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Daily Bible Notes/Highlights Genesis through Revelation 2014

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(Scroll to the latest update)

Ecclesiastes

C1-3

C1 Vss 1-18. The words of King David's son, everything is meaningless, generation come and go but the earth never changes, the winds blow south then north, everything is wearisome beyond description, history merely repeats itself, nothing is ever truly new, I the teacher was king of Israel and I lived in Jerusalem, I devoted myself to search for understanding and to explore wisdom, God has dealt a tragic existence to the human race. I observed everything under the sun, it is all meaningless.

Commentary: This book represents a combination of antagonistic thought along with extreme pessimism with the wise objective of demonstrating the complete dependency on a great and sovereign God. The caution is to know all of the other principles of Scripture for this book represents all of the arguments against life and purpose without God. Therefore given the extraordinary wisdom of Solomon he can give testimony to the utter foolishness and madness like no other.

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What is wrong cannot be made right, what is modding cannot be recovered, I set out to learn everything from wisdom to madness and folly, it was like chasing the wind, the greater my wisdom, the greater my grief, to increase knowledge increases sorrow.

Commentary: The best way to thoroughly understand this book is to go along with the writer. Hear his opinion and arguments. It is accurate the more knowledge we have, the more we understand we do not know.

C2 Vss 1-26 I said, try pleasure, I find that too was meaningless, I found that it was meaningless,
I decided to cheer myself with wine, I clutched at foolishness, I tried to experience what most people find

Commentary: The writer shares his pursuit of every aspect of living trying to find meaning and purpose. Pleasure! Wine! Foolishness! He did not find purpose in these things.

I tried building a huge home, and vineyards, I built parks and reservoirs, I purchased slaves and others were born into my household, I owned herds and flocks, I collected great sums of silver, I hired many singers, had many concubines, I had everything a man could desire, anything I wanted I would take , I denied myself no pleasure, it was all so meaningless

Commentary: He continues his pursuit of purpose. Houses! Parks! He purchased slaves and herds. Here we see he moved toward possessions. Concubines is the same as sex! Whatever he desired represents the wish and fantasy aspect of life. He found them to be meaningless.

So I compared wisdom with foolishness and madness, wisdom is better than foolishness, the wise can see where they are going, yet they share the same fate , both will die, what's the value of my wisdom?

So I came to hate life, everything done here under the sun is troubling, I came to hate hard work, so I gave up in despair, so what do people get for their hard work, it's meaningless

Commentary: Now he takes tone to consider wisdom. Even wisdom falls short of the meaningful test because after all us said and done, humans die.

So I decided there is nothing better than to enjoy food and drink, I realized these pleasures are from heaven,

Commentary: So , at this point he determined simply enjoy food and drink or life in general. It's the hands in the air 'ok.' Just enjoy

C3 Vss 1-22 there 'a a time for everything, seasons, born, die, plant ,harvest, kill, heal, cry, laugh,

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Commentary: The writer takes a turn. He displace wisdom about timing. There is a designed time for everything.

God has made everything for it's own time, he has planted eternity in the human heart, but people cannot see the whole scope of God's work, I concluded be happy and joyful as long as we can, eat, drink and enjoy the fruits of their labor, whatever God does is final. What happens now has happened before

Commentary: The writer for the first time moves beyond human time, and introduces something called eternity. He add, we cannot see the scope of all things from beginning to end only God can. So again he's back to simply enjoy life.

I also noticed there is evil in the courtroom, in due season God will judge everyone, both good and bad,

Commentary: The preacher comers practically every area of living. So evil in the courtroom is a part of his preaching. He's to conclude that ultimately God is the ultimate judge.

I also thought about the human condition, how God proves people are like animals, both breathe and must die, who can prove that the spirit of humans go up and the spirit of animals go down, so I saw that there is nothing better for people to do than be happy in their work, no one will bring us back to enjoy life after we die

Commentary: Notwithstanding God's word about the creation of man, the preacher use the antagonism to say human are like animals in the sense that they die. What good is it to be intelligent with death as the common denominator. Even more antagonism is shown with the question concerning where man goes compare to where animals go after death. Again he's using these questions to cause thinking and ultimately to illustrate how important it is to live God with all our hearts.

