

Ecclesiastes

On the one hand, a depressing book about the futility of life. Asks many questions that are still raised in today's society.

- The story of Solomon, at that time the world's richest, wisest and most well-known person
- A record of the Teacher's search for meaning, and his frustrations at not finding it in wealth, wisdom, fame, accomplishment or hedonism
- Wealth, wisdom, fame, accomplishment and hedonism are all things "under the sun", things important only in a world lived on one level – apart from God
- Solomon experiences all of these things to the fullest extent and finds them meaningless

Ecclesiastes concludes with a message of hope, the one way to achieve meaning: "Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man" (12:13)

LOOKING FORWARD TO JESUS

The life that Solomon describes in *Ecclesiastes* is the one most people live, but it is the antithesis of the one offered by Christ. Solomon celebrates that kind of life in the next book, *Song of Songs*.

Old Testament Timeline

BC	2000-1700	1700	1250	1210	1030
Creation/Fall Adam & Eve Noah	Patriarchs Abraham Isaac Jacob Joseph	Israel in Egypt	The Exodus Moses The Law	Promised Land Joshua Deborah Gideon Sampson	United Kingdom Samuel Saul David Solomon

Ecclesiastes on...

Commitment: *When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. 5:4*

PEOPLE

Bathsheba after committing adultery with David, she becomes his queen, the mother of Solomon, and an ancestor of Christ **David** slayer of Goliath and second king of Israel, David is flawed yet demonstrates a great heart for God; ancestor of Christ **Solomon** son of David and Bathsheba, successor to David, he becomes the wisest and richest man in the world; the third and last king of the united kingdom

Teacher Solomon

Genealogy of Christ

Abraham—Sarah
 Isaac—Rebekah
 Jacob—Leah
 Judah—Tamar
 Perez
 Hezron
 Ram
 Amminadab
 Nahshon
 Salmon—Rahab
 Boaz—Ruth
 Obed
 Jesse
 David—Bathsheba
 Solomon
 Rehoboam
 Abijah
 Asa
 Jehoshaphat
 Jehoram
 Uzziah
 Jotham
 Ahaz
 Hezekiah
 Manasseh
 Amon
 Josiah
 Jeconiah
 Shealtiel
 Zerubbabel
 Abiud
 Eliakim
 Azor
 Zadok
 Akim
 Eliud
 Eleazar
 Matthan
 Jacob
 Joseph—Mary
 Jesus

930

722

587

538

336

63 BC

Divided Kingdom

North:

Ahab

Elijah

South:

Hezekiah

Isaiah

Samaria

falls to
Assyria,
scatters

Jerusalem

falls to
Babylon,
exiled

Judeans return

Esther
Ezra
Nehemiah

Greek

rule

Roman

rule