

ECCLESIASTES 2

- **REVIEW...**

- o No

to

- o The

Purpose...

- The

PREACHER

[Solomon] - wrote

let us know...

- Life is

VANITY -

everything

UNDER the sun

has NO purpose!

Evidence...

- Solomon pointed out people are born - and die - yet the world just keeps going...
- Like the sun that rises and sets - only to rise again...
- Life is a never ending cycle - and our lives do NOT really matter...
- We do NOT remember those who came before us - and we will be FORGOTTEN!
- o No Answers...
 - The KING had all the resources needed to try and find a solution...
 - The FIRST place he looked was in WISDOM [he had more than any other]
 - But in the end it was like grasping for the WIND...
 - The more Solomon learned - the more crazy life seemed - and it only brought him more sorrow!
- 1st – LOOKING FOR ANSWERS ... vs. 1-11
 - o 1st – Entertainment... vs. 1-2
 - Good times... vs. 1
 - I said in my heart: Come now I will test you with mirth - [to see if there is anything good]!
 - But surely this also was vanity!
 - Solomon was determined to see if ANYTHING could give meaning to his life...
 - He said in his HEART [לֵב] - go [imperative] and try [piel] having FUN [שְׂמֵחָה]
 - He would try to be ENTERTAINED - to see [רָאָה] if that did any GOOD [טוֹב]
 - BUT [וְ] - the answer was a quick NO - it was also VANITY [הֶקֶל]
 - The word AMUSEMENT - means to NOT [א] think [muse]
 - We live in a world that is CONSUMED by the desire to NOT think [entertainment]
 - The average person [Philippines] watches over 100 hours of social media every month...
 - But those movies - apps - restaurants - do NOT give our life more meaning!
 - Laughter... vs. 2
 - I said of laughter: Madness! And of mirth: What does it accomplish?
 - To think that LAUGHTER is the meaning of life - is CRAZY [הוֹלָלָה]
 - Because no matter how much fun we are having - what does it really DO [עֲשֶׂה]!
 - I have been guilty of binge watching a show on Netflix...
 - It was enjoyable while it lasted - but once it was done - I felt EMPTY...
 - The truth was I just wasted HOURS of my life - and got NOTHING for it!
 - o 2nd - Alcohol... vs. 3
 - I searched in my heart how to gratify my flesh with wine while guiding my heart with wisdom.
 - How to lay hold on folly - till I might see what was good.
 - For the sons of men to do under heaven all the days of their lives!
 - Solomon set his HEART [לֵב] to try and FIND [מָצָא] purpose in WINE...
 - This was the GOOD [טוֹב] - the sons of MEN [אָדָם] said he could find UNDER heaven...
 - BUT [וְ] - although Solomon was trying to be WISE - he instead found [זָחָה] FOLLY!
 - The Bible does NOT say we cannot drink - it does say it is SIN to be drunk - **Ephesians 5:18**
 - Many people try and live by the POWER of alcohol - to get through the day...
 - But the moment they sober up - the reality of their poor choice is there to greet them...
 - Because alcohol has no power to change our lives!
 - o 3rd - Real estate... vs. 4-6
 - I made my works great. I built myself houses and planted myself vineyards.
 - I made myself gardens and orchards and I planted all kinds of fruit trees in them.
 - I made myself water pools from which to water the growing trees of the grove!
 - Solomon tried to find the answer in Real Estate...
 - He build GREAT [גָּדוֹל] houses - planted vineyards and orchards filled with ALL [כָּל] fruits...
 - Even building POOLS to store the water for all his TREES!
 - Solomon built a palace called the FOREST of Lebanon - **I Kings 7:2**

