



# Ecclesiastes

Teacher: Ruth Christian

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## Lesson 1 – Chapter 1:1-3

Before you begin, pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

This book **reports the results of a diligent quest** for purpose, meaning, and satisfaction in human life. The Preacher... the writer sees the emptiness and futility of power, popularity, prestige, and pleasure apart from God. In introducing this book, we will look at the first 3 verses today.

### Reflect:

1. *Read chapters 1 & 2.* (Extra credit: read the whole book for an overview.) List all the author says about himself.
2. *Read verses 1-3 again.* Verse 1 introduces the writer of Ecclesiastes. Nowhere in the book does he give his name. But the descriptions he gives of himself and his experiences would indicate that the writer is King Solomon. *Read Ecclesiastes 1:1, 12-13; 2:1-11; and 1Kings 4:20-24; 10:1-20.* How do these verses support the idea of Solomon's authorship? Is his authorship critical to the content of the book? Why or why not?
3. In verse 2, the Preacher says what? What does vanity mean? How does he use repetition to emphasize his point?
4. When Solomon says "all is vanity", what specifically is he talking about?
5. Another key phrase in Ecclesiastes is "under the sun". This phrase means looking at life from what perspective?
6. In light of all these things, what is the theme for the book?

**Respond:**

1. How would you describe your view of life in 15 words or less? Are you satisfied with your life? Why or why not? And if not, what do you think would bring you satisfaction?

2. Some would consider Solomon's view of life as pessimistic. What does Jesus say about life in John 10:10 or Paul's view in 1 Corinthians 15:58? Would you consider your life be as described by Jesus and Paul? Explain!