

A Tour Through the Divine Library
(Ecclesiastes)

I. General Introduction to Ecclesiastes

-Title: Hebrew: Qoheleth, from qahal (assembly); A qoheleth is a preacher, someone who addresses an assembly. Greek: ekklesia (assembly), ekklesiastes (preacher, speaker before an assembly) Latin/English: Ecclesiastes

-Author: Solomon (1:1, 16 with 1 Kings 3, 4; 2:4-6 with 1 Kings 5-7; 7:1-14, 10:1-20, 12:9 with the Proverbs)

-Date: sometime before 931 BC

-Structure:

I. Introduction: Thesis: All is vanity. (1:1-11)	I. Introduction (1:1-11)
II. Proof: Life is Meaningless Without God (1:12-6:12)	II. Sermon 1 (1:12-3:15)
III. Counsel: How to Live with Meaninglessness (7:1-12:7)	III. Sermon 2 (3:16-5:20)
IV. Conclusion: Fear and Obey God. (12:8-14)	IV. Sermon 3 (6:1-7:29)
	V. Sermon 4 (8:1-12:7)
	VI. Conclusion (12:8-14)

-Theme: What Makes Life Meaningful

II. Overview of Ecclesiastes

-Introduction (1:1-11); Proof (2:11; 3:20; 4:4; 5:7, 10); Counsel (7:5, 16, 23, 26; 8:11; 9:7-10; 10:6; 11, 1, 6); Conclusion (12:13, 14)

III. Prominent Themes in Ecclesiastes

-Vanity of Life (1:2, 14, 17; 2:1, 11; 5:10; 12:8); Tension, Balance in Life (2:24; 9:7, 9); Death (5:15, 16; 7:2; 9:2); Fear of God (3:14; 5:7; 8:12, 13; 12:13)

IV. Christ in Ecclesiastes

-Crossley: *"The power of this book is in the absence rather than in the presence of Christ."*

V. Practical Lessons in Ecclesiastes

1) Why are things this way? (1:4-8; 3:11; 12:1-7; Rom. 8:20-22)

2) What hope is there? (Rom. 8:19 Col. 3:4 Phil. 3:20, 21 1 John 3:2a)

3) What are you living for? (John 10:10; 2 Cor. 5:10; Heb. 2:3; 9:27)