

Theme : What's it all about? (A study in Ecclesiastes)

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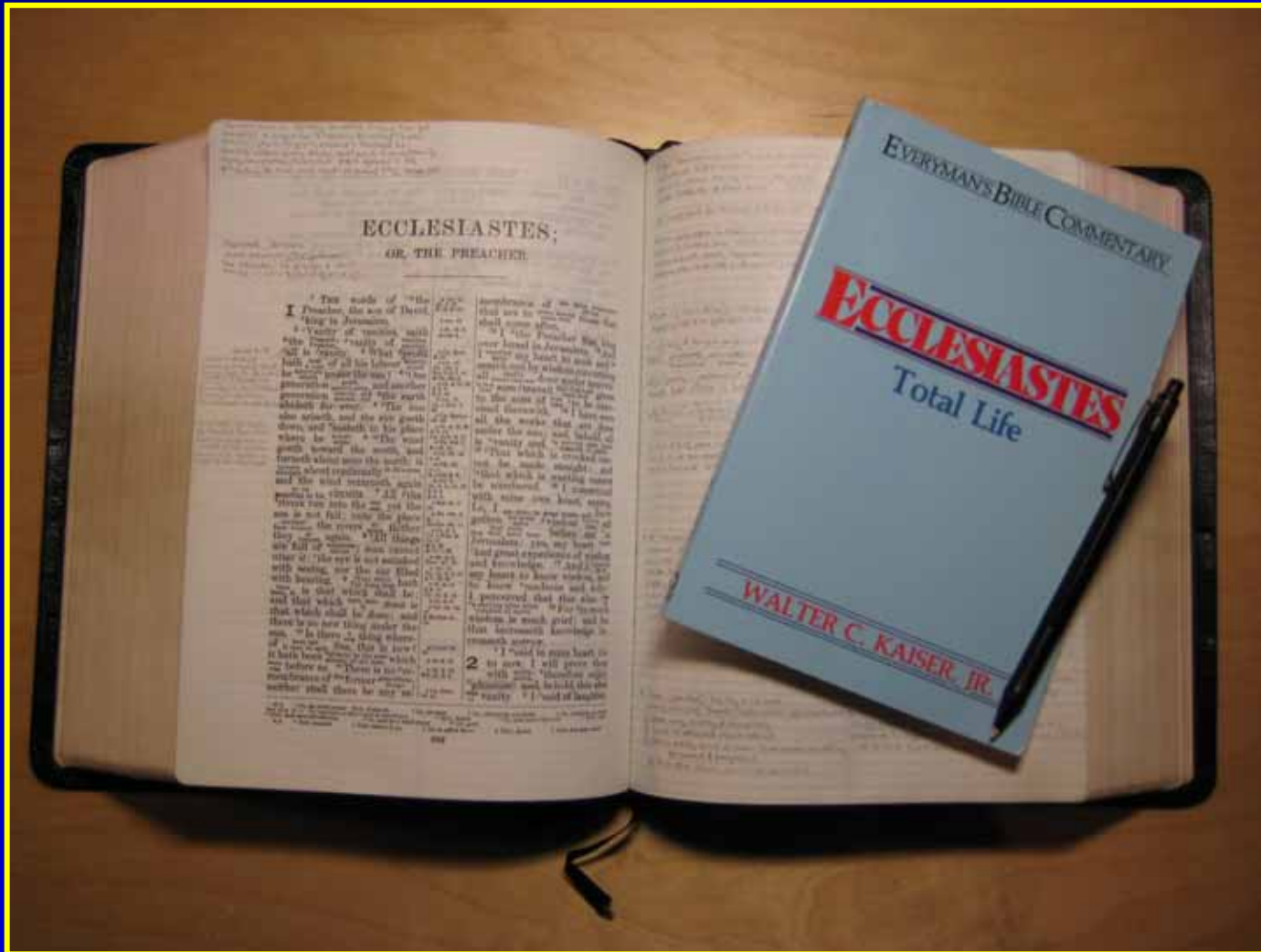
Things are not what they seem!