C4-6

C4 Vss 1-13 I saw all the oppression, the oppressors have great power, I concluded the dead are better off, most fortunate are those who are not born, most people are motivated to success because they envy their neighbors, this is meaningless, fools fold their hands leading then to ruin

Commentary: The writer assesses the condition of the oppressed and views the unborn as more fortunate. This becomes a real argument against the sanctity of life position, particularly those who don't accept the doctrine that anything can have sanctity outside of life without God. So the writer here would disagree with the sanctity of life proponents. Abortion is wrong not because of sanctity of life but because of shedding of innocent blood. We therefore have no argument with the writer's position here.

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The writer addresses how we are typically motivated for success. There are other avenues, but envy means we desire what others have. Meanwhile the foolish do nothing. So it is if we are driven by envy or do nothing. But the bottom line is it ends in no meaningful way.

I observed another example meaningless, a man who is all alone no child or brother who works hard to gain as much as he can, he asks who am I working for? Why am I giving up so much pleasure? Two people are better than one, they can help each other, three is even better

Commentary: Here the writer poses an opposite condition where a man works and has no child or brotherly obligations, but it also means there no one to share with so why all the effort? Then this condition is compared to the condition of multiples seen better than being just one. This argument flies in the face of the argument of being rich then leaving the wealth to someone else, even other he may not know.

It is better being poor but wise, young then old, a youth could rise from being poor and or in prison and become king, another generations comes and rejects him, this too is meaningless

Commentary: Here this illustration has to be found in the life of Joseph. Destitute, jailed even enslaved but ultimately a royal leader. But a day comes when the people don't remember him. More importantly here we also see a degree of Jesus. He was despised and rejected. He becomes King of kings!

C5 Vss 1-20 entering the house of God keep your ears open but your mouth shut, don't make mindless offerings and rash promises, let your words be few

Commentary: Even concerning our relationship with God the writer warns the less said, the better.

Too much activity gives you restless dreams; too many words make you a fool, when you make a promise to God don't delay, it's better to say nothing than to say something and not keep it

Commentary: The writer provides a degree of insight about dreams. They can be driven by a day's activity. What people think is God speaking can be the manifestation of what a person gave his or her mind to for the day or a period of time. There is always the admonition against too much talking. Then Jesus said let your yes be yes, and your no no.

Don't be surprised to see the poor oppressed and injustice, matters of injustice get lost in red tape and bureaucracy, those who love money will never have enough, how meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness, people who work hard sleep well, but the rich seldom get a good night's rest, money is out into risky investments, in the end there's

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nothing left to pass to a child, we all come to an end as naked as when we were born, people leave no better than they came

Commentary: The writer gives the matter of fact existence of injustice. The poor and oppress will see more of it. But the rich also have their irony. They pursue riches, but they never bring happiness. They die as naked as the oppressed. All end the same way.

I've noticed one thing, that is good, eat, drink and enjoy your work under the sun during the short life and to accept their lot in life

Commentary: Since this is the case the writer concludes eat, drink, enjoy your work. Accept our lot in life. The Apostle Paul said, "I've 'learned' to be content"

C6 Vss 1-12 there's another serious tragedy I have seen, God give some great wealth, but they die not enjoying it, and another he may not know ends up enjoying the wealth

Commentary: Here the writer affirms the wealth condition. Since some cannot even get restful sleep they don't enjoy their wealth. Then another get their wealth

A man might have a hundred children and live to be very old, but if he finds no satisfaction it would be better he be born dead,

Commentary: Here's another condition where before the person had no child or brother, but this time there are numerous children but the end is the same. It would be better to be born dead.

All people spend their lives scratching for food but don't have enough, so are wise really better off than fools?

