

Ecclesiastes 1:3-7 - *The Life-Cycle...same old thing* (July 13)

Prayer

- Ecclesiastes 2:24-25; 1 Timothy 6:17

Ecclesiastes Overview & Study Guide handouts

Two key concepts in Ecclesiastes:

1. ‘*Hevel*’ or vapor - something that can vanish quickly and leaves nothing behind.
2. ‘*Under the sun*’ – defines the teacher’s outlook, seeing life from a human perspective, not God’s perspective.

“The same old thing is the same old thing”

Ecclesiastes 1:3-7

Q. In this passage, do you sense that the teacher is either an older or younger person? Why?

Q. What is the teachers tone in this passage?

Q. Do you sense that the teacher wants to do their own thing or be faithful to God?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

1. Key Word #1: ‘PROFIT’ (yitron) is used ten times in Ecclesiastes. Basic meaning is ‘that which is left over.’
 - Philippians 3:7-8
2. Key Word #2: ‘LABOR’ (amal) is used 23 times in Ecclesiastes. Basic meaning is to work to exhaustion.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:58

Ecclesiastes 1:4 – ‘life-cycle’

TEACHERS CONCLUSIONS – from Ecclesiastes 1:4-18

Nothing is CHANGED (4–7)

Nothing is NEW (8-11)

Nothing is UNDERSTOOD (12–18)

Ecclesiastes 1:4-7 - The teacher investigates those things in nature that do not change:

1. The EARTH (4)

Q. How does the cycle of the earth then compare to the labor that humanity produces?

2. The SUN (v. 5)

3. The WIND (6)
 - John 3:8a

4. The SEA (7)

In Scripture...where God intervened and commanded nature.

Joshua 10:6-14; Isaiah 38:1–8; Exodus 14; Joshua 3-4; 1st Kings 17; Mark 4:35–41; Revelation 6

Summary: *The Teacher missed something...*

- Psalm 16:11