

What's the Point?

Introduction to Ecclesiastes

(Ecclesiastes 1:1-11)

Ecclesiastes (Heb *qoheleth*)—preacher/teacher, assembler

Author—King Solomon or someone writing in his wisdom tradition

Genre—wisdom literature, apologetic (defend faith, answer questions)

I. **VANITY OF VANITIES** (2-3)—*a breath or a vapor; meaningless, worthless.*

A. **Empty**—*no substance or satisfaction; doesn't live up to expectation.*

B. **Fleeting**—It doesn't last; ephemeral

C. **Futile**—unprofitable; not worth the effort.

II. **UNDER THE SUN** (3)—what mortals can observe without divine revelation in this material world

A. **The People on the Planet** (4)—one crop indistinguishable from next

B. **The Repeating Cycles of Nature** (5-7)—futility, monotonous repetition

1. **Sun** — rises and sets

2. **Wind** — blows in circles

3. **Water** — All streams run to the sea, but the sea is never full.

C. **The Restless Human Heart** (8)— weary boredom

1. **Sense of Dissatisfaction**
2. **Looking for Something More**
3. **Listening for Something New**

D. **A Cynical View of History** (9-11)—comes away disillusioned

1. **History Repeats** —an endless loop of human stupidity!
2. **Nothing New** — Been there, done that; same old same old
3. **Nobody Remembers** —we have to keep re-inventing the wheel

III. **THE REST OF THE STORY**

A. **There IS meaning, but you can't find it "under the sun."**

B. **The Eternal God remembers everything.**

C. **The repetition in nature is not meaningless**

D. **We long for more because we were *created* for more.**

Listen to a lyric video of The C.S. Lewis Song by Brooke Fraser on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/PycBrNP8dXg>