

Bible Question Class Books

Bible Study Questions on Ecclesiastes by David E. Pratte

**A workbook suitable for Bible classes,
family studies, or personal Bible study**



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***Bible Study Questions on Ecclesiastes:
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or personal Bible study***

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**“He who glories, let him glory in the Lord”
– 1 Corinthians 1:31**

Front Page Photo

Solomon and the Queen of Sheeba

(artist's conception)

“And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, ... Then she said to the king: ‘It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. ... and indeed the half of the greatness of your wisdom was not told me. You exceed the fame of which I heard. Happy are your men and happy are these your servants, who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom!’” – 2 Chronicles 9:3-7 (NKJV)

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Bible Study Questions on Ecclesiastes

Introduction:

This workbook was designed for Bible class study, family study, or personal study. The class book is suitable for teens and up. The questions contain minimal human commentary, but instead urge students to study to understand Scripture.

Enough questions are included for teachers to assign as many questions as they want for each study session. Studies may proceed at whatever speed and depth will best accomplish the needs of the students.

Questions labeled “think” are intended to encourage students to apply what they have learned. When questions refer to a map, students should consult maps in a Bible dictionary or similar reference work or in the back of their Bibles. (Note: My abbreviation “**b/c/v**” means “book, chapter, and verse.”)

For class instruction, I urge teachers to assign the questions as homework so students come to class prepared. Then let class time consist of **discussion** that focuses on the Scriptures themselves. Let the teacher use other Scriptures, questions, applications, and comments to promote productive discussion, not just reading the questions to see whether they were answered “correctly.” Please, do **not** let the class period consist primarily of the following: “Joe, will you answer number 1?” “Sue, what about number 2?” Etc.

I also urge students to emphasize the **Bible** teaching. Please, do not become bogged down over “What did the author mean by question #5?” My meaning is relatively unimportant. The issue is what the Bible says. Concentrate on the meaning and applications of Scripture. If a question helps promote Bible understanding, stay with it. If it becomes unproductive, move on.

The questions are not intended just to help students understand the Scriptures. They are also designed to help students learn good principles of Bible study. Good Bible study requires defining the meaning of keywords, studying parallel passages, explaining the meaning of the text clearly, making applications, and defending the truth as well as exposing religious error. I have included questions to encourage students to practice all these study principles.

Note that some questions on this book are more difficult and advanced. The study leader may want to skip some questions if he/she is teaching a less advanced study.

Finally, I encourage plain applications of the principles studied. God's word is written so souls may please God and have eternal life. Please study it with the respect and devotion it deserves!

For whatever good this material achieves, to God be the glory.

Bible study commentary and notes to accompany some of our workbooks are available at www.gospelway.com/sales

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Assignments on Ecclesiastes 1

Please read the book of Ecclesiastes and answer the following questions on chapter 1.

1. Explain the meaning of the name “Ecclesiastes” (Hebrew “Qoheleth”). Why is this an appropriate title for the book?

2. **Special Assignment:** Who is “the preacher” whose words are contained in this book – 1:1? Give several examples from the book that prove your answer.

3. Skim (or better yet read) the whole book and briefly state its theme. (Think: In what sense can this book properly be described as “poetry”?)

4. **Special Assignment:** List and explain several references in the book that demonstrate the main lesson the author seeks to teach.

5. **Application:** Give examples from our society that show why the theme of this book is still needed today.

6. List several important facts about the life of Solomon.

7. **Special Assignment:** Explain why Solomon’s life makes a good basis for the lessons of this book.

8. What theme of the book is introduced in 1:2? **Define** “vanity.” (Think: As you study through the book, observe the various ways that the Preacher uses the term.)

9. **Ongoing assignment:** As you study through the book make a list of all the specific things that the Preacher says are vain or vanity.

10. What theme is introduced in 1:3? List other **passages** where the book refers to labor, work, or that which is profitable. (Think: How does this relate to the book's theme?)

