

Greetings, Dear Friend!

Welcome to **“Ecclesiastes!”**

We hope you’ll put the enclosed sheets in your nifty BBOM Notebook.

As you read, remember the Swedish Marking System:

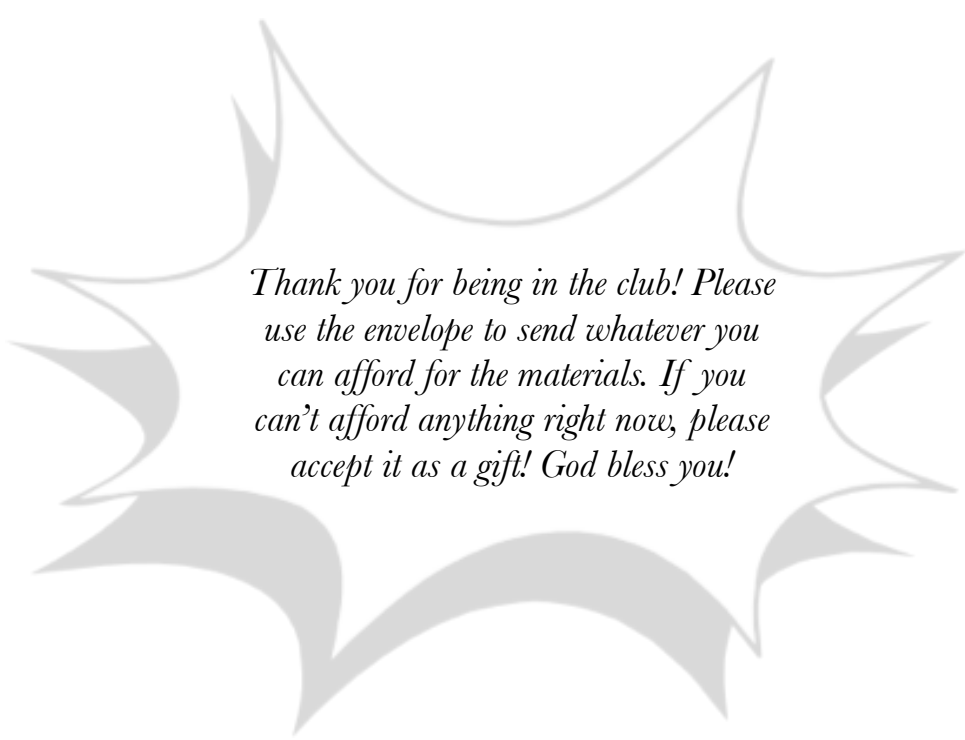
- ❓ Something I don’t understand, or would like to know more about, etc.
- ★ Something I think is really good, helpful, inspiring, etc.
- ➔ Something I need to think about, work on, etc.

Questions? Comments? Feel free to write or call:

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Thank you for being in the club! Please use the envelope to send whatever you can afford for the materials. If you can't afford anything right now, please accept it as a gift! God bless you!

Title

The term “Ecclesiastes” means, “an assembly.”

You might have heard before the Greek word “ecclesia,” which is the word often rendered in the New Testament as “church.”

Imagine an assembly of Jewish people as they assemble to listen to the “preacher” or “teacher” (who is most likely King Solomon. See **1:1-2, 12; 7:27; 12:8-10**).

The perspective of life here is life lived “under the sun” (as opposed to taking above the sun into account). As you read, note the number of times “under the sun” is mentioned (30 times).

One conclusion is that life is not worth living, because it is full of “vanity” or emptiness (the term for “vanity” occurs over 30 times in this book).

Outline

Ecclesiastes 1–2 The Preacher concludes that everything in this life is vanity or fleeting and will not last. In support of this conclusion, he shares various efforts he made to find meaning and purpose in life. He sought after frivolity and pleasure, built “great works” (**2:4**), and gained riches, but found that none of it satisfied him.

Ecclesiastes 3 The Preacher explains that good and bad things happen to everyone. The works of man do not last. The works of God, however, are eternal.

Ecclesiastes 4–8 The Preacher teaches that although this life is temporary and all will one day die, there are things we can do to find contentment in this life. He also identifies things that will surely lead to an unfulfilled life, including oppressing others, accumulating wealth for no other purpose than to have more than another, and failing to seek wisdom.

Ecclesiastes 9–10 The Preacher asserts that both the wicked and the righteous will experience tragedy. Everyone has a limited amount of time on this earth, and will benefit much more from gaining wisdom than from gaining riches or power.

Ecclesiastes 11–12 The Preacher concludes that unlike most things in life, obedience to God’s commandments is of lasting importance, because one day we will die, our spirits will return to God, and He will judge us according to the way we lived during our mortal lives.

Compare life “under the sun” with life under the Son:

Ecc. 1:3	—	Philippians 1:6
Ecc. 1:9	—	2 Corinthians 5:17
Ecc. 1:14	—	1 Corinthians 15:58
Ecc. 6:12	—	John 3:16
Ecc. 8:15	—	Philippians 2:13
Ecc. 9:3	—	1 John 5:11
Ecc. 12:2	—	1 John 5:13

Note

The Jews have a custom of reading Ecclesiastes once a year during the festival of tents.

Read aloud as you reflect on the OT accounts of their ancestors living in tents in the wilderness.

A Good Memory Verse Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

13

Now all has been heard;
here is the conclusion of the matter:
Fear God and keep his commandments,
for this is the duty of all mankind.

14

For God will bring every deed into judgment,
including every hidden thing,
whether it is good or evil.