

ECCLESIASTES

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To spare future generations of God's people from the bitterness of learning through their own experiences that life is meaningless apart from God.

Author

Solomon.

Date

Late in Solomon's life, c.935 BC.

Audience

To the people of Israel during Solomon's reign and to all people in general.

Setting

Late in life, Solomon looks back on that life, much of which was lived apart from God.

Special Features

Through the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon imparts wisdom and knowledge to the people of God and teaches them the tragic reality of the Fall, the "vanity" of life, sin and death, the joy and the frustration of work, the grateful enjoyment of God's good gifts, and the fear of God.



Key Verses

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." (3:1 ESV)

"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end." (3:11 NIV84)

"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might." (9:10 NIV)

"Remember your Creator in the days of your youth." (12:1 NIV)

"The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." (12:13 ESV)

Key People

Solomon.

Key Places

Israel, Jerusalem.