

Life is short, live it to the fullest

All is Vanity: Ecc. 1: 2

Historical Context

- No time period or writer's name is mentioned in the book, but several passages strongly suggest that king Solomon is the author (1:1, 12, 16; 2:4-9; 7:26-29; 12:9; 1 King 4:29-34), NASB.

Ecc. 1:2 (Hebrew)

- הַבַּלְּאִים הַבְּלִיִּים אָמַר קֹהֵלֶת הַבַּל
הַבְּלִיִּים הַכֹּל הַבַּל:
(Ecc 1:2 WTT) •

Purpose

- With his life largely behind him, the author takes stock of the world as he has experienced it between the horizons of birth and death – the latter a horizon beyond which man cannot see. The world is seen as being full of enigmas, the greatest of which is man himself (NASB).

Purpose

- He wrote the book to show us how to live life with all its mysteries.
- “Under the sun” is repeated 29 times in Ecclesiastes.

What advantage does man have?

- His days are like grass: Ps. 103:15-16.
- He came with empty hands and he will leave the same way: 1 Tim. 6: 6-7; Job 1: 21; Luke 12: 15, 20-21.

What advantage does man have

- He does not own life: Ecc. 8: 8.
- The great frustration of life under the sun: Ecc. 2: 12-23.
- What man must do to gain happiness under the sun: Ecc. 2: 24-26.