

**IS THERE ANYTHING 'NEW' UNDER THE SUN?
(Solomon's Guide to Enjoy Life & Stay Off the Dead-End Streets)**

I. SOLOMON'S INTRODUCTION (1:1-11)

A. The BACKGROUND. (1:1-3)

1. The *TITLE* is _____ which means the _____.
2. The *DATE* of this book is approximately _____ because Solomon likely wrote this book shortly before his death.
3. The *GENRE* of this book is that it is considered _____ literature along with Job, Psalms, Proverbs, and Song of Solomon.
4. The *WRITER* is _____ who was the _____ king of Israel. (1:1,12)
5. The *MISUNDERSTANDINGS* of this book are many such as ...
6. The *MESSAGE* of Ecclesiastes is that God designed life to _____ Him and be _____ in relationship with Him, but **APART FROM A _____, VERTICAL, _____ RELATIONSHIP WITH _____, MAN IS _____ AND LIFE IS _____.**
7. The *AUDIENCE* was designed to be the _____, not just the Jews, but especially the Gentiles, which explains why the names of **YAHWEH, the LAW, and ABRAHAM** are missing from the text. (Ecc.11:9, 12:1)
8. The *KEY WORDS* of Ecclesiastes are:
 - a. _____ (1:2) – transitory & difficult to grasp; without lasting purpose or meaning
 - b. _____ (1:3) – lasting advantage, value, or return on your investment
 - c. _____ (1:3) - toilsome hard work
 - d. _____ (1:3) – a horizontal and human perspective of life
 - e. _____ (1:14, 17) – frustration; without satisfaction
9. The *KEY VERSES* are: _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.
10. The *MEANS* of fulfilling his purpose in writing Ecclesiastes is to use words like _____ (reflections that stick you about the meaningless of life without God) and _____ (tent stakes of biblical truths that give you a divine viewpoint perspective on life) – 12:11
11. The *OUTLINE* of Ecclesiastes {adapted from Jim Berg}
 - The **PROLOGUE (1:1-3)**
 - The **DISCOURSES (1:4-12:12)**
 - a. The Secret of Pleasure in Life (1:4-2:26)
 - b. The Secret of Providence in Life (3:1-5:20)
 - c. The Secret of Prosperity in Life (6:1-8:15)
 - d. The Secret of Perseverance in Life (8:16-12:12)
 - The **EPILOGUE (12:13-14)**

The **CONCLUDING THOUGHT**: Ecclesiastes will teach us that life, in and of itself, is unable to supply the key _____ to the questions of identity, meaning, purpose, lasting value, enjoyment, and destiny. Only in coming to know and trust in the true and living God through _____ can one begin to find real answers to these critical questions through understanding _____ from the Word of God.

B. The BEGINNING OBSERVATIONS of the Preacher. (1:4-11)

1. Regarding *people*, there appears to be an endless cycle of _____ and _____ while the earth remains. (1:4) 3 takeaways:

2. Regarding *nature*, there appears to be _____ which are constant, yet without real purpose or direction. (1:5-7) Where is creation headed?

3. Regarding the *flesh*, human existence is _____ and the flesh is never _____, nor do they provide the answers we seek. (1:8) What is really satisfying in life?

4. Regarding something *new*, there is _____ new under the sun though our memories are short & may not remember this. (1:9-11)

• But what does God say about something “new” in the Son? As a believer in Christ, you have a ...

- 1) A new _____, as a “new creation in Christ” (2 Cor. 5:17), with ...
- 2) A new _____, as you “have eternal life” (1 John 5:13), along with ...
- 3) A new _____, the love of Christ compelling you (2 Cor. 5:14), to encourage ...
- 4) A new _____, to live for Him who died for you (2 Cor. 5:15) and ...
- 5) A new _____, to “walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4), with the possibility of ...
- 6) A new _____, to no longer be conformed to this world but transformed through the WOG and ...
- 7) A new _____, the Holy Spirit to give victory over the flesh & produce godly fruit including ...
- 8) A new _____, to love others as Christ has loved you (John 13:34-35), with ...
- 9) A new _____, as an ambassador for Christ (2 Cor. 5:18-20), and will one day enjoy ...
- 10) A new _____ and new _____ wherein dwells righteousness (Rev.21-22).

Closing take-home: God designed life to _____ Him and be _____ in relationship with Him, but APART FROM A _____, VERTICAL, _____ RELATIONSHIP WITH _____, MAN IS _____ AND LIFE IS _____.