Commentary: The writer takes a basic necessity and shows how meaningless wisdom appears. Everyone needs and scratches for food wise or foolish. So he asks, is it any better being wise? Again we see this extraordinary pessimists in and with it he's making his argument . This ultimately unfolds in his final conclusion.

Enjoy what you have rather desiring what you don't have, just dreaming about nice things is meaningless,

Commentary: Again, here's a content kind of argument. Stop stressing for dreams and desires. Learn to be content for what we have.

Everything has already been decided, it was known long ago what each person would be, the more words you speak the less they mean, in a few days on this earth who who knows how our days can best be spent

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Commentary: Here is a theological nugget. Our destiny is set. The Apostle Paul said, "For those He foreknew he predestined to be conformed to the image of His son. Because of Christ, we are no longer in God's image as humans on the earth, but to be acceptable we must be in Jesus image our predestined objective.

As stated earlier fewer words are better.

C7-9

C7 Vss 1-29. A good reputation is better than costly perfume, the day you die is better than the day you are born, better to spend your time at funerals than parties, sorrow is better than laughter sadness had a refining influence

Commentary: This is an understatement based on today's description of perfume. However, the real emphasis is on the fragrance of a good name as a metaphor. It's greater than a great fragrance. And the opposite is true. A corrupt name far exceeds excitement. The writer also allows his dark view of life to be displayed. No doubt, if a prison does not no The Lord all is truly lost. Sorrow can have a humiliating, and self-assessing effect unlike laughter no question.

A wise person thinks about death while the fool thinks only about having a good time, finishing is better than starting and patience better than pride

Commentary: Another insight that is accurate. Generally, the younger we are the more unlikely for us to think of death. As a result there is more foolishness and risk taking. There's no thinking that death can invade our ranks. Then so many start great campaigns, but finishing is the key.

Wisdom and money can get you almost anything but only wisdom can save your life, nothing is certain on this life

Commentary: What should we pursue since fortune may not be in our path? But wisdom is obtained by engaging a relationship with The Lord

Not a single person is always good and never sins, don't ease drop, a seductive woman is a trap more bitter than death, those who are pleasing to God will escape her, only 1 of a thousand men are virtuous but not one woman, God created people to be virtuous, but they each have turned to a downward path

Commentary: It is hard to conceive that some people literally believe they have faults, but they are a good person. How could anyone go through life and never have to apologize or say I'm sorry. Also, don't ease drop it's a bad idea, particularly with spouses. If you have to get a private investigator the relationship is already over or someone need professional help with unexplainable insecurity.

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Notice a deductive woman is a trap. Every woman is not purposely seductive. Get ready to be badly damaged if a fellow falls. The writer views everyone men and women as unscrupulous. They want something. He sees men as just a little neuter than women. Could be the perspective of Eve giving fruit to her husband

C8 Vss 1-17 How wonderful to be wise, obey the king, don't avoid do your duty, those who obey will not be punished,

Commentary: Spoken like a king but also godly advice. Jesus, Paul and Peter all speak of honoring authorities. Authorities are placed by God and are their to keep civility.

How can people avoid what they do not know is going to happen, none of us can hold back our spirit from departing, I've seen wicked people buried with honor, but if a person sins a hundred times and still lives a long time, those who fear God are better off, In this life wicked people are treated as good, and good as wicked so I recommend having fun

Commentary: The writer speaks in terms that the typical human would understand. Again, it demonstrates the need for the One Who knows the future. There are ironies in life. The wicked do get honored, but the writer concludes, it is still better to fear God.

Commentary:

C9 Vss 1-18 even though actions of the godly and wise people are in God's hands, no one knows whether God will show them favor, everyone suffers the same fate, that is why people are not more careful to be good, there's nothing ahead but death anyway, the wife given you is your reward for all your earthly toil

Commentary: While we know that after all is said and done, the writer is correct. In the instant we don't know whether things will work out well. It's a long time between David's anointing and when he becomes king. There were moments that he wished the favor of of king was at every turn as he ran for his life from Saul.

Then a wife represents a man's reward. Hopefully, she truly is a reward. The writers could be taken as dark sarcasm or literally. Given the context of all he says, the latter is more likely his meaning.