- It likely got its name because of the large quantity of trees used in its construction...
 - It was 45 meters - 23 meters wide - and 13 meters high [over 1000 square meters]
 - When we walk through nice neighborhoods - take note of the houses...
 - There are always some being BUILT - and the owners fret over every detail...
 - But there are others that are abandoned - because houses are NOT the answer...
 - They are a distraction while they are being built...
 - Then they are a frustration because we have to maintain them!
- o 4th - Business... vs. 7
- I acquired male and female servants and had servants born in my house.
 - Yes I had greater possessions of herds and flocks than all who were in Jerusalem before me!
 - Solomon tried his hand at being a businessman...
 - He had a LOT of employees [עֲבָדִים] - both men and women [even their kids]
 - He had a LOT [רֶבֶה] of animals - both cows and sheep...
 - So that he had MORE possessions than ANYONE [כָּל] that came before him!
 - There is WISDOM in owning your own business...
 - Because when you are the BOSS - you get the PROFIT - set your own HOURS...
 - But the question becomes what is ENOUGH [Solomon did not know when to stop]
 - Because more employees - more stock - equals more STRESS!
- o 5th - Money... vs. 8
- I also gathered for myself silver and gold - the special treasures of kings and of the provinces!
 - Solomon then tries to find meaning in MONEY...
 - He gathered SILVER and GOLD - which is the treasure of KING [מֶלֶךְ] and NATIONS...
 - But MONEY is never an answer - we cannot BUY the meaning of life!
 - There is a saying that even the world acknowledges - we CANNOT buy happiness...
 - The idea that MONEY is the answer - is a devious LIE...
 - Because while money can buy things - life is NOT about having a LOT of stuff...
 - The wealthiest people in the world - are often the poorest spiritually!
 - **Luke 12:15** – “Beware! Guard against... greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.”
- o 6th - The Arts... vs. 8
- I acquired male and female singers the delights of the sons of men.
 - And musical instruments of all kinds!
 - Solomon also tried MUSIC - he trained [עֲשָׂה] male and female singers...
 - And he had all kinds of INSTRUMENTS [שָׁדָה] - only here in OT [also translated concubines]
 - There are those who look to the ARTS for meaning in life...
 - And the things they make are the DELIGHT of men - people LOVE what they create...
 - What they do is a REFLECTION of the amazing creativity of God...
 - But ART is NOT a replacement for God - it cannot give us MEANING!
- o 7th - Success... vs. 9-10
- Greater than all... vs. 9
 - So I became great and excelled more than all who were before me in Jerusalem.
 - Also my wisdom remained with me!
 - Solomon was GREAT [גָּדוֹל] - more so than ALL [כָּל] who came before him...
 - If anyone looked at his life - he was the very definition of SUCCESS...
 - He had FUN - new how to PARTY [alcohol] - had his PROPERTIES - and BUSINESSES...
 - He was WEALTHY - donated to the ARTS - and he was still WISE [חָכָמָה]
 - Had everything... 10
 - Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them.
 - I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure.

- For my heart rejoiced in all my labor - and this was my reward from all my labor!
- And all of his SUCCESS meant he could get ANYTHING [כָּל] he wanted...
- ANYTHING [כָּל] his eye saw that it liked - he made sure to get it...
- He did not DENY his heart [לֵב] - but gave himself EVERYTHING [כָּל] he desired...
- And that made him momentarily HAPPY - because he knew he has WORKED for it!
- If I were to think of a modern equivalent to Solomon - it would be Elon Musk...
- His current net worth [November 2024] is over 18 TRILLION pesos...
- He can literally afford anything he wants - there are NO limits!
- We might think having that much money would be great...
- But what it really means is that we have run out of things to give us meaning...
- Once you have EVERYTHING - and still are not HAPPY - what is next!

o 8th - Grasping for wind... vs. 11

- Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done and on the labor in which I had toiled.
- And indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun!
- Which is why Solomon looked at his SUCCESS - all that he HAD done...
- And his conclusion was that it was all [כָּל] VANITY [הַבָּטָל]
- Trying to find MEANING in ANYTHING under the sun [in this life] - was like CHASING the WIND!
- As I go through the exhaustive LIST of things that Solomon tried...
- I cannot help but think of specific people for each one...
- I know people who are trying to find meaning in FUN and PARTIES [alcohol]
- I know people who are chasing after REAL estate - caught up in BUSINESSES...
- I know a LOT of people who think MONEY is the answer!
- But they are NOT going to find the answer - Solomon already tried...
- They are CHASING the wind - and as is always the case - they will end up EMPTY handed!

