She has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine;
she has also set her table.
³ She has sent out her young women to call
from the highest places in the town,
^{4a} “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!”

20

Proverbs 9:13-16a

¹³ The woman **Folly** is loud;
she is seductive and knows nothing.
¹⁴ She sits at the door of her house;
she takes a seat on **the highest places of the town,**
¹⁵ calling to those who pass by,
who are going straight on their way,
¹⁶ “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!”

21

SO I BECAME GREAT...

Works	Pools
Houses	Slaves
Vineyards	Herds & flocks
Gardens	Silver & gold
Parks	Singers
Fruit trees	Concubines



22

Ecclesiastes 2:12-17 (ESV)

¹² So I turned to consider wisdom and madness and folly. For what can the man do who comes after the king? Only what has already been done.

¹³ Then I saw that there is more gain in wisdom than in folly, as there is more gain in light than in darkness.

¹⁴ The wise person has his eyes in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. And yet I perceived that the same event happens to all of them.

23

Ecclesiastes 2:12-17 (ESV)

¹⁵ Then I said in my heart, "What happens to the fool will happen to me also. Why then have I been so very wise?" And I said in my heart that this also is vanity.

¹⁶ For of the wise as of the fool there is no enduring remembrance, seeing that in the days to come all will have been long forgotten. How the wise dies just like the fool!

¹⁷ So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind.

24

Ecclesiastes 2:18-23 (ESV)

18 I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me,

19 and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity.

20 So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun,

25

Ecclesiastes 2:18-23 (ESV)

21 because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil.

22 What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun?

23 For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

26

Ps 49:10 (ESV) (p 473)

**For he sees that even the wise die;
the fool and the stupid alike must
perish
and leave their wealth to others.**

27

Ps 39:6 (ESV) (p 476)

**Surely a man goes about as a shadow!
Surely for nothing they are in turmoil;
man heaps up wealth and does not know
who will gather!**

28

Ecclesiastes 2:24-26 (ESV)

²⁴ There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and **find enjoyment** in his toil. This also, I saw, is **from the hand of God**,
²⁵ for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment?
²⁶ For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

29

1 John 2:15 (ESV) (p 1021)

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

30

1 John 2:16-17 (ESV)

16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

31

Lk 12:20 (ESV) (p 871)

16 But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’

32

Col 3:17, 23 (ESV) (p 984)

17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,

33
