

*What Is Your Source?*

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*All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.*

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## INTRODUCTION

One of most interesting characters in all of the Old Testament is King Solomon. Sometimes spiritual and sometimes worldly, he represents so much about how to function in this world. His life and his writings reveal both the right way and the wrong way to follow after God.

The book of Ecclesiastes is a testimony of the things Solomon went through as he pursued various lifestyles. His wealth was so great that he had everything and did just about everything. Whatever he set his heart to do, he did. This led Solomon down some wrong roads that left him feeling lonely and defeated at the close of his life.

Still, God inspired him to write Ecclesiastes as a warning to those who would lose sight of Jesus Christ, the Source of all blessings. The emptiness and meaninglessness Solomon endured need not be our experience.

This could be one of the most practical book-

lets you may ever read. Take its content to heart, and scores of spiritual possibilities could explode within you as you consider your one true Source of blessing. These thoughts will become spiritual gold for your soul—treasure that goes way beyond earthly gold—if you will choose to receive it.

## *Chapter One*

# THE TEST OF PROSPERITY

When Solomon first inherited his kingdom, he prayed for wisdom and he received wisdom from God. He had been taught all kinds of Bible doctrine. The breadth of his kingdom went from the Euphrates River to the Mediterranean Sea. The kings and rulers of surrounding nations esteemed him as one of the greatest leaders known to men. Brilliant in business, he taught the Phoenicians how to use their shipping fleets, and those fleets carried on for six hundred years after Solomon was gone.

Every three years during his reign, shipments of gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks arrived in Israel. The peacocks and apes particularly revealed Solomon's boredom at this point in his life. He brought in those creatures for their beauty and for amusement, and here is a great principle: Solomon had grown bored with the beauty and power of doctrine and communing

with the Lord. He made his kingdom so wealthy that silver carried little value in those days. Everything was made out of gold and ivory, including the very throne the king sat on and the shields his soldiers carried. All of the articles and utensils in Solomon's household were crafted out of gold as well.

### *Distractions and Depression*

Solomon reached the spiritual pinnacle of maturity and then failed the impetus test of materialism. How? He forgot the Source of his blessings—Jesus Christ.

This can happen to any Christian anywhere. In marriage, a husband may become insensitive and does not realize the spiritual design of his wife. Then, the wife may become occupied with her husband's neglect. Both parties have forgotten their Source of blessing.

Someone can get very busy with work and become overwhelmed with a heavy schedule. When he begins to feel depressed, he has forgotten his Source.

Others are overwhelmed by the accusations the world promotes against them. Instead of turning to the Source of all blessings for edification, they submit to the enemy's accusations,



and paranoia slowly creeps into their lives.

### *Foundering in Flattery*

Solomon was flattered by everyone. The governors lavished him with gold. Kings and queens came with more gold. He and Hiram—ruler of Tyre—started up their shipping and trade business.

It was said of Solomon, “There is nothing he cannot do.” God gave him wisdom. His father, King David, beautifully taught him Bible doctrine. His wonderful mother, Bathsheba, was a godly, intelligent, humble influence on his life, in spite of how she came to be David’s wife.

Solomon had everything going for him. Everything, that is, but the joy that comes from the Source of all blessings.

## *Chapter Two*

# EMPTY PURSUITS

"The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem

"Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity" (Ecclesiastes 1:1-2).

Solomon's spiritual downfalls did not begin with going after foreign women and their gods. Neither did He turn to wine and pleasure, at first. No, the first thing he went after was an education that did not bring him closer to God—an accumulation of knowledge for the sheer pleasure of the pursuit. That stands as the first and biggest mistake he made in his life.

When Solomon wrote this book, he started it out—oddly enough—with the premise of his conclusion: "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity."

To paraphrase it, the Preacher—or Messenger—sees life as meaningless and empty of purpose. Solomon saw his life as meaningless, as having no purpose, and as a result, he was

empty. What other conclusion could he come to after leaving the Word of God and forgetting his Source, Jesus Christ? He failed the impetus test of success in his life.

At first, the flattery did not trouble him. When Solomon lived according to Bible doctrine, the flattering words of the Queen of Sheba and all the others did not matter to him. Flattery did not touch him as long as he was filled with the Word of God. Flattery, however, began to affect him when he stopped living by the Word.

### *The Cycle of Hopelessness*

First, Solomon started to neglect the Word of God. He neglected the Bible doctrine that his parents so faithfully taught in his youth. Next, neglect developed into resistance toward the Word of God. His volition became negative regarding the instructions from the Word of God. Finally, in the educational and academic sense, he entered into the classroom of Satan, and demonized ideas began to control his life (1 Timothy 4:1). He was a believer so he was not possessed, but demons now exercised great influence over Solomon's decisions because he entered into pursuits that did not involve his Source.

Every young person, every educator, every businessperson should study the book of Ecclesiastes. So much turmoil could be averted by learning the lessons of Solomon's life.

### *Purposeless Achievements*

"What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?" (Ecclesiastes 1:3).

Yes, Solomon was a great achiever. And it was certainly all right for him to accomplish his goals and to achieve success. But, after being blessed by God and blessed by his heritage, Solomon began to feel good about his achievements.

The problem was that he did not relate his achievements to prayer and Bible doctrine. He did not glorify God with his achievements. He entered into pride, and from pride he entered into arrogance. His pursuits became empty and without purpose. Having everything, Solomon still attempted to fulfill himself.

Where did this cycle take him? It took him into hopelessness, with no happiness. Life had become useless to him.

*Chapter Three*  
WASTED WISDOM

“One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever.

“The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose.

