

# Ecclesiastes



## Background

- What are the names given to this book? What do they mean? How is this connected to the author of this book?
- What does the Lecture suggest about the author(s) of this book? How is this related to the character of this book? How does this help us read this book well?
- What are the various possible purposes of this book? Which do you think most accurately describes this book? Why? How does this influence the way we should read and understand this book? What difference should this make in the way that we understand the world and our place in it?

## Outline

- What are the three main sections of Ecclesiastes? What does each section generally cover? What does this tell us about the overall content of this book? How does this help us to read, understand, and apply Ecclesiastes?
- What is the main message of the body of this book? What conclusion does the last section reach? What do these things tell us about the book as a whole?

## Content

- What are the key verses of Ecclesiastes? What does each highlight? What does each tell us about the overall content and message of Ecclesiastes?
- Describe the meaning of the word “meaningless/vanity.” How does this express the teaching of Ecclesiastes? What should we learn from this? How does it apply?
- What is the attitude of Ecclesiastes toward God? How does it suggest we should think about and act toward God? How should we respond?
- What is the “conclusion – the bottom line” of Ecclesiastes? How does this help us understand the rest of the book? How does this apply to modern life?

## Themes

- Explain each of the theological themes in your own words. What does each tell us about the content, message and significance of Ecclesiastes? What does each tell us about God and how we should relate to Him? How should each idea be applied in current life?
- What is the significance of the phrase “under the sun”? What difference does this make?
- Explain in your own words how joy can be a theme of a book like Ecclesiastes, which seems so depressing? What does this tell us about the meaning and message of this book?
- How does the fear of the Lord give answers to the questions posed in this book? How is this similar to the conclusions reached in the earlier wisdom books? Why does this matter?

## Review

- Review the three sections of Ecclesiastes and work toward committing this to memory.
- Review the key themes of Ecclesiastes and work toward committing them to memory.