11. What is the significance of the expression "under the sun" in this book? List several verses where the expression is used.

12. List four facts about this world that the Preacher mentions in 1:4-7.

13. **Special Assignment:** Explain the scientific basis for the statements that the wind returns in circuits and the rivers return to the place from which they came. (Think: What can we learn from the fact the author knew this?)

14. What application does the Preacher make to these facts in 1:8-10?

15. In what sense is it true that "that which has been is what will be"?

16. Explain the sense in which there is no new thing under the sun.

17. In what sense will former things and things to come not be remembered – 1:11.

18. To what purpose did the Preacher set his heart – 1:13-15?

19. List other verses in Ecclesiastes that refer to wisdom.

20. **Define** the following terms:

Wisdom

Knowledge

Folly

21. What conclusion did the Preacher reach in 1:14? Explain the meaning of “vanity and grasping for the wind.”

22. In what sense is it true that “What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be numbered”?

23. Give other **passages** that describe the greatness of Solomon’s wisdom – 1:16.

24. What purpose did he pursue according to 1:17?

<p>25. Special Assignment: Describe two different kinds of wisdom in the world (note 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:7; 3:18-23).</p>

26. In what sense may wisdom lead to grief, and knowledge lead to sorrow – 1:18?

Assignments on Ecclesiastes 2

Please read chapter 2 and answer the following questions.

1. Having read the chapter, summarize what it is about.

2. **Special Assignment:** Explain why Solomon would be a good person to make the experiments described in the chapter.

3. With what did the Preacher determine to experiment in 2:1-3?

4. **Define** “mirth.”

5. **Application:** Give modern examples illustrating that people today pursue this goal.

6. What conclusion did he reach?

7. List other **passages** about the subject of pleasure, entertainment, etc.

8. **Special Assignment:** Summarize Bible teaching about pleasures, recreation, etc.

9. List the works with which the Preacher experimented in 2:4-6.

10. List **passages** elsewhere that describe the greatness of Solomon in these areas.

 11. List the works with which the Preacher experimented in 2:7,8.

 12. List **passages** elsewhere that describe the greatness of Solomon these areas.

 13. List other **passages** about wealth and possessions.
14. **Special Assignment:** Summarize Bible teaching about wealth and possessions.
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15. How did Solomon's greatness compare to that of others – 2:9?

 16. List **passages** elsewhere that compare Solomon's greatness to others'.

 17. What limits did the Preacher put on his efforts to enjoy wealth – 2:10?

 18. Describe the conclusion that he reached – 2:11.

19. If the Preacher had dedicated himself to activities that he concluded were vain, how could he properly say that he acted in wisdom in all this (2:9)?

20. What did the Preacher examine next – 2:12? (Think: In what sense could his successor do only what he had done?)

21. How did he say wisdom compares to folly – 2:13,14? (Think: How does this differ from other subjects he has discussed?)

22. Nevertheless, how was his conclusion about wisdom similar to other subjects – 2:15,16? What reason does he give for this?

23. List other **passages** in Ecclesiastes where the preacher discusses the themes of death, man's final end, etc.

24. Application: Explain why death is such a great concern to those whose purpose in life focuses on earthly or material ends.

25. So how did the Preacher view the work of his hands – 2:17? Why?

26. Why did he dislike the idea of leaving his labors to someone else when he died – 2:18-21? (Think: What lessons should we learn?)

27. How would you describe the preacher's mood in these verses?

28. To what theme does the Preacher return in 2:22,23? Where else has he stated this theme?

29. How does he describe man's work in 2:23?

30. What conclusion does he reach about life in 2:24? What is new here? That is, how does this differ from his previous discussion about enjoying life?

31. 2:24 states another theme of the book. List other places in Ecclesiastes that makes similar statements.

