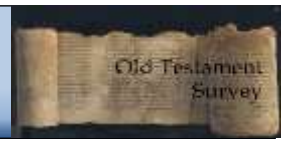




Ecclesiastes – Study Guide



Bible Reading (Other chapters may be read for extra credit/benefit)	Textbook Reading (Other material may be read for extra credit/benefit)
Ecclesiastes ☐ 1:1-11 ☐ 2:1-3:15 ☐ 5:1-7 ☐ ch. 12	Ch. 23 ☐ Contents ☐ Theological Themes - Ecclesiastes

Study Guide for Ecclesiastes

Chapter 1:1-11

- Who does verse 1 identify as “the teacher”? What is the significance of this?
- What does the teacher say? What does this tell us about the worldview and attitude which the teacher teaches in this book? Why does this matter?
- What point does the teacher make about the generations, the sun, the wind, and the rivers? How does this reinforce the teacher’s message? What can we learn from this?
- What implications and applications does the teacher make from his main point? How does all this fit in with what you have learned from the rest of the Old Testament? Do you agree with the teacher’s message? Why or why not? What difference does this make?

Chapter 2:1-Chapter 3:15

- What does the teacher say he did to test his philosophy? What variety of things did he try? What was he trying to learn and/or prove? What did he accomplish? What conclusion(s) did he reach? What can we learn from this? What difference does this knowledge make for us today?
- What does the teacher conclude about wisdom and folly? Why is this important? What does the teacher conclude about the fate of the wise and of the foolish? How can we reconcile these things?
- What attitude did the teacher have as a result of his philosophy? Do you think this attitude is correct? Why or why not? Do you think this is the attitude the book as a whole will conclude with? Why or why not? Do you think it is helpful to explore this attitude and where it leads to? Why or why not?
- What did the teacher conclude at the end of chapter 2? How does this help give balance and correction to the attitude expressed earlier in this chapter? What does this section add to the message of this book? How does it apply?
- What do you think is the point of the teaching about a time for everything? What difference does this make? How is this connected with what the teacher says after this? How is this related to God and eternity? What conclusion does the teacher make from this? How should we respond?

Chapter 5:1-7

- What does the teacher suggest about our attitudes and actions regarding God? What reasons does he give for this?
- What specifically does he say about speaking? Why?

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- What specifically does he say about vows? Why?
- What conclusion does he make in this section? How should we respond?

Chapter 12

- What does this book command us to do in relation to our creator? When are we commanded to do this? Why? How is this contrasted to later times?
- How is old age described in this chapter? How can this be a hindrance? How does this book tell us to respond to this?
- How does this chapter echo the introduction to this book? What do you think is the significance of this?
- What evaluation does the conclusion of this book give about the teacher? What did he do? Why is this important? What should we learn from this?
- What evaluation does the conclusion of this book give about the words of the wise and the making of many books? What is the significance of this? What should we learn from this?
- What does this chapter say is the “conclusion/end of the matter”? How does this conclusion relate to the rest of the book of Ecclesiastes? How does it help us understand the earlier parts of this book better?
- How does the conclusion relate to the earlier wisdom books? How does it relate this book to the rest of the Old Testament? What should we learn from this? How should we respond?

Study Guide for Textbook chapter 23

The Book of Ecclesiastes

Contents

- What is the meaning of the term “ecclesiastes”? Where does this term come from? What words are used to translate this term? What does this tell us about the character and message of this book?
- According to the textbook, what is the purpose of this book? What is the meaning of the main term used in the motto? What does this tell us about life? What does this tell us about the purpose of this book? What difference does this make?
- According to the textbook, what is the “thesis” of this book? How is this developed throughout the introduction? What conclusion is reached? How should we respond?
- How is Solomon used as an example of the thesis of this book? What do his activities and accomplishments prove?
- According to the textbook, how does Ecclesiastes connect all these activities to God? How does this contribute to the message of Ecclesiastes? What difference does this make?
- What advice does the teacher offer, based on his observations? How does this add hope? What can we learn from this? How does it apply?
- What point does Ecclesiastes make about “destiny” and uncertainties? How do these ideas add to the message of this book? How should we respond?
- What is the point and contribution of the section about old age? What difference does this make?
- According to the textbook, what conclusion does the teacher make at the end of the book? How does this relate to the idea of meaninglessness? How does this

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relate to God? How does the “fear of God” contribute to this conclusion? How does all of this conclusion help us to make better sense of the rest of this book? How should we respond?

Theological Themes – Ecclesiastes

- What does the textbook suggest Ecclesiastes demonstrates about how we should deal with doubt? What is the desired conclusion of this?
- Describe the point the textbook makes about the “balances” of the views expressed in the wisdom books. What difference should this make in the way we think about the world and our experiences? What difference should this make in the way that we live?

Review the Study Questions and Summary at the end of the chapter