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2

Ecclesiastes Lesson 2

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“Even in laughter the heart may be in pain, and the end of joy may be grief.” Proverbs 14:13

4

Chapter 1: three conclusions:



- ▶ 1:13 God has given (appointed) man a “grievous task,” the quest for meaning.
- ▶ 1:14 “All is vanity” = mankind desires some sense of satisfaction in life, but it eludes him.
- ▶ 1:15 No matter how hard man tries, he can’t straighten out life’s problems or find true meaning “under the sun.”

3

Solomon’s accomplishments:



- ▶ I Kings 7:1-12 the house he built for himself; took 13 years!
- ▶ I Kings 9:15-19 Solomon’s other projects: the temple, his house, the Millo, Jerusalem’s walls, Hazor, Megiddo, Gezer, Beth-Horon, Balaath, Tamar, storage cities, cities for chariots and horsemen, fortified cities (II Chr 8:3-6; II Chr 9:25)
- ▶ I Kings 9:26-28 a fleet of ships! (with Hiram, King of Tyre)
- ▶ I Kings 10:5 his own stairway to go from his house up to the temple
- ▶ I Kings 10:16-17 his arsenal of weapons (II Chr 9:15-16)
- ▶ I Kings 10:18-20 his throne, the steps, and the platform (II Chr 9:17-19)
- ▶ I Kings 10:24-29 Solomon’s imports (II Chr 9:21-24)
II Chr 9:21 gold, silver, ivory, **apes & peacocks!**

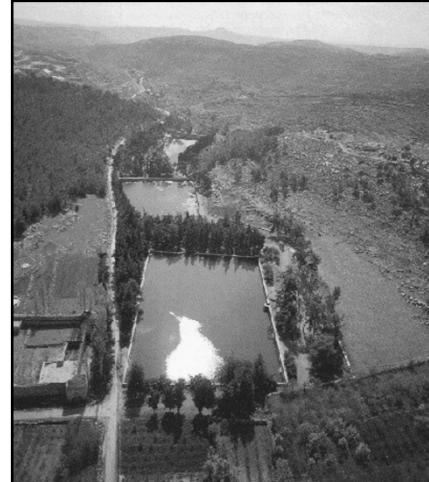
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Solomon's accomplishments:

Vineyards, gardens, parks, fruit trees:

- ▶ Song of Sol 8:11 "Solomon had a vineyard at Baal-hamon; He entrusted the vineyard to caretakers...."
- ▶ I Kings 10:11-12 "brought in from Ophir a great number of almug trees...such trees have not come in again nor have they been seen to this day."
- ▶ II Chr 9:27 plentiful cedar trees and sycamore trees

6



7

Eccl 2:6
"ponds of water" in
the valley
of Artas Eccl 2:7 "male and female slaves"

- ▶ I Kings 9:15, 20-22 initially only from the conquest of the land
- ▶ I Kings 11:28 forced labor of the house of Joseph
- ▶ I Kings 12:3-17 later included those of Israel; caused split in Rehoboam's reign
- ▶ I Kings 4:6-19; 5:13-17 conscripted labor from Israel to build Solomon's projects: worked one month and were off two months

8

"So King Solomon became greater than all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom." II Chr 9:22

9

10

“Therefore I completely despaired of all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun.” Eccl 2:20

11

Summary of his plight:

- ▶ 2:22 “what does a man get?”
- ▶ 2:23 a raw view of life:
 - ▶ days are painful and grievous
 - ▶ nights are restless and stressful
 - ▶ Vanity! HEBEL!

12

“There is nothing better than...”

- ▶ 2:24 “There is nothing better for man than to eat and drink and tell himself that his labor is good. This also I have seen that it is from the hand of God.”
- ▶ 3:12-13 “I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and do the good in one’s lifetime...it is the gift of God.”
- ▶ 3:22 “I have seen that nothing is better than that man should be happy in his activities....”
- ▶ 8:15 “...there is nothing good for a man...except to eat and to drink and to be merry, and this will stand by him in his toils throughout the days of his life which God has given him under the sun.”

13

“Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.” I Tim 6:17

14

15



“One day Son all this will be yours.”

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“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that *your toil is not in vain in the Lord.*” I Cor 15:58

16