32. How did Solomon's ability to enjoy these things compare to that of others – 2:25?

33. What three things does God give to a man who is good? What does he give to the sinner – 2:26?

34. What new concepts are introduced in 2:26? (Think: In what way is this significant?)

35. **Special Assignment:** As Solomon concludes this chapter, how would you summarize what he has learned? Specifically, how does this relate to our relationship to God?

36. **Application:** How does Solomon's conclusions in 2:24-26 differ from the attitude with which he experimented with pleasure and wealth, etc., before?

37. **Special Assignment:** Remember to bring up to date your ongoing assignment to list all the things that the book of Ecclesiastes says are vain or vanity.

3. **Special Assignment:** Explain how 3:2-8 relates to the theme of the book. That is, why would the Preacher discuss this in context?

4. What question does the Preacher restate in 3:9? Where else are similar thoughts found?

5. Once again, what is he observing – 3:10?

6. In what sense has God made everything beautiful in its time – 3:11? (Think: How does this relate to the context?)

7. Explain the sense in which God put eternity into men's hearts – 3:11.

8. **Special Assignment:** Why would God put eternity into men's hearts if no one can find out the work of God? (Think: How does this relate to the theme of the book?)

9. What conclusion does the Preacher reach in 3:12,13?

10. Compare 3:12,13 to 2:24. Explain how they are similar or different. (Think: How does this relate to the theme of the book?)

11. How does the Preacher describe the work of God in 3:14?

12. **Application:** How does 3:14 differ from the secular viewpoint of atheism, humanism, communism, etc.?

13. How does the Preacher describe the cyclical nature of events on earth in 3:15? What reason does he give for it? (Think: How does this fit the theme of the book?)

14. What problem did the Preacher observe in the 3:16? What does he say will be done about this problem – 3:17?

15. **Application:** Describe how this problem still exists. What reassurance does 3:17 give us about it? (Think: How do verses like this help develop the theme of the book?)

16. What is God doing for men, and what does He want them to learn – 3:18? (Think: How does this explain the problems that exist on earth?)

17. In what way are men and animals alike according to 3:19,20?

18. **Special Assignment:** Explain how men and animals are similar but how they are also different according to the Scriptures.

19. Study various translations of 3:21. List **passages** elsewhere in Ecclesiastes where the Preacher has stated that men will be judged for their lives.

20. List other **passages** of Scripture that describe the destiny of man after death. (Think: Explain the meaning of 3:21 in light of Bible teaching.)

21. What conclusion does the Preacher reach in 3:22, and what reason does he give?

Assignments on Ecclesiastes 4

Please read chapter 4 and answer the following questions.

1. What subject does the Preacher begin discussing in 4:1? **Define** oppression.

2. What problems does he say oppressed people have?

3. List other **passages** about this problem of oppression.

4. Application: Give examples that show this problem still exists today.

5. What viewpoint does the Preacher express in 4:2,3 regarding oppression?

6. Explain the significance of the Preacher's conclusion? (Think: Should we conclude that it is always better to be dead or never to have been born than to be alive?)

7. What problem is discussed in 4:4? In what sense is this vain?

8. List other **passages** about the problem of envy.

9. In contrast to the person who is envied for his work, what do some people do – 4:5? What consequences follow? Explain.

10. List other **passages** about laziness.

11. In contrast to laziness, how do some people live – 4:6?

12. List **passages** about a man's responsibility to work and also about the danger of over emphasis on material possessions.

13. **Application:** Explain the proper balance men should pursue between work and other responsibilities.

14. What kind of vain conduct is discussed in 4:7,8? What should this person do instead of this conduct?

15. Explain what subject the Preacher discusses in 4:7-12. Explain his point.

16. List four reasons he gives to show that two are better than one. For each one, explain the sense in which it is true.

17. List other **passages** about the importance of people working together or helping one another in their needs and problems.

18. **Application:** Give several examples that demonstrate situations in life in which two are better than one.

19. What dangers or concerns should we be aware of when working with others?

20. What subject is discussed in 4:13-16?

21. Why would one usually not expect a poor youth to be wise or an old king to be foolish?

22. **Define** “admonish.”

