



## Outline of Old Testament: Ecclesiastes by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

**Ecclesiastes = The Preacher**  
Solomon Authored It

**[God Is Purposeful]**  
Blueprint for Redemption

### I. **Searching Garbage For Gems 1:1-10:20**

#### A. *Aimless Living* **1:1-11**

1. No God, no goal **1:1-3**
2. The wheel of life stops for no one **1:4-8**
3. History repeats itself again and again **1:9-11**
4. Know what?
  - a. God gives inquisitiveness **1:12-15**
  - b. Man finds no answer **1:16-18**

#### B. *Tasteless Life* **2:1-26**

1. Belly laughs **2:1-2**
2. Barroom brawl **2:3**
3. Landscaping lunacy **2:4-6**
4. *Fortune 500* **2:7-8**
5. Famously figured **2:9-10**
6. Blue-sate Special **2:11-23**
  - a. No profit in it **2:11**
  - b. No difference to it **2:12**
  - c. No distinction from a fool **2:13-16**
  - d. No future for it **2:17-23**
7. God gives:
  - a. "Taste buds" for life **2:24-26**
  - b. Time slots for experiences **3:1-8**
  - c. Temporal vistas of the future **3:9-11**
  - d. Transparency to purpose **3:12-13**

#### C. *Busi-ness Life* **3:14-5:20**

1. God decrees "checkout" is at death's door, so "shop till you drop" **3:14-15**
2. Bad business deals **3:16-4:3**
  - a. mislabeled goods **3:16**

- b. misinformed "customers" **3:17**
    - c. misunderstood pricing **3:18-4:3**
  - 3. Keen competition **4:4-8**
    - a. Envied by the lazy **4:4-6**
    - b. "Singles" miss the sharing **4:7-12**
    - c. It can get lonely at the top **4:13-16**
  - 4. Better Business' Seven Bureaus **5:1-7**
    - a. Cautiously contract **5:1-3**
    - b. Promptly pay **5:4-5**
    - c. Speak honestly **5:6-7**
    - d. Remember "the people" **5:8-9**
    - e. Limit desires **5:10-12**
    - f. Be generous to the needy **5:13-17**      **Romans 12:3;**  
**Galatians 6:3**
    - g. Give God the glory **5:18-20**      **Luke 12:15;**  
**Philippians 4:11**
- D. *Use-le\$\$ Life* **6:1-8:15**
  - 1. Every silver lining has a cloud **6:1-12**    **1 Timothy 6:7-10,17-19**
  - 2. Hi Ho Silver -- Away! **7:1-8:15**
    - a. 6 "better" things **7:1-8**
    - b. Haste not to:
      - (1 live in offenses and be angry **7:9**
      - (2 live in the past **7:10**
      - (3 live ignorantly and not learn wisdom **7:11-12**
    - c. The same God who gives can take **7:13-14**
    - d. No one is too good to die or too bad to live **7:15-20**
    - e. Don't listen to everything others say **7:21-22**
    - f. No one is exempt from losing **7:23-8:1**
    - g. Respect government **8:2-9**
    - h. The wicked don't ever "win" **8:10-14**
    - i. Enjoyment of life lasts **8:15**
- E. Where is that "pot of gold?" **8:16-10:20**
  - 1. Ever learning without the degree **8:16-9:6**      **2 Timothy 3:7**
    - a. No one knows all that God does **8:16-17**
    - b. No one knows "love" or "hate" without God **9:1**
    - c. No one escapes death **9:2-6**
      - (1 All will die **9:2-3**
      - (2 Earthly life ceases with death **9:4-6**
    - d. Enjoy life to its fullest:
      - 1) doing good before death **9:7-8**
      - 2) marriage **9:9**
      - 3) job **9:10**
      - 4) aging **9:11-12**
      - 5) don't expect to be adequately rewarded **9:13-17**
  - 2. Fooling around with fools **9:18-10:20**

- a. who ruin a good reputation **9:18-10:7**
- b. who live recklessly **10:8-10**
- c. who speak dangerously **10:11-15**
- d. who don't plan ahead **10:16-19**
- e. who "mouth off" about the powerful **10:20**

## **II. Sacred Sense For The Otherwise Senseless 11:1-12:14**

- A. "What we don't know may hurt us," especially if we... **11:1-8**
  - 1. Fail to do good because of potential evil **11:1-4**
  - 2. Fail to notice all God is constantly doing **11:5-6**
  - 3. Fail to consider the "days of darkness" in life **11:7-8**
  - 4. Fail to rid ourselves of sorrow and evil **11:9-10**
- B. Pre-paid Funeral or Prepared Finish? **12:1-8**
- C. The only "insurance policy" that pays *the dead* **12:9-14**
  - 1. Set forth in "many proverbs" and "words of truth" **12:9-10**
  - 2. Driven into scholarly thinking like nails **12:11**
  - 3. More than learned by publishing and studying books **12:12**
  - 4. Only rewards those who have prepared early in life **12:1,13-14**

## ***Expounding Ecclesiastes:***

- The Writer is wiser than all before him **Cf Ecclesiastes 1:16; 1 Kings 3:12.**
- No mention is made of "Jehovah" or Moses' Law, but by using "God" (**Hebrew, Elohim**) he speaks universally about the need for God in one's life.
- "Vanity" is used 28 times; "under the sun" 29 times to clearly *show this life is not what it is all about*. Contrast this with *Hindu* belief of "transmigration of the soul" or continuing to come back to earthly existence until one gets it right; OR *Materialists'* view that there are "no rules, just right;" OR *Spiritualism's* desire for a messenger or a message "from the other side" to make sense and give meaning to someone's life without God.
- If there is a time for everything (and there is, **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**), there must be times devoted to thanking God for our blessings **Cf Ecclesiastes 2:24; 3:12; 5:18; 8:15; 9:7; 12:13-14**. Fools don't thank God **Cf Romans 1:18-25**.
- "These three books may be thus summarized:  
In *Job* you have piety without prosperity;  
In *Proverbs* you have piety and prosperity;  
In *Ecclesiastes* you have prosperity without piety."  
---**George Henderson, The Wonderful Word, Page 36,**  
**B. McCall Barbour, 28 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh 1, Scotland**
- This book shows how really poor the worldly rich actually may be **Cf Revelation 3:17**. (OR, The *real* "Stock Market Crash")
- Figures of speech probably borrowed from the Preacher:  
The march of mankind = **1:4**  
*The Sun Also Rises* = **1:5**  
The rivers run into the sea = **1:7**  
You don't want to know = **2:18**  
There is a time for everything = **3:1-8**  
"Everything is beautiful in its own way" = **3:11**  
History repeats itself = **3:15**  
He died before his time = **7:17**  
You're one in a thousand = **7:28**  
You have the smile of knowledge = **8:1**  
It's better to be a living dog than a dead lion = **9:4**