The fastest runner doesn't always win the race and strongest warrior doesn't always win the battle, the wise sometimes goes hungry, educated don't always lead successful lives

Commentary: Then he states a reality. Life is not mathematics, 2 plus 2 equals 4. The fastest does not mean you win a race. The strongest does not always win a battle. This why a solid immovable foundation in Christ is so important.

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People cannot predict when hard times will come, they are caught by sudden tragedy, even though wisdom is better than strength those who are wise will be despised if they are poor. One sinner can destroy much that is good

Commentary: Again, it is accurate that we cannot predict hardships to a degree. Actually, self-inflicted hardships are very predictable. However, the writer is attempting to painting a picture that calls for humanity to depend on The Lord. No matter how wise, if the wisdom cannot gain status and wealth the world does not accept such a condition. Jesus was despised!. Finally, sin cause personal and community consequences. Truly a sinner can destroy far more than good achieved by godly acts.

C10-12

C10 Vss 1- 20 As dead flies cause perfume to stink a little foolishness spoils great wisdom and honor, you can tell a fool by the way they walk down the street, a quiet spirit can overcome great mistakes,

Commentary: No matter how unfair it may appear when a wise person makes a mistake that becomes public it has the stench of death. This information is not only provided as a fact, but as a warning. And it is so true that often a fool can be seen in the way he or she presents themselves.

There is another evil I've seen, kings and rulers make mistakes when they give authority to fools and low positions to the wise,when you dig a well you might fall in, when you demolish a wall you could be bitten by a snake, when you chop wood there is danger with each stroke, using a dull ax requires great strength, that's the value of wisdom, it helps you succeed, Wise words bring approval, but fools are destroyed by their words,

Commentary: It is a major error to make leaders out of known fools and under utilize those who are wise. It creates an in workable situation. The wise sound like wisdom, but a fool will speak foolishly and continue to do so.

C11 Vss 1-10 send your grains across the seas and in time profits will flow back to you, as you cannot understand the path of wind, you cannot understand the activity of God who does all things

Commentary: The preacher/teacher assumes the grains are sent to those who would utilize the grains. And that as opposed to hearing the grains are shared. People poor into your heart in these circumstances.

Commentary: As a side-bar, it's a topic covered previously. While we understand many things God does, we do not know all he knows about all that needs to happen with any given experience. There are so many moving parts. What I request in prayer may require numerous related events with me and others. I have no idea all that is involved.

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When people live to be very old let them rejoice in every day of life, let them remember there will be many dark days, meaningless

Commentary: The elderly must be supported and the best thing to do is to let them enjoy life.

You must give an account to God for everything, refuse to worry, keep your body healthy, meaningless

Commentary: throughout Scripture giving account to God is a consistent pattern. As a result we have to be mindful with what and how we did with everything within our authority

C12 Vss 1-13 don't let your youthfulness cause you to forget your creator, remember him, remember him before you get old,

Commentary: Being young is bit an excuse to ignore God. Young people are to be mindful of God almighty. And the value of wisdom as a young person extends a life time.

Everything is meaningless, keep this in mind the teacher was considered wise, and he taught everything he knew, he listened carefully to many proverbs, studying and classifying them

Commentary: As the teacher concludes he provides all he considered. He includes how he catalogued his knowledge

The words of the wise are like cattle prods-painful but helpful, but be careful, writing books is endless and much study wears you out

Commentary: He admits the tiring and endless pursuit of knowledge. Agrippa said to Paul, all your learning has made you a mad-man ().

Here's now my final conclusion: Fear God, obey His commands, this is everyone's duty. God will judge us for everything we do, including secret things whether good or bad,

Commentary: The beauty is that after the writer has written the most pessimistic, antagonistic, and negative outlook of life. Nevertheless, he concludes are duty is to stay the course with God almighty. The dark truths cannot be refuted, but the greatest truth is that Son-light comes bursting through the dark picture portrayed by the Teacher/Preacher. And to this we say, glory to God.

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