23. List other **passages** about the importance of being willing to accept admonition or advice or reproof if one is to be wise.

24. **Application:** Why do older people sometimes resent admonition? What lessons should we learn?

25. How is the poor, wise youth treated in the end? Why is this vain?

Assignments on Ecclesiastes 5

Please read chapter 5 and answer the following questions.

1. What subject is discussed in 5:1-7?
2. What does it mean to go to the house of God – 5:1? What should we remember when we go there?
3. What is the sacrifice of fools? Why is it not acceptable?
4. List other *passages* about unacceptable worship.
5. What warning does 5:2,3 give us when we come before God?
6. List other *passages* or Bible examples about the danger of rash speech.
7. In what sense should our words be few before God? (Think: What did dreams have to do with it?)
8. What is a vow? What must we do when we make a vow – 5:4,5?
9. List other *passages* about vows, honoring our word, keeping our promises, etc.
10. What would be better than failing to keep a vow? (Think: Was it wrong to refuse to make a vow?)

11. **Application:** Give examples in which people today make commitments before God but do not take them seriously or do not keep them.

12. In what way might our mouth cause our flesh to sin – 5:6,7? (Think: What does it mean to say before the messenger that it was an error?)

13. What consequence will come because of our rash speech? (Think: How do verses 6,7 relate back to verses 2,3?)

14. What subject is discussed again in 5:8? What consolation does the Preacher offer about this matter?

15. List other **passages** in which people appealed to higher authorities to help avoid oppression.

16. Who is the highest “official” to whom all other must give account? Explain.

17. Who benefits from the cultivation of fields – 5:9? (Think: Why is it important that kings understand this?)

18. What is vain about material abundance according to 5:10?

19. List other **passages** about the unsatisfactory or fleeting nature of riches.

20. What disadvantage do riches have according to 5:11?

21. **Application:** List other people who often share in the possessions of rich people.

22. What other affect do possessions or the lack thereof have – 5:12? Explain why this may be so.

23. What evil has the Preacher seen regarding riches in 5:13?

24. **Application:** Give examples of ways one might suffer by improperly keeping wealth to himself.

25. What disadvantage do riches have according to 5:14?

26. Where does the Bible say we should lay up our treasures, rather than on earth? Give book chapter and verse, and explain the meaning.

27. What disadvantage do riches have according to 5:15,16? Why is this a problem?

28. List other similar *passages*.

29. What other problems may a man have who hoards his wealth – 5:17?

30. In what ways may such a person have darkness, sickness, sorrow, and anger?

31. What conclusion does the Preacher reach about how we should use our physical blessings – 5:18?

32. Explain how the preacher's conclusion in verse 18 is correct.

33. According to 5:19, in what ways are possessions a gift from God?

34. **Application:** Explain how it changes our view of possessions if we recognize that God has given them to be used according to His purposes.

35. How does it affect a man when he properly understands the purposes for God's gifts – 5:20? Explain the meaning.

36. **Special Assignment:** Make a summary list of the problems that the Preacher has described that can come from over emphasis on material possessions.

37. **Application:** Summarize the lessons we can learn from this chapter about the proper use of material blessings.

38. **Application:** How can you use the lessons of this chapter in teaching other people?

39. **Special Assignment:** Remember to bring up to date your ongoing assignment to list all the things that the book of Ecclesiastes says are vain or vanity.

Assignments on Ecclesiastes 6

Please read chapter 6 and answer the following questions.

1. What evil does the Preacher commonly see among men – 6:1,2?
2. Based on the context (see chapter 5), why might God not give some men opportunity to enjoy the benefit of their wealth?
3. What apparent benefits might such a man have according to 6:3,4?
4. Yet what problems might he have? (Think: What problem would there be in having no burial?)
5. Who is better off than such a man? How is such a child described – 6:3-5?
6. What other benefits might such a rich person have according to 6:6? Yet what is his destiny?
7. Explain what advantages a stillborn child might have over such a person.
8. For what purpose do men generally labor – 6:7? What is the result?

