

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN LIFE?

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

By Dr. Gary M. Gulan, ©1991

Introduction: The word "profit" (v3) means "gain" or "advantage" it is a banking term with the idea of "that which is left over after a transaction is complete".

What will you have left over when your life is all said and done?

Views of the book of ecclesiastes:

1. Written by an old man who had become bitter and resentful about life.
(Solomon having seen the kingdom destroyed around him and knowing it would be lost after he leaves the scene).
2. Written by a man having a mid-life crisis.
(Solomon seeing the kingdom break apart and unable to stop it)
3. Written by a man reviewing what life really is from all angles to make a point.
(preacher-"qahal" "6953\1991c" not a proper name "qohelet", but a description, "one who convenes an assembly-preacher", or "one who assembles together thought-teacher" .

I believe this is a journal or diary Solomon put together on his life seeing where he went wrong and now knowing what he should have done with his life. (used 7xs, 1:1,2,12,7:27, 12:8,9,10; key 2: 12:13,14)

Solomon did have quite a life experience. (40 years a king, 1 Kings 2:12-11:

1. received a kingdom from his father.
2. began as a humble servant.
3. investigated wealth, politics, knowledge world wide.
4. involved himself in other religions.
5. explored various avenues of pleasure and women.
6. watched his kingdom become corrupt.
7. realized he lost the kingdom, 1 Kings 11: (rehoam his son, not jerhoboam)

Theme: There are four items most humans want out of life but fail to secure.

I. A DIFFERENCE SURROUNDING LIFE 1:4-7

Did you ever feel like you were living life in circles: such as....

- A. generations come and go v4
- B. days and time come and go, v5
- C. wind comes and goes same wind world wide(seasons) v6
- D. rivers run into sea 97% of all water is in the ocean
.0001 of available water for rain, 10 days worth

II. A FULFILLMENT WITHIN LIFE 1:8

- A. toilsomeness to life "full of labour" build it to enjoy and you need to maintain it.
ILL. siding commerical

B. senses never satisfied.

ILL. catalogue mail order, and sends

III. A NEWNESS TO LIFE 1:9-10

A. The more you change life the more it is still the same, v9

B. personal discovering doesn't mean original creativeness, v10

IV. AN ACCOMPLISHMENT AT THE END OF LIFE 1:11

A. we lost the wealth of knowledge from the past

B. we have no lasting value to our lives on earth

Conclusion:

OBSERVATIONS/APPLICATIONS OF SOLOMON'S QUEST:

1. futility to life because of our humanness, v1
2. where do people come from, why here, where do they go, v4
3. can't explain man's unproductiveness apart from God, v7
4. the perspective of life: under the sun, really above the clouds, v9

Only one item can make a difference to the "futility", "toil" or "meaninglessness" of life:
that is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.