

Bible Class Questions — *Ecclesiastes*

Chapter 1

1. What does the phrase “vanity of vanities” mean in the context of this chapter?
2. How does the cyclical pattern of nature (sun, wind, rivers) illustrate the Preacher’s point?
3. Why do you think the author emphasizes that “there is nothing new under the sun”?
4. How does the pursuit of wisdom bring both benefit and burden?
5. What emotions or thoughts might the writer be expressing about life’s repetitiveness?
6. How does this chapter challenge modern ideas about progress and achievement?
7. What role does memory and legacy play in the Preacher’s reflections?
8. How might this chapter speak to someone feeling restless or unfulfilled?

Chapter 2

1. What experiments does the Preacher undertake to find meaning in life?
2. How does he evaluate pleasure, wealth, and accomplishments?
3. Why does the Preacher conclude that wisdom is better than folly, yet still “vanity”?
4. How does the inevitability of death shape his conclusions?
5. What tension exists between enjoying life’s blessings and recognizing their temporary nature?
6. How does this chapter address the human desire for control over outcomes?
7. What does the Preacher say about the person who inherits the fruit of another’s labor?
8. How might this chapter influence our view of work and ambition today?

Chapter 3

1. What is the significance of the “time for everything” poem?
2. How does the Preacher connect God’s sovereignty with human limitations?
3. What does it mean that God has “set eternity in the human heart”?
4. How should we respond to the reality that we cannot fully understand God’s work?
5. What role does joy and contentment play in this chapter’s message?
6. How does the Preacher address injustice and oppression here?
7. What does the statement “man has no advantage over animals” mean in context?
8. How might this chapter help someone struggling with life’s unpredictability?

Chapter 4

1. How does the Preacher describe the oppression he observes?

2. Why does he say it is better not to be born than to see such evil?
 3. How does envy drive human labor and achievement?
 4. What is the danger of overwork and isolation?
 5. How does the “two are better than one” principle apply to relationships today?
 6. What warning does the Preacher give about the instability of leadership?
 7. How might this chapter speak to someone feeling lonely or competitive?
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Chapter 5

1. What instructions are given about approaching God in worship?
2. Why is it better not to vow than to vow and not fulfill it?
3. How does the Preacher describe the corruption of power and bureaucracy?
4. What is the danger of loving money?
5. How does wealth fail to bring lasting satisfaction?

6. What is the “gift of God” mentioned in this chapter?
 7. How might this chapter shape our attitude toward promises, money, and contentment?
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Chapter 6

1. What is the tragedy described of a man with wealth but no enjoyment?
 2. What does this chapter say about the limits of human desire?
 3. How does the inability to know the future affect our pursuit of meaning?
 4. How might this chapter challenge our culture’s definition of success?
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Chapter 7

1. Why is a good name better than fine perfume?
2. How can sorrow be better than laughter?
3. What warnings are given about anger and nostalgia?
4. How does wisdom provide protection like an inheritance?

5. What does the Preacher say about trying to straighten what God has made crooked?
 6. How should we respond to prosperity and adversity?
 7. What is the danger of self-righteousness and over-wisdom?
 8. How does this chapter address the complexity of human nature?
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Chapter 8

1. How does wisdom brighten a person's face?
2. What advice is given about obeying the king?
3. How does the Preacher wrestle with the problem of injustice?
4. Why do the wicked sometimes live long lives?
5. How does the Preacher encourage joy despite life's uncertainties?
6. What does this chapter teach about our inability to fully understand God's work?

Chapter 9

1. How does the Preacher describe the common destiny of all people?
 2. Why does he encourage enjoying life with the one you love?
 3. What does it mean to do whatever your hand finds to do with all your might?
 4. How does the “race not to the swift” principle challenge our assumptions?
 5. What lesson is drawn from the story of the poor wise man?
 6. How might this chapter encourage both humility and diligence?
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Chapter 10

1. How can a little folly outweigh wisdom and honor?
2. What contrasts are made between wise and foolish speech?
3. How does the Preacher describe the dangers of poor leadership?
4. What practical advice is given about work and risk?

5. How does this chapter connect wisdom with everyday life decisions?

Chapter 11

1. What does it mean to “cast your bread upon the waters”?
 2. How does the Preacher encourage generosity despite uncertainty?
 3. What lessons are drawn from the unpredictability of life?
 4. Why is it important to enjoy youth while remembering God’s judgment?
 5. How might this chapter inspire a balanced approach to planning and living?
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Chapter 12

1. What does it mean to “remember your Creator in the days of your youth”?
2. How is aging poetically described in this chapter?
3. What is the significance of the imagery of the silver cord and golden bowl?
4. How does the Preacher summarize the meaning of life?

5. What does “fear God and keep His commandments” mean in practical terms?
6. How does this final chapter tie together the themes of the whole book?