9. **Application:** What applications should we make from the descriptions in 6:1-7?

10. What contrast is made again in 6:8? Where else has this been discussed earlier?

11. What question is asked about the poor man? Explain the point.

12. What is contrasted in 6:9?

13. Explain the point of verse 9.

14. What truth is stated in 6:10?

15. Explain the sense in which verse 10 is true.

16. What question is asked in 6:11? What is the point of the question?

<p>17. Special assignment: List some things we have learned already in the first half of the book that are vanity or that cause vanity.</p>
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18. What questions does the Preacher ask in 6:12, and how do they relate to the theme of the book?

19. Can man answer these questions by human wisdom? What lessons are implied by the questions?

Assignments on Ecclesiastes 7

Please read chapter 7 and answer the following questions.

1. To what is a good name compared in 7:1? Explain the comparison.

2. List other *passages* about the importance of a good reputation.

3. **Application:** In what ways does a good reputation benefit a child of God?

4. What other comparison is stated in 7:1? (Think: Is this what most people would think? Explain.)

5. Explain some ways in which the time of a person's death may be better than the time of his birth.

6. What comparison is made in 7:2? What reason is given why this is true?

7. **Application:** What lessons can we learn when we consider a time of death?

8. What comparison is made in 7:3? What reason is given?

9. **Application:** Name some ways that sorrow can be better than laughter.

10. How does a wise man differ from a fool – 7:4? How does this relate to 7:2?

11. What comparison is made in 7:5?

12. List other *passages* about the importance of proper rebuke.

13. **Application:** In what ways can rebukes benefit us? How does this compare to what most people think?

14. Laughter of fools is like what – 7:6? (Think: How does a fire of thorns compare to a fire of logs? What does this teach us about fools?)

15. What problem is discussed in 7:7 (note alternative translations)?

16. Name some ways that bribes and oppression can pervert a person's thinking.

17. Explain how the end of a thing can be better than the beginning – 7:8? (Think: Is this always true?)

18. What contrast is made in the second half of 7:8? Explain why pride can contrast to and hinder patience.

19. What warning is given in 7:9? What reason is given?

20. List other **passages** about the problems caused by anger.

21. **Application:** What are some problems that come if we are quickly and easily angered? What should we do instead to control our anger?

22. What mistake should we avoid according to 7:10? (Think: Why might such questions be unwise?)

23. In what way does 7:11 describe the benefit of wisdom? Explain why this is true (note alternative translations).

24. What advantages does wisdom have according to 7:12? (Think: How do the Preacher's comments about wisdom compare to earlier comments on that subject?)

25. **Application:** Explain some ways that wisdom can benefit as in 7:12.

26. What is true about the works of God according to 7:13?

27. What are some things that God has made crooked but we cannot straighten?

28. How should we react to prosperity and adversity – 7:14? What lessons should we learn?

29. What observation had the Preacher made about righteous people compared to wicked people – 7:15? Why would this seem unreasonable?

30. Give examples from the Bible or from modern life of the kinds of things the preacher has just described.

31. Explain what the Preacher means by being overly righteous, overly wicked, or overly wise – 7:16-18. (Think: Is it possible to be too faithful in obedience to God?)

32. Give examples of conduct that would be overly righteous as discussed here.

33. How is the benefit of wisdom described in 7:19? Give examples to illustrate the point.

34. What principle about righteousness is stated in 7:20? List similar *passages*.

35. **Application:** What lessons should we learn from the principle of 7:20?

36. **Define** “curse.” What warning does 7:21 give about what others say about us?

37. What may we also have been guilty of – 7:22?

38. List other *passages* about concern for what others think about us.

39. **Application:** Explain the proper attitude we should have about seeking the praises of others as compared to having a good influence with others.

