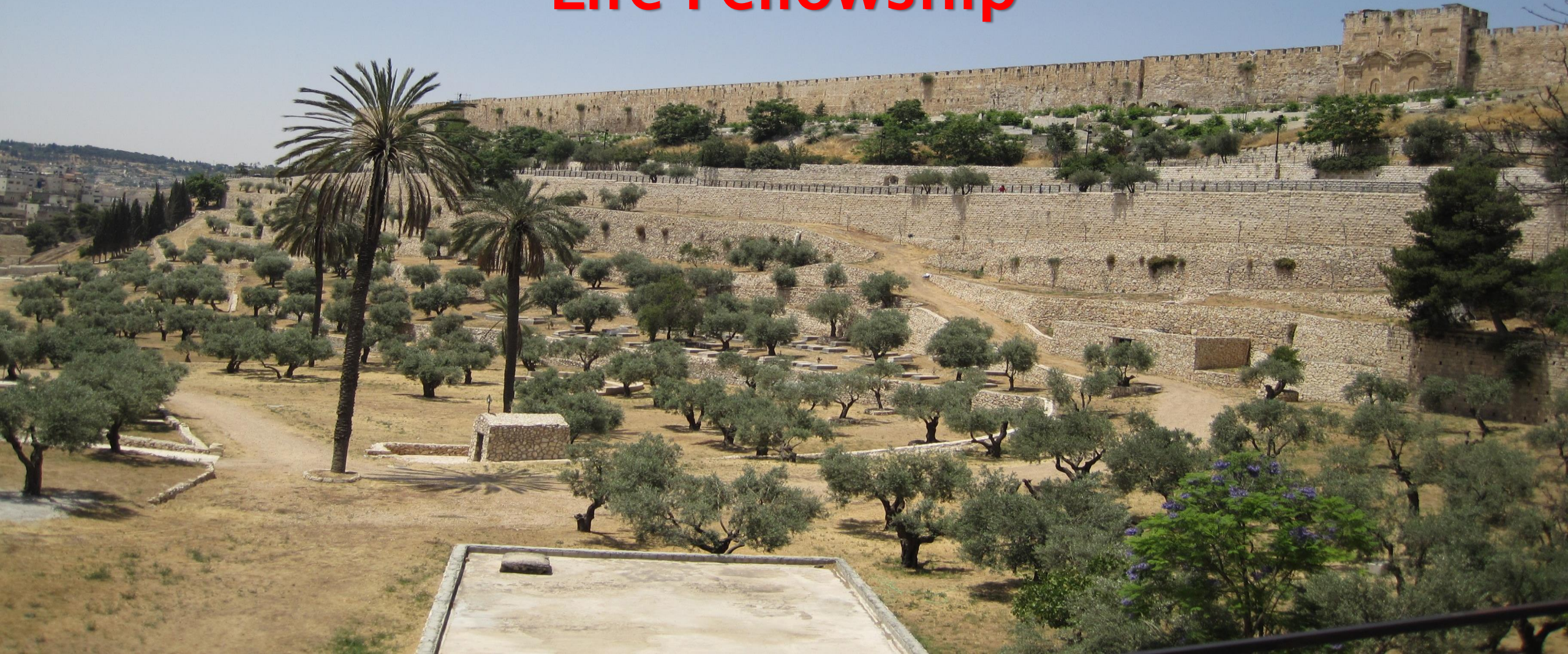


The Book of Ecclesiastes

Life Fellowship



King Solomon



Ecclesiastes
Chapter 1


I. Chapter 1

Ecc 1:1 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

Ecc 1:2 Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.

Ecc 1:3 What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?

B. The context of whole book – emptiness in seeking fulfillment in the things of this world (Ecc 1:2–3)



C. Observation of nature and all the movement of nature (Ecc 1:4–8)

Ecc 1:4 *One* generation passeth away, and *another* generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever.

Ecc 1:5 The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose.

Ecc 1:6 The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.

Ecc 1:7 All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea *is* not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.

Ecc 1:8 All things *are* full of labour; man cannot utter *it*: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

D. There is nothing new under the Sun (Son)

Ecc 1:9 The thing that hath been, it *is that* which shall be; and that which is done *is* that which shall be done: and *there is* no new *thing* under the sun.

Ecc 1:10 Is there *anything* whereof it may be said, See, this *is* new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us.

Ecc 1:11 *There is* no remembrance of former *things*; neither shall there be *any* remembrance of *things* that are to come with *those* that shall come after.

E. Verses 12–18 Show us the vanity of personal wisdom.

Ecc 1:12 I the Preacher was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

Ecc 1:13 And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all *things* that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith.

Ecc 1:14 I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all *is* vanity and vexation of spirit.

Ecc 1:15 *That which is* crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered.

Ecc 1:16 I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all *they* that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge.

Ecc 1:17 And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit.

Ecc 1:18 For in much wisdom *is* much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.