• 2ND - WISDOM OR FOLLY... vs. 12-17

o 1st - Which is better... vs. 12-14

- The question... vs. 12
 - Then I turned myself to consider wisdom and madness and folly.
 - For what can the man do who succeeds the king? Only what he has already done!
 - In light of there being NO answers UNDER the sun...
 - Solomon turned to look [רָאָה] at a simple question...
 - Is there any benefit to being WISE [חָכְמָה] - over being CRAZY [הוֹלָלָה] - or a FOOL...
 - FOOL [בָּטָל] - those whose heart does NOT want to learn about God...
 - Because [כִּי] - as the wisest KING - there was no one better than him to find that ANSWER!
- Wisdom is better... vs. 13-14
 - Then I saw that wisdom excels folly as light excels darkness.
 - The wise mans eyes are in his head - but the fool walks in darkness!
 - At first the answer seemed obvious - WISDOM is better [יָתֵרוֹן] than being FOOLISH...
 - Just as it is better [יָתֵרוֹן] to walk in the LIGHT rather than the DARK...
 - The WISE man can see [eyes] where he is going - but the FOOL is in the DARK!
 - There is no question that it is BETTER to know the answer...
 - If we KNOW that there is NOTHING in this world that will ever give us PURPOSE...
 - Hopefully we are NOT going to waste our lives chasing after the WIND...
 - Only those who are CRAZY - or FOOLS - look for answers where there are NONE!

o 2nd - The same end... vs. 14-17

- Why be wise... vs. 14-15
 - Yet I myself perceived that the same event happens to them all.
 - So I said in my heart: As it happens to the fool - it also happens to me.

- And why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart: This also is vanity!
- BUT [וְ] - Solomon also SAW [רָאָה] that the same EVENT happens to EVERYONE [כָּל]
- And if the same event that happens [imperfect] to the FOOL - also happens to him...
- The EVENT he was talking about is DEATH - everyone DIES...
- He SAID [פִּי] in his heart [לִבִּי] - what [מָה] is the benefit of being WISE - this is also VANITY!

▪ Forgotten... vs. 16

- For there is no more remembrance of the wise than of the fool forever.
- Since all that now is will be forgotten in the days to come.
- And how does a wise man die? As the fool!
- Because [כִּי] - NO [אֵין] one remembers the FOOL [הַפֶּסֶל] or the WISE [הַחָכָם]
- And in the days to come - EVERYONE [כָּל] will be forgotten [niph'al]
- The WISE and the FOOL both die the same way - they are NOT remembered!

▪ Hating life... vs. 17

- Therefore I hated life because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to me.
- For all is vanity and grasping for the wind!
- Solomon HATED life - because [כִּי] EVIL [רָעָה] are the works done under heaven...
- Because [כִּי] - whether we are WISE and can see - or a FOOL and are blind...
- NOTHING we do here lasts - it is all [כָּל] FORGOTTEN...
- Even being WISE - knowing life has no answers - is VANITY and grasping for the WIND!
- The problem with KNOWING life does NOT have the answers...
- Is that does NOT mean we are looking up to get the solution...
- If we asked people to raise their hands - who thinks the answer is Jesus - all would say YES...
- But at the same time if we were HONEST - who is living for Jesus [not everyone]
- Too many believers HATE life - because they are DIVIDED...
- They KNOW this world does NOT have the answer - but they will NOT let go of it...
- But because they are still holding onto the world - Jesus always seems far off!
- James 1:6 - "He who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind."

• 3RD - HARD WORK... vs. 18-26

o 1st - Useless money... vs. 18-20

▪ Cannot take it with you... vs. 18

- Then I hated all my labor in which I had toiled under the sun.
- Because I must leave it to the man who will come after me!
- Solomon did not just HATE life - he HATED all [כָּל] the work [עֲמָלָה] he had done...
- Because he realized when he DIED - he would leave all his wealth to another MAN [אֲדָמָה]
- I saw a bumper sticker once - he who dies with the most toys wins!
- That is pretty much the mantra of this age - people live to try and get more STUFF...
- But what is never addressed is what happens when they come to the END of this life...
- All the STUFF - it is all LOST - because we CANNOT take it with us!

