

1. Life is fleeting (1-7)

- a. Life is insubstantial (2-3)
- b. Life is cyclical (4-7)

2. Life is disappointing (8-11)

- a. We are not satisfied (1-10)
- b. We are not remembered (11)

“The fleeting nature of life should cause us to seize the moment and live well in it before God.”

Small Group Questions:

1. What is your favorite book of the Bible and why? What have been your impressions of the book of Ecclesiastes before this study?
2. What do you find disappointing about life?
3. Solomon lived before the coming of Christ. How does Jesus complete the picture of life that Solomon sketches here?
4. Does Solomon’s message contradict New Testament teachings?
5. How will you know you lived life well?

Intro to Ecclesiastes (That’s Just The Way It Is)**Author**

“Qoheleth” means “preacher” or “teacher” and **I believe it is written by Solomon.**

Identifies himself as a “son of David” (1:1)

A king in Jerusalem (1:1)

“Wiser” than any king that ruled before him (1:16)

Builder of Great projects (2:4-6)

Numerous slaves (2:7)

Incomparable herds of sheep and cattle (2:7)

Great wealth (2:8)

Large harem (2:8)

The nature of the book

The book then is semi-autobiographical, like a memoir.

Key Phrases

“Life under the sun” (Life on the human plane)

Hebel - vaporous

Theme and purpose

“No life is not meaningless! Ecclesiastes affirms life as God’s gift for us to seize and enjoy before it all-too quickly passes.” –Ronald Allen

The organization of the book

Jl Packer suggests that it is actually a sermon in three parts:

Primary point “vaporous, vaporous all is vaporous”
(1:1, and 12: 8)

Exposition of this theme (1-10)

Application (11-12:7)