

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 In Search of Meaning

What makes someone wise? What is it about them that causes you to consider them to be wise?

Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-11.

1. What can you find out about the "Teacher" from the following verses?

a) Eccles. 1:1

b) Eccles. 1: 12-18

c) Eccles. 12:9-14

2. What is the Teacher's opening theory about life?

3. How does he explain and illustrate this theory (vv. 3-11)?

4. A key expression which describes the Teacher's search of life is "under the sun" (v3). Given that the answer to that search is 'meaningless, What do you think under the sun means?

5. The Preacher clearly has a perceptive understanding of the natural world (as verses 4-7 show). But what impression does he give of humanity's ability to deeply penetrate the meaning of things?

6. How does verse 11 further add to how meaningless life under the sun is?

Ecclesiastes' meaninglessness points us to the answer Jesus

7. What is the purpose of life according to Jesus? Read Mark 8:34-38

8. Read Revelation 21:1-5 Why does life under The Son make sense?

9. List some key ways that living life 'under The SON' will look different to living it 'under the sun'?

Implications

- A non-Christian friend phones to say he/she is fed up with living, and sees no point in going on. What advice would you give in light of this study?
- Read Romans 8:18-25, When is it appropriate for believers to mourn and groan, and why? What will be the ultimate outcome, and when?
- Many would consider knowledge of God as unnecessary to be truly wise. Some would even see spiritual beliefs as a hindrance to being wise. Why might people think this way?

Give thanks and pray

- Thank God for the realism we find in Ecclesiastes—for the fact that his word does not gloss over or ignore the realities of life "under the sun".
- Spend some time praying for your friends and neighbours that you would be better equipped to take advantage of opportunities for speaking about Jesus and the meaning of life when they come up.