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Halifax YW 2008

# The Structure of Ecclesiastes



Source for Ecclesiastes Structure – Total Life, Walter Kaiser  
– Princeton Review (1857)

# The Structure of Ecclesiastes

<b>Section 1</b> [Eccl 1v1-2v24]	<b>Enjoying Life as a gift from God</b>
<b>Section 2</b> [Eccl 3v1-5v20]	<b>Understand that God has an all embracing plan</b>
<b>Section 3</b> [Eccl 6v1-8v15]	<b>Explaining and applying God's plan to real life situations</b>
<b>Section 4</b> [Eccl 8v16-12v12]	<b>A believer's reaction to the prospect of God's plan</b>
	<b>Final Summary &amp; Conclusion</b> [Eccl 12v12-14]

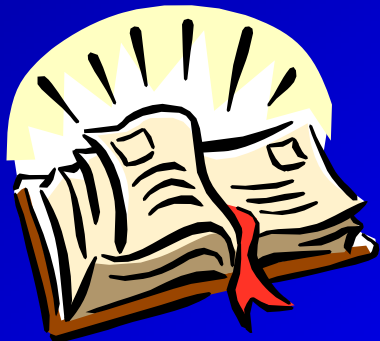


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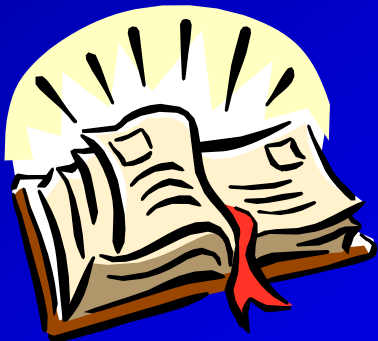
<p><b>Conclusion 1</b> [Eccl 2v24-26]</p>	<p>"there is no good in man that he should eat and drink and make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw that it was from the hand of God"</p>
<p><b>Conclusion 2</b> [Eccl 5v18-20]</p>	<p>"it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink and to enjoy the good of all his labour...which God giveth him: for it is his portion."</p>
<p><b>Conclusion 3</b> [Eccl 8v12-15]</p>	<p>"I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat and to drink and to be merry: for that shall abide with him of his labour the days of his life which God giveth him under the sun."</p>



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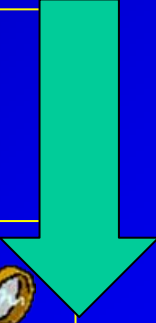
<b>Conclusion 1</b> [Eccl 2v24-26]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Without God man cannot be satisfied</li><li>• God gifts wisdom &amp; joy to the good (v26)</li><li>• To the sinner God gives travail (v26)</li></ul>
<b>Conclusion 2</b> [Eccl 5v18-20]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Life is not dreary when lived to the plan</li><li>• Enjoyment not accumulation is the key</li><li>• Mankind should learn to enjoy not worry</li></ul>
<b>Conclusion 3</b> [Eccl 8v12-15]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Justice &amp; judgement may be delayed but they are inevitable</li><li>• God's gift of enjoyment is to be preferred above all</li></ul>



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# How worthy are the wealthy?

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## Conclusion 1 (chp2):

v26 For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but unto the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God.

## Conclusion 2 (chp5):

v19 Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God.



# Joy – a gift from God in itself!

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“This also I saw is from the hand of God; for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment?”

# How worthy are the wealthy?

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# The rich (fool)

## Luke 12v17-19

**“What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, “This will I do, I will pull down my barns and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat drink and be merry.”**

# A wealth of advice!

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## Ecclesiastes (chp5) [NIV]:

- v1 I have seen another evil under the sun, and it weighs heavily upon a men.
- v2 God gives a man wealth, possessions and honor, so that he lacks nothing his heart desires, but God does not enable him to enjoy them...this is meaningless, a greivous evil.
- v7 All man's efforts are for his mouth yet his appetite is never satisfied.
- v8 What advantage has a wise man over a fool? What does a poor man gain by knowing how to conduct himself before others.
- v9 Better what the eye sees than the roving of the appetite...



