

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

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¹ The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king of Israel in Jerusalem. ² Vanity of vanities, said the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity. ³ What advantage *is there* to a man in all his labor that he takes under the sun? ⁴ A generation goes, and a generation comes; but the earth abides forever.

⁵ And the sun arises, and the sun goes down and draws toward its place; ⁶ arising there it proceeds southward, and goes round toward the north. The wind goes round and round, and the wind returns to its circuits. ⁷ All the rivers run into the sea; and yet the sea is not filled. To the place from which the rivers come, there they return again. ⁸ All things are full of labor; a man will not be able to speak *of them*. Neither shall the eye be satisfied with seeing, neither shall the ear be filled with hearing.

⁹ What is that which has been? The very thing which shall be. And what is that which has been done? The very thing which shall be done; and there is nothing new under the sun. ¹⁰ *Who is he* that shall speak and say, "Behold, this is new?" It has already been in the ages that have passed before us.

¹¹ There is no remembrance of former things; neither to the things that have been last shall their memorial be with them that shall at the last *time*.

¹² I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ And I applied my heart to seek out and examine by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven, for God has given to the sons of men a burdensome task to be afflicted with. ¹⁴ I beheld all the works that were done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind. ¹⁵ That which is crooked cannot be made straight; and what is lacking cannot be numbered.

¹⁶ I spoke in my heart, saying, "Behold, I have attained, and acquired wisdom beyond all who were before me in Jerusalem." Also I applied my heart to know wisdom and knowledge. ¹⁷ And my heart knew much—wisdom, knowledge, parables and understanding: I perceived that this also is grasping for the wind. ¹⁸ For in the abundance of wisdom is abundance of knowledge; and he that increases knowledge will increase sorrow.