

**MOTIVATION AND INTRODUCTION TO STUDYING ECCLESIASTES**  
**LESSON 2 – 1:1-15**

1. What are the questions of life?
2. What are the issues that make them difficult to answer?
3. Why is it important to answer these questions?
4. Can anybody avoid these questions?
5. What is the problem observed in the introduction of the book?
6. What is the question that the author raises based on this problem?
7. What is the implication of the “circuit” upon the existence of purpose? (1:4 – 8)
8. What is it that man cannot express? (1:8)
9. What is the significance of the facts that nothing new is found under the sun, and one generation forgets the previous? (1:9 – 11)
10. What is the task given to the sons of men? Who ordained it? What is its purpose? (1:13)
11. What are the crooked things, and why can the things lacking not be numbered? (1:14 – 15)

**QUEST TO FIND PROFIT IN LABOR**  
**LESSON 3 – 1:16 – 2:26**

1. Describe the kind of “profit” being sought?
2. Is the author boasting of his wisdom in 1:16? What is the purpose of his statement?
3. How does wisdom ultimately produce grief and sorrow? (1:18)
4. Does this include wisdom that is “from above” (**James 3:17**)? Explain.
5. How does mirth and laughter produce “madness”? (2:1 – 2)
6. Did the author experiment with unbridled drunkenness? What is the lesson? (2:3)
7. What works did Solomon accomplish so that he might see “what was good for the sons of men to do under heaven all the days of their lives”? (2:3)
8. Why is it important that his wisdom stayed with him in these pursuits? (2:9)
9. What did profit did he find from his labor (2:10 – 11)
10. What ultimate advantage did his wisdom offer? (2:12 – 16)
11. What attitude in Solomon did these unfulfilling experiences produce? (2:17)
12. What thought, or concern made this attitude worse? (2:18 – 19)
13. What was the final fruit of this attitude? (2:20 – 23)
14. Explain how these endeavors and their related observances produced the conclusion found in 2:24 – 26.

**QUEST TO UNDERSTAND GOD’S PURPOSES**  
**LESSON 4 – 3:1-5:20**

1. Who determines the timing of the seasons under heaven? (3:1-8; Acts 17:26-27)
2. How will the wise respond to these times? (3:1-8, 16-17; 8:5-6)
3. What question is still under consideration? (3:9)
4. What new avenue is explored as a means of answering this question? (3:9-11)
5. Explain how the lesson of verses 3:10-11 produces the conclusion found in 3:12-13.
6. What resolution is offered for the injustice described in 3:16? (3:17)
7. How is man like the animals? What is the purpose of this? (3:18-21)
8. Explain how this lesson again produces our repeated conclusion found in 3:22.
9. What evil is described in 4:1-3? How does this reflect on the conclusion as it has been developed thus far?
10. What kind of labor is encouraged in 4:4-8?
11. What is the advantage of companionship? (4:9-12)
12. What is the vanity described in 4:13-16?
13. Contrast the prudence that is admonished with foolishness described in 5:1-7.
14. Why are we not to marvel at “oppression of the poor” and the “violent perversion of justice”? (5:8-9)

15. What is the vanity of heaping up treasures for ourselves? (5:10-11)
16. What makes the misfortunes “evil” that are described in 5:13-17?
17. Why do these lessons produce the repeated conclusion found in 5:18?
18. What understanding has been added to the conclusion? (5:18-20)