“The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits

“All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again” (Ecclesiastes 1:4-7).

Solomon’s motto had become something like this: “Life comes, life goes.” One thing happens and then another thing happens. You are born, then you die. Another person is born, then he dies. None of it, absolutely none of it, held any meaning for Solomon at this point.

Here was a man rejecting what he knows is true because he is demonized. He had forsaken God's heart. He started out with the magnificent assignment to build the temple, the house of God. But he ended up playing games with his life, going after anything that might have given him temporal happiness, security, or pleasure.

### *Accumulation of Knowledge*

In Ecclesiastes 1:5-7, we see the kind of knowledge Solomon had begun to accumulate. He knew more about meteorology than anyone during this time. Based on his description of the wind patterns, Solomon even recognized that the earth was round: "The wind goes toward the south, and turns about unto the north; it whirls about continually, and the wind returns again according to the circuits." This passage also defines how the high-pressure system flows one way and then the low pressure counteracts it. Then he outlined the principles of evaporation and precipitation and how storms are formed in the atmosphere.

Yet, Solomon compared all of his knowledge to the emptiness he was now feeling. He viewed life as one cycle after another. Apart from the Lord as his Source, he could see no purpose in

any of it. He had the gold, but he could not keep that forever. He had the beautiful palace in Lebanon, but that would not stand forever. He reached one achievement after another, but those achievements ultimately meant nothing to him.

### *Miserable Works*

Life no longer presented a challenge for Solomon. He was becoming frustrated and miserable. Everything to him was just part of a vain, empty cycle. This was one of the wisest, richest men ever to walk the earth. He had it all. As the queen of Sheba confessed when she saw for herself the magnitude of his wealth and wisdom, "The half has not been told" (see 1 Kings 10:4-7).

Oh, how brilliant the wisdom of Solomon, extending in all directions! He had wisdom, wealth, and health. Yet, he neglected his Source and subsequently found himself miserable. He had no desire for God, no hunger and no thirst. He did not even want to talk about the Lord.

God, in the meantime, never forgot His covenant toward Solomon (2 Chronicles 13:5).

## *Chapter Four*

# CHOOSE THE WAY OF ETERNAL PURPOSE

“All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

“The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.

“Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us.

“There is no remembrance of former things; neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come with those that shall come after.

“I the Preacher was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

“And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given



to the sons of man to be exercised therewith.

“I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.

“That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered.

“I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all they that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge.

“And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit.

“For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow” (Ecclesiastes 1:8-18).

Here we see the beginning of Solomon’s self-centered adventure. He admitted his disrespect for the great godly men of the past. Their conclusions meant nothing to him. Everything was as emptiness.

As Spirit-filled Christians, we *do* care about great men. We care about what they did and what they have given us to live by. We do care about the great men in our midst and the great

things they will do in the future.

Solomon did not seem to care because he saw everything from the viewpoint of his old sin nature. The old sin nature always frustrates a person's capacity for life. Caught in a web of self-centered academic presumption, speculation, and experiments, he embarked on a cycle of searching, discovery, experience, and frustration—all because he had forsaken the Lord as his Source of blessing.

All this left Solomon without an eternal purpose for living. He ignored having fellowship with God and with God's people. He left behind a great wealth of Bible doctrine he had received from David and Bathsheba, his father and mother.

The Holy Spirit endowed Solomon with amazing wisdom. Sadly, the test of being the greatest man in the world was a test that he could not pass.

### *Right Responses, Right Results*

What does this mean for us practically? Really, the message of Ecclesiastes vibrates with vigor and sensitivity from God. It reveals how lost to our purpose we can become without the Source of blessing, Jesus Christ.

As Christians, we are products of our volitional decisions toward God.

We are not products of our past.

We are not products of our culture.

We are not products of our family situation.

We are not products of any relationship.

We are not products of our circumstances.

I may have been the victim of molestation or rape, but that does not have to control who I am today, because I have the Source of all blessing. I may have been given up for adoption, never to know my real father or mother; but that does not have to affect my purpose. Furthermore, it won't, as long as I remember that Jesus Christ is my Source. If my husband is having an affair, or if my wife leaves the house in a mess all the time, my mindset still must be Jesus Christ. By recognizing Him as my Source at all times, I am established in the grace of God.

### *Living in Love's Motivation*

By seeing Christ as my Source, I can be motivated with the love of the Holy Spirit. I can have Christ's precise life in the power of God's grace, love, and mercy. I can enter into the eternal purpose of glorifying God in everything and in all I do. He *is* all and He is *in* all.

Whatever circumstance I am in, whatever situation I am in, whatever is happening in my life, I do all things through Christ and thus I glorify Him. Some things could cause me to withdraw into my emotions. But the Holy Spirit has taught us that at this moment, because of our Source, Jesus Christ, we glorify God by grace through faith, simply by resting in His love.

Always remember this:

God is in control.

God is on the Throne.

God is within us.

God is our final authority.

God is our Source of blessing.

## CONCLUSION

A wife does not have to be right with God for a husband to be happy. A husband does not have to be right with God for a wife to be happy. Why? Our Source is beyond us and our situation.

Success in business cannot fulfill me, though I thank God that I can use my business success to glorify Him. Relationships cannot bring happiness. I do not need them. I do not need children in order to be happy. I will thank God if He gives me children, but I do not need them.

We have the Source of all blessings, and He is waiting to bless us, waiting to give us everything we need and many of the things we want. If we receive God's promises in faith and respond to Him in prayer, our desire will be to be like Him. "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him" (Job 13:15a). Believe and receive from the Source of all blessings. You will never regret it.