King Solomon is trying to make himself happy by filling himself up with knowledge – thinking that knowing stuff will make himself happy.

Verse 13– travail– hard work to learn all that

Verse 14– all work leads to emptiness because you get nothing substantial in return

Verse 16 to 18 – Solomon got it all, done it all, made it to the top ...and still empty and miserable.



Solomon's Pools Near Bethlehem

Solomon's Conclusion for this Section:

Ecc 1:18 For in much wisdom *is* much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.



Ecclesiastes Chapter 2

A. The Vanity of Self Indulgence

Ecc 2:1 I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth (gladness), therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also *is* vanity.

Ecc 2:2 I said of laughter, *It is* mad: and of mirth, What doeth it?

Ecc 2:3 I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what *was* that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life.

1. Solomon is sitting at the bar drinking and bellyaching!



B. Riches and possessions – “the good life”.

Ecc 2:4 I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards:

Ecc 2:5 I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all *kind of* fruits:

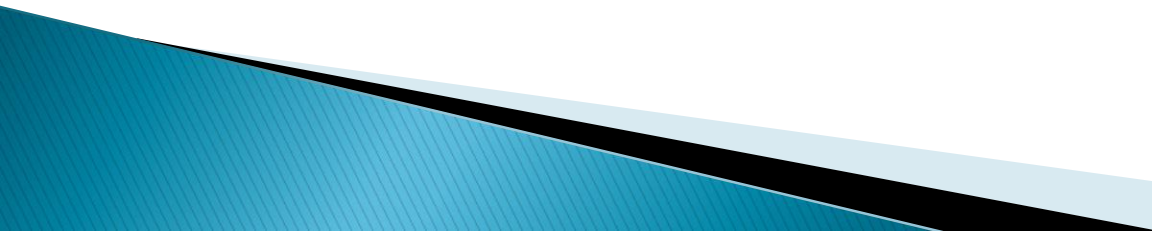
Ecc 2:6 I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees:

Ecc 2:7 I got *me* servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me:

Ecc 2:8 I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, *as* musical instruments, and that of all sorts.

Ecc 2:9 So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me.

Ecc 2:10 And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.



2:4-6 Stuff does not make people feel fulfilled!

**Bigger House
More Cars
More clothes
Vacation homes**

**Solomon had it ALL
and was miserable!**

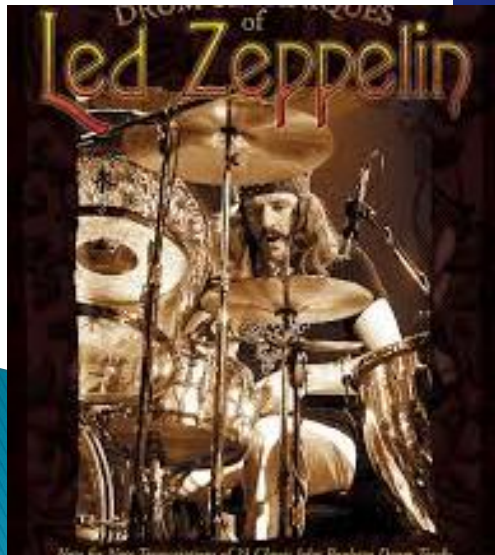
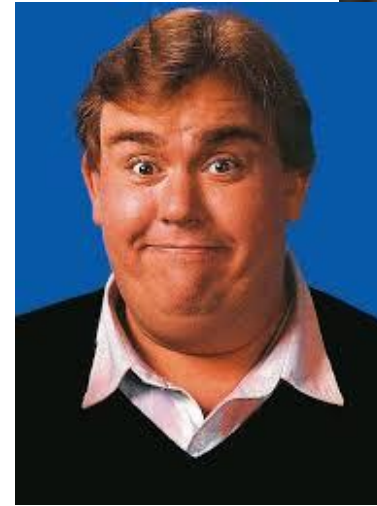


C. Solomon's Conclusion – all this is a waste!



Ecc 2:11 Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, *all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.*