**QUEST FOR WHAT IS “BEST” IN THIS LIFE**  
**LESSON 5 – 6:1-9:12**

1. What blessings does God give to the man described in 6:1-6?
2. What vanity, or evil does he suffer? (6:1-6)
3. How is a stillborn infant better than this man? (6:1-6)
4. Why can labor never satisfy? (6:7)
5. What is the key to finding enjoyment with the blessings we have been given? (6:7-9)
6. Explain how verses 10 through 11 of chapter 6 fit into the context.
7. To what question does the author’s attention shift in 6:11-12?
8. What common theme does the verses in 7:1-12 have? How does it fit into the discussion?
9. Explain why the day of one’s death is better than one’s birth. (7:1)
10. Why is the heart of the wise in the house of mourning? (7:4)
11. How is the “rebuke of the wise” better than the “song of fools”? (7:5-7)
12. What is different about the anger that Jesus exhibited and that which “rests in the bosom of fools”? (7:8-9; Mark 3:1-6)
13. Why is it unwise to look back to the “good ol’ days”? (7:10)
14. How are wisdom and money alike, but different? (7:12)
15. How do the wise react to the days of “prosperity” and “adversity”? (7:13-14)

16. What example is listed that requires the ultimate application of the lesson just taught? (7:15)
17. How can you be “overly righteous”? (7:16-18)
18. What fact do the wise recognize about their righteousness before God? What impact will this have on their reaction to others’ sins against them? (7:20-22)
19. What did the author seek out and what tool did he use? (7:23-25)
20. Did he find what was “best”? What did he find? (7:26-28)
21. What bearing does the finding in 7:29 have on the questions of life, for which the author is seeking answers?
22. Why should we obey the king, or government? (8:2-5)
23. What should we keep in mind when the judgments are delayed or unjust? (8:5-9)
24. What is the vanity, or evil described in 8:10-14?
25. Why does that lead to the repeated conclusion found in 8:15?
26. What did the wise man seek to find but could not? (8:16-9:2)
27. Why is “madness” in man’s heart while he lives? What is prompting this wickedness? (9:3)
28. How do we harmonize 9:4-6 with 7:1-8?
29. What has been added to the repeated conclusion, and what is the logical source driving the conclusion? (9:7-10)
30. What is the final finding of the author’s efforts to reconcile this world with a person’s efforts? (9:11-12)

## **THE SUM OF ALL THINGS**

### **LESSON 6 – 9:13-12:14**

1. What virtue is commended in 9:13-10:20?
2. How is wisdom better than strength? (9:13-16)
3. How can we hear the quiet whisper of the wise over the shouting of the fools? (9:17)
4. What two kinds of “destruction of good” are described in 9:18-10:7?
5. What makes the difference between the wise and the fool? (9:2-3)
6. What advice is given in 10:8-10 that will help the wise find ultimate success? (8:8-10)
7. Why does the fool not speak as the wise? (10:11-15)
8. Why is the land better by having a king who is the son of nobles and princes who feast at the proper time? (10:16-19)
9. If our land does not have such wise rulers, how should we respond? (10:20)
10. What reaction to the currently developed thoughts do you think the author is anticipating and confronting in 11:1-6?
11. How can we “cast our bread upon the waters”? (11:1)
12. What advantage is to be had from previously giving to 7, or 8 when evil comes upon the earth? (11:2)
13. What happens to the person who is always looking for the perfect conditions to begin a task? (11:3-4)
14. If we do not understand, or know what will prosper us, how should we invest? (11:5-6)

15. Can life be pleasant? What should we always keep in mind while enjoying it? (11:7-8)
16. What 3 pieces of advice (the three R's) does Solomon give to the young? (11:9-12:1)
17. What are the "evil" days to come? (12:1)
18. Relate these "evil" days to the poetic description found in 12:2-7.
19. How do the "evil" days end? (12:6-8)
20. How did the author live the rest of his life? (12:9-10)
21. What virtue drove him to do this? (12:9-10)
22. What are the characteristics of the "words of the wise", and how are they imbued with these characteristics? (12:11)
23. Will man ever be able to write, or find a book that answers all the questions under the sun? What will be the result of this pursuit? (12:12)
24. What is the concluding direction given by the author? (12:13)
25. How does this advice sum up the "whole matter"? (12:13)
26. What final warning is offered as a reminder for motivating this admonishment? (12:14)
27. What are the questions of life, and what are their answers? (This will be on the final exam. ... I'll be sitting in the desk next to you, taking the exam too.)