

Ecclesiastes

So I became great and I surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my I wisdom remained with me.

- Ecclesiastes 1:12-15; 2:18-26: before I dig in lets understand the context of this book a bit. It's opening up with an introduction to "the Preacher" who is labeled as the "Son of David, king of Jerusalem" (Ecclesiastes 1:1). We know this person to be Solomon. So, who was Solomon? He was the son of David and Bathsheba, who succeeded David as 3rd king of Israel. He was noted for his great wisdom, Solomon was responsible for the building of the temple of the Lord.
 1. **Wisdom 1Ki 4:29** *See also 1Ki 3:7-12 pp 2Ch 1:8-12; 1Ki 3:16-28; 10:6-7 pp 2Ch 9:5-6; Mt 12:42*
 2. **Political shrewdness 1Ki 3:1** *See also 1Ki 4:21; 10:13*
 3. **Dealing with individuals 1Ki 2:35** *See also 1Ki 2:24,27*
 4. **Poetry and writing 1Ki 4:32** *See also Ps 72:1 Title; 127:1 Title; Pr 1:1; 10:1; 25:1*
 5. God Loved him from birth
- Solomon had EVERYTHING and he set out to do what I liken to an experiment. Solomon said, "I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 1:13a). He also said, "I applied my hear to know wisdom and to know madness and folly" (Ecclesiastes 1:17a).
- What did this experiment entail?
 - Whatever his eye desired he got it, he "kept his heart from no pleasure" (Ecclesiastes 2:10)
 - He made great works: gardens, parks, pools, and houses (Ecclesiastes 2:4-6)
 - He bought male and female slaves, owned herds of flocks (Ecclesiastes 2:7)
 - He gathered for himself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces (Ecclesiastes 2:8a)
 - He got himself singers and many concubines (Ecclesiastes 2:8b)
 - He became great and surpassed all who were before him (Ecclesiastes 2:9)
 - It's safe to say he. had. everything!

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- **He also “it is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with”. ____what to contemplate there____**

You

Me

Outline

1. Who is Solomon?
 1. The son of David and Bathsheba, who succeeded David as 3rd king of Israel. Noted for his great wisdom, Solomon was responsible for the building of the temple of the Lord. In his latter years, influenced by his many foreign wives, he turned to idolatry.
 2. AKA: “Jedidiah” (“beloved of the Lord”)
2. Who was he?
 1. **Wisdom 1Ki 4:29** *See also 1Ki 3:7-12 pp 2Ch 1:8-12; 1Ki 3:16-28; 10:6-7 pp 2Ch 9:5-6; Mt 12:42*
 2. **Political shrewdness 1Ki 3:1** *See also 1Ki 4:21; 10:13*
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3. God Loved him from birth
 1. 2 Samuel 12:24b
4. Where did he get his Wisdom?
 1. 1 Kings 3:2-15
 1. 2 Chronicles 1:2-13
 2. Objective: To validate his perspective.
5. What was his experiment?
 1. Ecclesiastes 1:13a (First sought after Wisdom)
 2. Ecclesiastes 1:17 (Learned Wisdom **AND** Madness/Folly)
 3. Ecclesiastes 2:1 (Tested himself with pleasure)
 4. Ecclesiastes 2:10b (Held nothing back)
 5. Ecclesiastes 2:4-9 (Did all things with his own hands)
6. What was his finding?
7. Main Point (Everything is Futile)
 1. Ecclesiastes 1:14
 1. Ecclesiastes 2:11

8. Secondary Points

1. Ecclesiastes 2:13 (Better to be wise than foolish)

1. **Ecclesiastes 2:24-25 (Only through God can satisfaction be gained)**

Solomon, life of

Solomon succeeded his father David as king and secured Israel's stability through treaties with foreign powers.

Solomon's birth

1Ch 3:1-9 *See also 2Sa 12:24-25*

Solomon's accession

Adonijah's rivalry 1Ki 1:5 *See also 1Ki 1:11-14,24-25; 2:13-25*

David's approval 1Ki 1:30 pp 1Ch 29:23 *See also 1Ki 1:32-35; 2:1-4*

The coronation 1Ki 1:38-40 pp 1Ch 29:21-22 *See also 1Ki 2:12*

Solomon's administration of Israel

1Ki 4:7 *See also 1Ki 4:20-25,27; 10:25-27*

Solomon's building projects

The temple 2Ch 3:1 pp 1Ki 6:1 *See also 1Ki 5:5-6,10-11; 6:14,37-38; 8:63*

The palace 1Ki 7:1-3

Other building projects

1Ki 9:15-19; 2Ch 9:20; Ecc 2:6 *Solomon's Pools*

Solomon's Colonnade: 1Ki 7:7-8; Jn 10:23; Ac 3:11

Solomon's many wives

1Ki 11:1-5 *See also 1Ki 3:1*

Solomon's death

1Ki 11:42-43 pp 2Ch 9:30-31

1 Manser, M. H. (2009). *Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies*. London: Martin Manser.

Solomon, character of

Solomon was a man of outstanding gifts and abilities. Initially he was approved by God, but the latter years of his reign were marred by idolatry and apostasy.

Solomon's abilities

Wisdom 1Ki 4:29 *See also 1Ki 3:7-12 pp 2Ch 1:8-12; 1Ki 3:16-28; 10:6-7 pp 2Ch 9:5-6; Mt 12:42*

Political shrewdness 1Ki 3:1 *See also 1Ki 4:21; 10:13*

Dealing with individuals 1Ki 2:35 *See also 1Ki 2:24,27*

Poetry and writing 1Ki 4:32 *See also Ps 72:1 Title; 127:1 Title; Pr*

1:1; 10:1; 25:1

Solomon's righteousness

1Ki 8:62-63 pp 2Ch 7:4-5 *See also* **1Ki 3:6-15; 8:54-61,65-66**

Solomon's sin

Ne 13:26 *See also* **Dt 17:16-17; 1Ki 10:26,28; 11:1,4,9-13**

Solomon's splendour was renowned

Mt 6:29 pp Lk 12:271

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1. Human achievement is not lasting and is forgotten by later generations (e.g., 1:11).
2. Human wisdom is limited, but it does guarantee the wise a better fate than the foolish (e.g., 1:12–18; 9:13–18).
3. Injustice and wickedness are prevalent and often appear to go unpunished (e.g., 3:16).