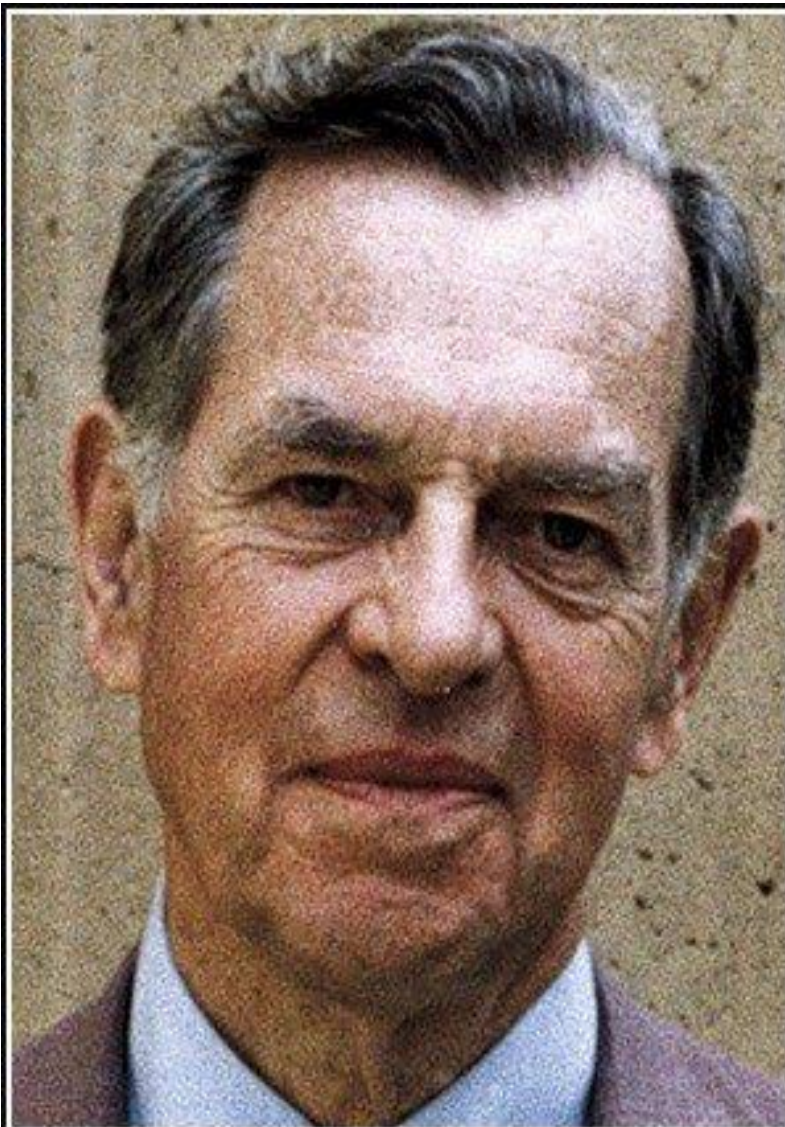
Look at all the people that achieved
EVERYTHING that they wanted:



People work their whole lives trying **to get rich enough to not work** – and have **EVERYTHING** – and most are miserable and many of them kill themselves.

The Pinnacle of Success = Emptiness





There is perhaps nothing worse than
reaching the top of the ladder and
discovering that you're on the wrong
wall.

— *Joseph Campbell* —

AZ QUOTES

Solomon's conclusion: Riches and Possessions do not lead to fulfillment!



D. The Vanity of living Wisely (Ecc 2:12–17)

Ecc 2:12 And I turned myself to behold wisdom, and madness, and folly: for what *can* the man *do* that cometh after the king? *even* that which hath been already done.

Ecc 2:13 Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness.

Ecc 2:14 The wise man's eyes *are* in his head; but the fool walketh in darkness: and I myself perceived also that one event happeneth to them all.

Ecc 2:15 Then said I in my heart, As it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth even to me; and why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart, that this also *is* vanity.

Ecc 2:16 For *there is* no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now *is* in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise *man?* as the fool.

Ecc 2:17 **Therefore I hated life;** because the work that is wrought under the sun *is* grievous unto me: for all *is* vanity and vexation of spirit.

1. Solomon is correct – being wise is better than being a fool, while alive....but all die and all are forgotten the same.
2. Result of trying to live wisely – **Hated Life!!**
Emptiness to the point of not wanting to live.

E. Vanity of Hard Labor

Ecc 2:18 Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me.

Ecc 2:19 And who knoweth whether he shall be a wise *man* or a fool? yet shall he have rule over all my labour wherein I have laboured, and wherein I have shewed myself wise under the sun. This *is* also vanity.

Ecc 2:20 Therefore I went about to cause my heart to despair of all the labour which I took under the sun.

Ecc 2:21 For there is a man whose labour *is* in wisdom, and in knowledge, and in equity; yet to a man that hath not laboured therein shall he leave it *for* his portion. This also *is* vanity and a great evil.

Ecc 2:22 For what hath man of all his labour, and of the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath laboured under the sun?

Ecc 2:23 For all his days *are* sorrows, and his travail grief; yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night. This is also vanity.



You can't take it with you- You leave it all to someone else- even a fool!




F. Solomon's Conclusion: Man's view If not following God

Ecc 2:24 There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God.

Ecc 2:25 For who can eat, or who else can hasten *hereunto*, more than I?

Ecc 2:26 For *God* giveth to a man that *is* good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to *him that is* good before God. This also *is* vanity and vexation of spirit.

1. Notice the viewpoint of someone without an eternal focus – a unsaved or backslidden man.
 2. Nothing matters but to eat and drink and hang out.
 3. Has no eternal outlook at all – no focus on eternal rewards.
 4. This is so prevalent a problem that Solomon repeats this same thought over and over throughout Ecclesiastes. – almost identically repeated 4 times.
- 



Backsliding believer
or lost mans
conclusion– Party
today for tomorrow
we die.

My Car when I was 25