40. What problem did the Preacher have when he pursued wisdom – 7:23,24? Why?
41. Where else has this been discussed in Ecclesiastes? How can this be harmonized with the fact that the Preacher said he was so wise compared to other people?
42. What should we learn about wisdom and the limits of a human intelligence?
43. What specifically did the Preacher seek to know – 7:25? Where else did he discuss that?
44. How does the Preacher describe a certain kind of woman in 7:26?
45. What does Solomon say about this kind of woman in the book of Proverbs?
46. Who will escape this kind of woman and who will not? Explain why this is so.
47. To what conclusion had the preacher's investigations led him – 7:27,28?
48. Had Solomon known any good women? Had he ever said anything good about them? (Think: Why would the preacher say what he did about women here in Ecclesiastes?)
49. So to what conclusion had the Preacher's observations led him – 7:29?

Assignments on Ecclesiastes 8

Please read chapter 8 and answer the following questions.

1. What effect does wisdom have according to 8:1? How would it do this?
2. What is our responsibility to rulers – 8:2? What reason is given?
3. List other *passages* about our responsibility to obey civil law.
4. In particular, how should we act toward rulers according to 8:3? For what reason?
5. Explain the meaning of the kinds of conduct described in 8:3.
6. What kind of conduct should we avoid according to 8:4? Explain the reason.

<p>7. Special Assignment: Is it always wrong to question what is done by those in authority? What limits should there be on questioning the conduct of the rulers?</p>

8. What reason is given in 8:5 for obeying rulers? Explain how the last part of the verse relates to the discussion.
9. Summarize the reasons the Preacher has given for obeying civil rulers.
10. What does the wise man know according to 8:6? What should we learn?

11. What is uncertain about the punishment of those who violate the law – 8:7? How does this compare to the thinking of the wise man in verse 6?

12. What truth is stated about death in 8:8? What application does this have to those who disrespect civil law?

13. List other *passages* about the certainty of death.

14. **Application:** What lessons should we learn from the fact that death is certain?

15. What does the Preacher observe about rulers in 8:9? Give examples.

16. What happens to the wicked man described in 8:10? Explain what this might mean.

17. What circumstance may encourage people to do evil – 8:11? Explain.

18. Give examples that illustrate 8:11.

19. Why then does God postpone bringing punishment on men for their sins?

20. **Application:** What lessons should we learn from the principle of 8:11?

21. Despite the sins of wicked people, what assurance can righteous people have – 8:12?

22. What assurance can the wicked people have – 8:13?

23. **Application:** Explain how the lessons of 8:12,13 can reassure righteous people when they see wicked people prosper.

24. What troubled the Preacher in 8:14? (Think: Why would this be troubling?)

25. Give examples that illustrate what is described in 8:14.

26. **Application:** What application would 8:14 have to the justice of God and the need for rewards and punishments after death?

27. What conclusion does the Preacher reach in 8:15? Where else has he stated similar conclusions?

28. Explain 8:15 and how it relates to the context. (Think: Is the Preacher advocating that there is nothing more important than enjoying life? If not, what is his point?)

29. What does the Preacher observe about the work of God in 8:16,17? List other similar **passages**.

30. **Application:** What lessons should our limited knowledge of God's work teach us about our lives and about the theme of Ecclesiastes?

Assignments on Ecclesiastes 9

Please read chapter 9 and answer the following questions.

1. What assurance does 9:1 give to the righteous and wise? Explain the point. (Think: What is meant by the statement that people do not know love or hatred by what they see?)

2. List other *passages* about suffering, especially why people suffer.

3. **Special Assignment:** Summarize the Bible teaching about suffering, especially the reasons why people suffer.

4. What does 9:2 say is true of all people? List five pairs of opposites in the verse.

5. What is the event that happens to all? How does the Preacher describe this in 9:3?

6. How does he describe the lives of people before this event occurs? List other similar *passages*.

7. **Special Assignment:** According to Scripture, why does this one event happen to all people? Give Scripture to prove your answer.

