

What Were We Made For?

A Study in Ecclesiastes

What Solomon Learned

Ecclesiastes 1:2-11

Lyrics: The Circle of Life

From the day we arrive on the planet and
blinking, step into the sun

There's more to be seen than can ever be seen.

More to do than can ever be done

Some say eat or be eaten. Some say live and let live

But all are agreed as they join the stampede

you should never take more than you give

Lyrics: The Circle of Life

In the circle of life. It's the wheel of fortune

It's the leap of faith. It's the band of hope

Till we find our place on the path unwinding

In the circle, the circle of life.

Lyrics: The Circle of Life

Some of us fall by the wayside
and some of us soar to the stars
And some of us sail through our troubles
and some have to live with the scars
There's far too much to take in here.
More to find than can ever be found
But the sun rolling high through the sapphire sky
Keeps great and small on the endless round

Lyrics: The Circle of Life

In the circle of life. It's the wheel of fortune

It's the leap of faith. It's the band of hope

Till we find our place on the path unwinding

In the circle, the circle of life.

Four Ways to Approach Life

1. Escapism

2. Nihilism

3. Hedonism

4. Biblicism

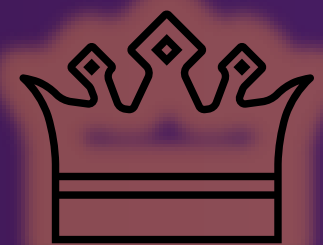
²³ but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Mathew 6:23-24

KEY POINT

Earthly Life Is
Not Satisfying



- I. **Solomon's Presentation Regarding His Life (1:1-11) – A Narrator**
 - A. **General (1:1-3)**
 - B. **Specific (1:4-11)**
- II. **Solomon's Progression in His Life (1:12-6:9) – back to the 1st person**
- III. **Solomon's Prescription Based Upon His Life (6:10-12:14)**

I. General Discovery (vs. 2-3)

⁵ Behold, you have made my days a few
handbreadths,
and my lifetime is as nothing before you.
Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath! Selah
⁶ Surely a man goes about as a shadow!
Surely for nothing they are in turmoil;
man heaps up wealth
and does not know who will gather!

Psalm 39:5-6

30 Charm is deceitful, and
beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears
The Lord is to be praised.

Proverbs 31:30

³⁶ For what does it profit
a man to gain the whole
world and forfeit his
soul?

Mark 8:36

“It is not the kind of book that we keep reading until we reach the end and get the answer, like the mystery. Instead, it is a book in which we keep struggling with the problems of life, and as we struggle, we learn to trust God with the questions even when we do not have all the answers.”

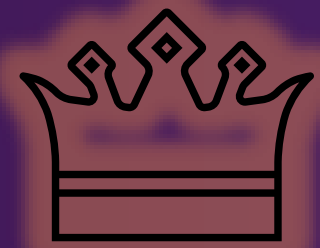


Phil Ryken

29 Sept 1966 – Present

KEY POINT

**Earthly Life Is
Not Satisfying**



I. General Discovery (vs. 2-3)

II. Four Specific Discoveries

(vs. 4-11)

A. Man is Transitory (vs. 4)

¹² When Arpachshad had lived 35 years, he fathered Shelah. ¹³ And Arpachshad lived after he fathered Shelah 403 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁴ When Shelah had lived 30 years, he fathered Eber. ¹⁵ And Shelah lived after he fathered Eber 403 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁶ When Eber had lived 34 years, he fathered Peleg.

Genesis 11:12-16

¹⁰ The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason of strength eighty;
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.

Psalm 90:10

I. General Discovery (vs. 2-3)

II. Four Specific Discoveries

(vs. 4-11)

A. Man is Transitory (vs. 4)

B. Nature is cyclical (vs. 5-7)

⁶ Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

Psalm 19:6

⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

John 3:8

I. General Discovery (vs. 2-3)

II. Four Specific Discoveries

(vs. 4-11)

A. Man is Transitory (vs. 4)

B. Nature is cyclical (vs. 5-7)

C. Life is tiring (vs. 8-10)

I. General Discovery (vs. 2-3)

II. Four Specific Discoveries

(vs. 4-11)

A. Man is Transitory (vs. 4)

B. Nature is cyclical (vs. 5-7)

C. Life is tiring (vs. 8-10)

D. Man is forgettable (vs. 11)

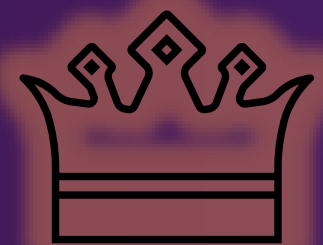
“What is more a vanity of vanities than the face that the earth endures, although it was made for the benefit of man, while man himself, the master of the earth, suddenly crumbles into dust.”



Jerome
~342 – 30 Sept 420

KEY POINT

**Earthly Life Is
Not Satisfying**



³³ But seek first the kingdom
of God and His righteousness,
and all these things will be
added to you.

Matthew 6:33