

Getting Started with Ecclesiastes

1. Ecclesiastes speaks of all of the following EXCEPT

- A. The frustrating and tedious nature of much of our existence
- B. The brevity of life
- C. The finality of death
- D. All of life is meaninglessness
- E. Pain of incessant injustice

D:B:Ec:1

2. What is the Hebrew word translated “vanity” in the phrase “vanity of vanities” by the King James translators?

- A. Hevel
- B. Hesed
- C. Berit
- D. Shuv

A:B:Ec:1

3. What is the literal meaning of the word *hevel*?

- A. Meaningless or futile
- B. Vanity or worthless
- C. Vapor or breath
- D. Short or partial

C:B:Ec:1

4. What would be a good translation of the word *hevel* in Ecclesiastes?

- A. Vanity
- B. Transient
- C. Meaningless

D. Vapor

B:B:Ec:1

5. From what perspective does most of the book of Ecclesiastes speak?

- A. Upon the earth
- B. The way of all flesh
- C. Under the sun
- D. Along the path

C:B:Ec:1

6. What does “chasing after the wind” mean in Ecclesiastes?

- A. An enterprise that yields no tangible results
- B. A meaning endeavor
- C. Something that is impossible to achieve under the sun
- D. That which is worthless and futile

A:B:Ec:1

7. Given all the uncertainties what refrain does Ecclesiastes often advise?

- A. Do the best you can, given the circumstances
- B. Do what is right, and walk humbly
- C. Eat, drink and be satisfied
- D. Seize the day

C:B:Ec:1

8. Where does the title Ecclesiastes come from?

- A. The Hebrew word for “meaningless”
- B. The Latin word for “assembly”
- C. The English word for “congregation”
- D. The Greek word for “church”

D:B:Ec:1

9. Qohelet, the title of Ecclesiastes, probably is best thought of as _____

- A. The Preacher
- B. The Rabbi
- C. The Leader
- D. The Sage

A:B:Ec:1

10. Who does Ecclesiastes want the reader to think of as one reads the book?

- A. David
- B. Solomon
- C. Jesus
- D. Hezekiah

B:B:Ec:1

11. All of the following are used to identify Qohelet EXCEPT

- A. Son of David
- B. King in Jerusalem
- C. Wiser than all before him in Jerusalem
- D. The builder of the temple

D:B:Ec:1

12. The feminine form of Qohelet is used which may parallel what other preacher?

- A. Huldah the prophetess in the time of Hezekiah
- B. Woman Wisdom in Proverbs 1:20-33
- C. The teaching of Pharaoh's daughter whom Solomon had married
- D. The woman in the Song of Songs

B:B:Ec:1

13. What threads its way through Qohelet's reflections ?

- A. Life
- B. Righteousness
- C. Death
- D. Wonder

C:B:Ec:1

14. "Under the sun" all of the following are highlighted by Qohelet EXCEPT

- A. The more knowledge the more grief
- B. Things striven for must be left upon death
- C. Insatiable desire for pleasure when achieved has no lasting satisfaction
- D. The pursuit of folly may end with wisdom
- E. Lack of personal importance when faced with death

D:B:Ec:1

15. In Ecclesiastes what is a person driven to?

- A. Endless striving
- B. Meaningless achievement
- C. Unknowing of everything
- D. Existential aloneness

A:B:Ec:1

16. What two things result in Qohelet's hatred of life?

- A. The presence of pain and absence of joy
- B. The inevitability of death and the futility to hard work
- C. The inability to control results and the inability to grasp meaning
- D. The inescapability of being under the sun before one is put under the ground

B:B:Ec:1

17. What gives Qohelet a new perspective from which he gains?

- A. The perspective from above the sun
- B. The beyond the grave
- C. God's presence
- D. When he enters the temple

C:B:Ec:1

18. What confidence does the poem in Eccles. 3 impart?

- A. Life's experiences are balanced with both good and evil to be expected
- B. The range of life experiences embrace all sides of every question
- C. God is in control of all extremes of life even though it doesn't initially appear that way
- D. Life is cyclical and what comes around goes around and there is no stopping it