8. What advantage does a living person have – 9:4? Explain how this is an advantage of the living.

9. How does he illustrate the advantage of life. Explain the illustration.

10. List several things that living people have but dead people do not – 9:5,6.

11. In what events does verse 6 say the dead do not share? So in what sense do they know nothing (verse 5)?

12. List **passages** showing that people will be consciously aware of their surroundings even after death.

13. **Case Study:** Jehovah's Witnesses and other materialists use this passage to prove death is the end of existence, so people are not conscious after death. How would you respond?

14. **Case Study:** Other people believe they can communicate with the dead or pray to dead saints. What application would this passage and other passages have?

15. What conclusion does the Preacher reach about his discussion of death in 9:7,8? Where else has he stated similar conclusions?

16. What is the significance of the white garments and the oil on the head?

17. Explain how verses 7,8 relate to the discussion of death in the previous verses.

18. What relationship is discussed in 9:9, and what is stated about it?

19. List other **passages** that describe the marriage as a blessing.

20. **Case Study:** Some religious people view marriage as inferior to celibacy or even somehow defiling or impure. How would you respond?

21. What attitude should we have toward work – 9:10? What reason is given?

22. List other **passages** about the importance of a strong work ethic.

23. **Case Study:** Some people believe that people will be given a chance after they die to be forgiven of sins and be saved. What does the Bible teach? Proof?

24. List five examples the preacher uses in 9:11. What is the point?

25. How does 9:12 relate to verse 11? What two illustrations does the Preacher use?

26. **Application:** What lessons should we learn from the principle of 9:11,12?

27. Retell in your own words the story told by the Preacher in 9:14,15.

28. What lesson does the story teach us about life – 9:16?

29. What lessons should we learn according to 9:17,18?

30. Does the illustration teach that wisdom is useless? What does it teach about the character of people? Explain.

Assignments on Ecclesiastes 10

Please read chapter 10 and answer the following questions.

1. What damage can a little folly do – 10:1? How does the Preacher illustrate this?

2. Application: Give examples to illustrate the principle of verse 1.
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3. Explain the significance of the right hand and the left hand as used in 10:2.

4. What does verse 2 teach about wisdom as compared to foolishness?

5. What characterizes a foolish person – 10:3?

6. How does the fool show to everyone that he is a fool?

7. What can we do to pacify a ruler who becomes angry with us – 10:4?

8. List other **Scriptures** showing that submission to authority and humility can help solve problems.

9. What apparent reversal of natural circumstances is mentioned in 10:5,6?

10. What additional reversal is mentioned in 10:7?

11. How do verses 6,7 relate to verse 5?

12. Give examples of how rulers are sometimes guilty of what the Preacher describes.

13. List four examples of problems listed in 10:8,9.

14. What advantage does wisdom have according to 10:10?

15. **Application:** What is the point of the examples in verses 8,9, and how do they relate to verse 10?

16. What illustration is used in 10:11? Explain the point.

17. How does verse 11 connect to verses 8-10?

18. How is a wise man compared to foolish man in 10:12?

19. How is the talk of a fool described in 10:13?

20. **Application:** Give examples that illustrate the difference described in verses 12,13.

21. What other mistake does a fool make in his speech – 10:14? List similar *passages*.

22. How is our knowledge limited according to the verse? How does this relate to the speech of fools?

23. What problems do fools have according to 10:15? Give examples that may illustrate the point.

24. What kind of rulers can bring woe to a nation, and what kind are a blessing – 10:16,17?

25. **Application:** Give examples to illustrate the differences in these rulers. What can we learn?

26. What problems does laziness cause – 10:18?

27. List other *passages* about the problems of laziness and idleness.

28. Explain the point of 10:19. In what sense does money answer all things, and how does it contrast to feasting?

29. **Application:** List *passages* about the danger of loving money. What we can learn?

