

## OUTLINE OF ECCLESIASTES

### 1A THE PROBLEM STATED chap 1:1-11

The problem is that everything that is earthly and human seems to be empty, monotonous, and wearisome. There seems to be no real satisfaction, meaning or purpose to life. "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity"

### 2A THE PROBLEM STUDIED chap 1:12 – 12:7

#### 1B Solomon's observations chap 1:12 – 6:12

1C His observations of his own personal experience chap 1:12 – 2:11

2C His observations of life around him chap 2:12 – 6:12

Summary: Life is vain and empty

#### 2B Solomon's conclusions chap 7 – 12:7

If life is vain and empty, how should I respond to life's issues? Solomon offers counsel and comfort in the face of the vanity of life and the suffering it brings.

### 3A THE PROBLEM SOLVED chap 12:8 – 14

Resolution: We must see life from God's viewpoint, not from merely "under the sun," i.e., from a human viewpoint.

1B Fear God

2B Keep his commandments

THEME: The quest to understand the meaning of human experience, and the conclusions we should draw from it.

Key Verse: Ecc 12:13-14 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.