A:B:Ec:1

19. What is the other side of the paradox that eternity is planted deep in the hearts of humankind?

- A. Yet with all striving it cannot be attained
- B. It is impossible to know anything beyond the present
- C. Humans can only work hard to shape the future which they cannot control
- D. Yet history is the only thing humankind can know for sure

B:B:Ec:1

20. What clarion call is made in the book of Ecclesiastes?

- A. To pursue what is right, just and walk humbly with God
- B. To forgive those who have hurt us
- C. To trust God's providential ordering of events
- D. To submit to God's laws and walk in his ways

C:B:Ec:1

21. Why are people to fear God?

- A. Because he controls all things
- B. Because he alone is to be worshipped
- C. Because his anger can wipe away all human achievements
- D. Because all injustices will be brought to judgment

D:B:Ec:1

22. What constant counterpoint is found for the frustration, despair and injustices found in Ecclesiastes?

- A. The divine Presence
- B. Joy and meaning if one follows God's ways
- C. Forgiveness and reconciliation
- D. Holiness and awe of God

A:B:Ec:1

23. What is a literary *inclusio*?

- A. Literary hinges
- B. A form called Janis
- C. Bookends with similar beginning and ending
- D. Figure of speech using metaphors to communicate ideas

C:B:Ec:1

24. What inclusion is found in the book of Ecclesiastes?

- A. Begins with sources of personal anguish and ends in death
- B. Begins with pursuit and ends with the inability to achieve it
- C. Begins with Solomon and ends with God
- D. Begins with questions and ends with an answer

A:B:Ec:1

25. What results as a result of the repetitive nature of existence?

- A. Satisfaction with one's work
- B. The fear of the Lord
- C. Ennui and frustration
- D. Alienation and aloneness

C:B:Ec:1

26. What is described at the end of Ecclesiastes?

- A. The hope that transcends life under the sun
- B. How dying is to be dealt with
- C. Why things do in fact matter
- D. The navigating through old age

D:B:Ec:1

27. What happens to the vessel bearing life?

- A. It is shattered and returns to dust
- B. It descends into the heart of the earth
- C. It is shed as the spirit goes upward
- D. It cannot contain the glory God has placed in it

A:B:Ec:1

28. How does a fool approach God?

- A. Taking the emptiness of life into the presence of God
- B. Failing to observe his holiness being locked into the repetitions of life
- C. With no sense of remorse over evil and excess of words
- D. With no fear of the Lord

C:B:Ec:1

29. What must be carried through on?

- A. Our promises to others
- B. The intentions of our hearts
- C. Our responsibilities in this life
- D. Our vows before God

D:B:Ec:1

30. What simple and profound advice does Qohelet offer?

- A. Listen and fear God
- B. Pursue your passions
- C. Turn and pray toward the temple
- D. Forgive as you have been forgiven

A:B:Ec:1

31. What is meant when Qohelet says not to be “too righteous”?

- A. It is not referring to true righteousness
- B. It is talking about being righteous in order to look righteous
- C. It is referring to the hypocrisy of those who think they are righteous
- D. It is saying to avoid all extremes

B:B:Ec:1

32. When Qohelet says he’s found one upright man among a thousand but not one upright woman among them all how was that to be understood?

- A. To think of that culture where women were uneducated and not wise
- B. To see this in the context of widows trying to make ends meet
- C. To reflect on the adulterous woman folly in Proverbs and Solomon’s experiences
- D. To see this in the context of the foreign Midianite women that caused so much trouble in Israel

C:B:Ec:1

33. What did the poor man do that was not remembered?

- A. He was righteous
- B. He saved a city
- C. He gave counsel to the king
- D. He fought in the army

B:B:Ec:1

34. What is in the backdrop of all of Qohelet's observations?

- A. Fate
- B. Death
- C. Chaos
- D. Indeterminacy

B:B:Ec:1

35. What will happen to both the righteous and the wicked?

- A. They will both have to make life choices
- B. They will each have to face the king
- C. They will both be hurt by the evils of life
- D. They will both be called into account

D:B:Ec:1

36. What is the conclusion of the matter?

- A. Fear God and keep his commandments
- B. Trust God and live life with vigor
- C. Realize life is a mysterious mist but God lives in that mist
- D. Death itself is only temporary

A:B:Ec:1