▪ Next generation... vs. 19-20

- Who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will rule over all my labor.
- In which I toiled and in which I have shown myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity.
- Therefore I turned my heart - despaired of all the labor in which I had toiled under the sun!
- Solomon did NOT know [יָדָע] - if his children would be WISE [חָכָם] or FOOLS [סָכָל]
- BUT [וְ] - either way they would get EVERYTHING he worked hard for...
- This was also VANITY - and it caused his heart [לִבִּי] to be very [פִּי] DEPRESSED [שָׁמַד]!
- Rehoboam was NOT very wise son - his poor choices led to the DIVIDED kingdom...
- Because he rejected the counsel of the older [wise men]

- And instead listened to his younger [foolish] friends - **I Kings 12:8**
 - The greatest inheritance a father can give to his children is NOT money...
 - There are endless examples of FOOLISH kids squandering the wealth of their parents...
 - The best gift a dad can give - is to teach his children about the LORD!
 - **Ephesians 6:4** - "Fathers... bring up [your kids] in the training and admonition of the Lord."
- o 2nd - Hard days... vs. 21-23
- Not earned... vs. 21
 - For there is a man whose labor is with wisdom - knowledge - and skill.
 - Yet he must leave his heritage to a man who has not labored for it.
 - This also is vanity and a great evil!
 - Solomon knew a man who was hard WORKING...
 - He was WISE [חָכָמָה] - and had KNOWLEDGE [דַּעַת] - and was SUCCESSFUL [בְּשׁוּרוֹן]
 - BUT [וְ] - when he died he would leave all he had to a man who did NOT [לֹא] work hard...
 - Which was very [רַב] WRONG [רָע] - because it made all his hard work MEANINGLESS [הֶבֶל]!
 - Why work hard... vs. 22-23
 - For what has man for all his labor.
 - And for the striving of his heart with which he has toiled under the sun?
 - For all his days are sorrowful and his work burdensome.
 - Even in the night his heart takes no rest. This also is vanity!
 - Because [כִּי] - what [מָה] does man get for all [כָּל] his HARD work UNDER the sun...
 - He works EVERY [כָּל] day - in pain suffering at his job...
 - Working so hard he does NOT even LAY down to rest his heart [לֵב] at night...
 - The man literally works himself to DEATH - just to give it to someone else - VANITY!
 - There is wisdom in working hard - but what are we working for...
 - MONEY is NOT the most important thing in this world...
 - No one ever comes to the end of their life and wishes they had more CASH...
 - We need to be careful not to WASTE our time chasing after things that do NOT last!
 - **Ephesians 5:16** - "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."
- o 3rd - Simple life... vs. 24-26
- Eat and drink... vs. 24
 - Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink.
 - And that his soul should enjoy good in his labor
 - Therefore - since there is NO benefit to working ourselves to DEATH...
 - There is NOTHING [אֵין] better [טוֹב] than to have a SIMPLE life...
 - As long as we have enough to EAT and DRINK - let our soul be CONTENT [טוֹב]
 - **Hebrews 13:5** - "Be content with such things as you have."
 - We are to be CONTENT - with whatever we CURRENTLY have...
 - Because God has promised to give us EVERYTHING we NEED - **Luke 12:31**
 - Hand of God... vs. 24-26
 - This also I saw was from the hand of God.
 - For who can eat - or who can have enjoyment - [apart from Him]?
 - For God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who is good in His sight.
 - But to the sinner He gives the work of gathering and collecting.
 - That he may give to him who is good before God!
 - Solomon saw [רָאָה] that was the plan [hand] of God for men...
 - Because [כִּי] - who can do anything apart [παρά] from the hand of God [אֱלֹהִים]
 - God gives [perfect] to the GOOD [טוֹב] man - wisdom - knowledge - and joy...
 - BUT [וְ] - to the SINNER God lets him gather up riches - to give to the GOOD [טוֹב] man!

- Everything we have we received from God – so it is not ours to BOAST about...
- Our intellect - our abilities - our family – all were given to us...
- We have nothing that we have not been given – so all the credit goes to God!
- **I Corinthians 4:7** – “What do you have that God has not given you? If all you have is from God, why boast as though you have accomplished something on your own?”
- Still vanity... vs. 26
 - This also is vanity and grasping for the wind!
 - But lest we think Solomon had found the answer...
 - Just be CONTENT and live a SIMPLE life - because this is what God has given to us...
 - This is ALSO [גַּם] MEANINGLESS [הֶרֶקֶל] - like grasping for the wind...
 - Because a SIMPLE life - even a CONTENT one - still has NO purpose under the SUN!
 - As Solomon continued his journey - the answer still remained allusive...
 - For there is NOTHING under the sun - that will ever give us MEANING...
 - The ONLY solution to the question - comes from looking up and seeing Jesus!