# Conclusion 1

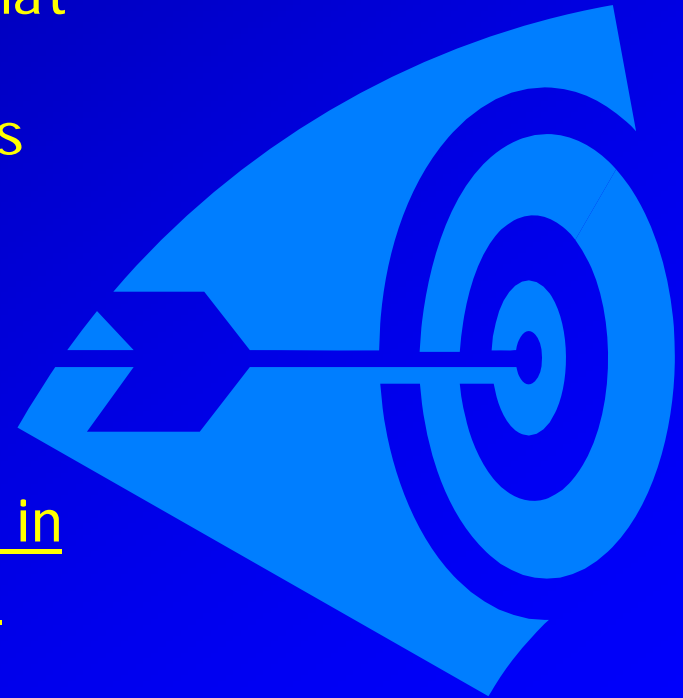
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## Conclusion 1 (chp2) [RV] corrected:

v24 *There is no (inherent) good in man that he should eat and drink and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw that it was from the hand of God.*

v25 For who can eat or who can have enjoyment *apart from him.*

v26 For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but unto the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God.

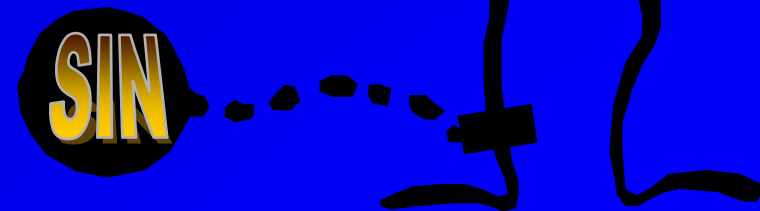


# A fundamental principle

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“For there is not a just man upon earth,  
that doeth good, and sinneth not.”

Ecclesiastes 7v20 : [AV]



# Miserable comforters!

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“Is not thy wickedness great? Are your sins not endless?  
You stripped men of their clothing, leaving them naked...  
You gave no water to the weary...  
You sent widows away empty handed...  
**THAT IS WHY SNARES ARE ALL AROUND YOU!”**

Job 22v5-10 : [NIV]

# What He makes crooked stays crooked!

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- v8 The LORD openeth the eyes of the blind: the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down: the LORD loveth the righteous.
- v9 The LORD preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow; but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down."

Psalm 146 : [AV]

Avath : [ST H5791]

"maketh crooked" (Eccl 1v15, 7v13)

# Suffer Him to teach you...

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"My son, despise not thou the chastening of the LORD,  
Nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:  
For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth,  
And scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."

Hebrews 12v5-6 : [AV]

Quote from: Proverbs 3v11-12 : [AV]



# US or THEM?

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## Ecclesiastes 8v11

"Because sentence against the evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the **sons of men** is fully set in them to do evil."

## Ecclesiastes 9v3

"The heart of the **sons of men** is full of evil and madness is in their heart while they live."

## Ecclesiastes 9v12

"But time and chance happeneth to them all... As the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the **sons of men** snared in an evil time, when it falleth upon them."

# US or THEM?

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## Ecclesiastes 9v12

"But time and chance happeneth to them all... As the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth upon them."



## Luke 21v34 (NRSV)

"Be on guard to that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth so be alert at all times!"

# US or THEM?

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## Ecclesiastes 9v12

"But time and chance happeneth to **them** all... As the birds that are **caught in the snare**; so are the **sons of men** snared in an evil time, when it falleth upon them."



## 1 Thessalonians 5v1-3 (AV)

"But of the times and seasons brethren **ye** have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when **they** shall say Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon **them**, as travail upon a woman with child; and **they** shall in not escape."

# What's your prayer priority?

## Matthew 6 : [AV]

v7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

v8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of before ye ask him.

v9 After this manner therefore pray ye: **Our Father which art in heaven,**  
**Hallowed by thy name.**

v10 **Thy kingdom come...**



(1) Address Him

(2) Honour Him

(3) Pray for His kingdom