30. According to 10:20, what is one reason that our words and attitude should always be respectful and upright?

Assignments on Ecclesiastes 11

Please read chapter 11 and answer the following questions.

1. What common theme do you see that runs throughout 11:1-6?

2. State the illustration used in 11:1 and explain its meaning.

3. **Application:** What applications can be made from verse 1 regarding our use of time, money, and other blessings?

4. Explain the illustration in 11:2. What application is intended?

5. How does 11:2 relate to 11:1?

6. What illustrations are used in 11:3?

7. What lessons should we learn from these illustrations?

8. How does the Preacher use farming as an example in 11:4?

9. **Application:** How can the principles of 11:4 help us understand good stewardship?

10. What two natural events do we not understand according to 11:5? What spiritual application does the verse make?

11. How should knowing our limitations (verse 5) benefit us?
12. What further illustration about farming is used in 11:6?
13. List other *passages* that use sowing seed to teach a spiritual lesson.

14. Application: What applications can we make from 11:6 in teaching the gospel?

15. How are light and sunshine described in 11:7?
16. Yet what should a man remember is coming – 11:8?
17. What possible meanings and applications could 11:7,8 have?
18. Whom does the author address beginning in 11:9? How long does he continue addressing them?
19. What warning does he give in 11:9? Explain the significance.
20. How are childhood and youth described in 11:10? What lessons should people learn?

Assignments on Ecclesiastes 12

Please read chapter 12 and answer the following questions.

1. What should concern young people according to 12:1? Explain what it means to “remember” the Creator.

2. List other *passages* that state that God created the universe.

3. List other *passages* that give instructions especially to young people.

4. **Special Assignment:** List some reasons why it is especially important to begin serving God when we are young.

5. **Application:** Many people think young people should “sow their wild oats,” then later they can begin to serve God. How would you respond to this idea?

6. Briefly summarize the theme of 12:2-8.

7. For each of the following verses, describe the illustration or symbol that is used, then explain how it relates to the theme of verses 2-8.

Verse 2 –

Verse 3 –

Verse 4 –

Verse 5 –

Verse 6 –

8. How is death described in 12:7?

9. What is the significance of the dust returning to the earth? Where else is this concept stated in Scripture?

10. List other *passages* about the origin and destiny of the spirit of man.

11. **Special Assignment:** Remember to bring up to date your ongoing assignment to list all the things that the book of Ecclesiastes says are vain or vanity.

12. What did the Preacher seek to do for the people – 12:9?

13. List other **passages** that show that Solomon wrote many proverbs.

14. What kind of words did the Preacher seek to write – 12:10? (Think: Should we conclude that the author was confused about life or was pessimistic and negative? Explain.)

15. **Application:** Explain what we learn about the work of preachers from 12:9,10.

16. What is a goad – 12:11? How are wise words like goads?

17. How are wise words like well driven nails?

18. Who is the ultimate giver of truly wise words, especially those written in this book by the Preacher? To whom does this refer? (Consider other similar passages.)

19. **Special Assignment:** Explain how verses 9-11 can be used to answer those who claim that the book of Ecclesiastes was written by several uninspired men.

20. What does 12:12 teach about books? Is this true of the inspired books in the Bible? What is the point?

21. What conclusion does the Preacher reach at the end of his book – 12:13?

22. List other *passages* about fearing God.

23. **Special Assignment:** Explain what it means to fear God, and tell how fear for God will affect a person's life.

24. List other *passages* about keeping God's commands.

25. **Case Study:** Many people claim that obedience is not necessary under the gospel. Explain why keeping God's commands is important, even under the New Testament.

26. According to 12:14, why is it important to fear God and keep His commandments? What works will God judge?

27. List other *passages* showing that men will be judged by God.

28. **Special Assignment:** List some specific characteristics of the judgment day (who will be judged, what will happen, etc.).

29. Explain why it is important for people to realize they will give an account to God for their lives.

30. Explain how this is a fitting conclusion for the book.

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