

ECCLESIASTES

Chasing After the Wind

Ecclesiastes 1:1-18

Ecclesiastes

*"'Meaningless! Meaningless!' says the Teacher.
'Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless!'"*
Ecclesiastes 1:2

Author: the Teacher (probably King Solomon)

Genre: practical poetry teaching wisdom

God: presented as Mighty Creator, Sovereign Lord...

Themes: *meaningless* (38x), *under the sun* (29x),
chasing after the wind (9x); *joy* (17x), *good* (52x)

Cynical & Cyclical

*"What do people gain from all their labors
at which they toil under the sun?...
There is nothing new under the sun."*
Ecclesiastes 1:3, 9

Over the Sun

*"So I commend the enjoyment of life, because there is
nothing better for a person under the sun than to eat
and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany them
in their toil all the days of the life **God has given**
them under the sun."*
Ecclesiastes 8:15

Life is a gift, not gain.

Resources:

Living Life Backward by David Gibson
Ecclesiastes: Why Everything Matters by Philip Graham Ryken
Right Now Media – rmchurch.org/next-steps

Reflection:

1. What are your impressions of the book of Ecclesiastes?
2. Explain the meaning of 'meaningless' or 'vanity' (*hevel*) in your own words.
3. List three things you'd like to change about your life and three things you'd like to stay the same.
4. Do you find the message of Ecclesiastes 1 depressing or promising? Why?
5. What does your life and time spent reveal about what you think will make you happy?