

**What gives your life  
meaning?**

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*Ecclesiastes*

# *Reviewing Ecclesiastes 1–2*

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1. “Making a difference” doesn’t give life its meaning (chapter 1).
2. Pleasure doesn’t give life its meaning (Ecclesiastes 2:1-11).
3. Wisdom doesn’t give life its meaning (Ecclesiastes 2:12-17).
4. Work doesn’t give life its meaning (Ecclesiastes 2:18-23).

# Ecclesiastes 3:1–14

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*Scripture Reading*

# How to understand Ecclesiastes 3

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- ~~Solomon is saying, “Discern the times so you can make good decisions.”~~
- ~~Solomon is saying, “C’est la vie.”~~
- Solomon is saying, “God is sovereign.”

# *The* MAIN POINT of Ecclesiastes 3

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God is sovereign. From first to last, every event in world history and every event of your life—whether good or and bad—is happening according to God’s “appointment book.” As Walt Kaiser put it, “All life unfolds under the appointment of Providence.”

# 3 CLARIFICATIONS *about* GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

- Although God is in complete control of evil, he is only good.
- When you struggle with God's complete sovereignty, consider the crucifixion of Jesus.
- Never use God's sovereignty to dismiss your personal responsibility.

# Conclusion

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Since God is sovereign...

1. admit that it's not *your* activity that gives your life meaning (3:9-10).
2. acknowledge that you can't understand God's plan (3:11).
3. receive God's gifts in your life with thankfulness (3:12-13).
4. live with an enduring sense of awe in God (3:14).