

UNDER THE SUN

THE CAUTIONARY BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

SOLOMON'S BACKSTORY:

1 Chronicles 28:9

1 Kings 2:2-3

1 Kings 3:1

2 Chronicles 1:7-12

1 Kings 10:23

2 Chronicles 7:17-18

1 Kings 11:1-8

The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:

"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher.

"Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."

(Ecclesiastes 1:1-2)

- WISDOM (1:12-18; 2:12-16)
- PLEASURE (2:1-10)
- WEALTH (5:10-6:2)
- WORK (2:11, 17-24; 3:22; 5:18)

THE MISSING PIECE: Ecclesiastes 2:26; 8:12; 12:13-14 (see also 2 Chronicles 7:14)

TRANSFORMED BY THE TRUTH

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

1. Have you read the Book of Ecclesiastes before? If so, what do you remember learning from it? Why do you think God included it in Scripture?
2. Read 1 Chronicles 28:9, then 1 Kings 2:2-3, then 2 Chronicles 7:17-18. What did God expect of King Solomon? Do you think He expects the same of us? Why or why not?
3. Read 1 Kings 11:1-8 and 2 Corinthians 6:14-18. How do your relationships with other people affect your relationship with God? Why?
4. Read Ecclesiastes 1-2. Do you think the perspective Solomon has on life in these chapters is accurate? Why or why not?
5. Read Ecclesiastes 2:26; 8:12 and 12:13-14. How do you think your (vertical) relationship with God has affected your (horizontal) perspective on life? Is there anything you need to change vertically to improve your life horizontally?