

Lessons for Little Saints
What the Bible is All About
Ecclesiastes

The book of Ecclesiastes is the fourth book in the section of the Old Testament called the POETICAL BOOKS. There are five books of poetry in the Old Testament - Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon. Solomon wrote about his own life in Ecclesiastes when he had drifted away from the Lord. He tried all kinds of things of the world and found them to only make him happy for a short time. True happiness for anyone is only found in the Lord.

WRITER: Solomon (inspired by the Holy Spirit) (Ecclesiastes 1:1) - Solomon wrote three books of poetry in the Bible - Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon.

DATE OF WRITING: about 925 B.C. - at the end of Solomon's reign as king of Israel

MEANING: ECCLESIASTES means "*the preacher*"

MEMORY VERSE: Ecclesiastes 12:13b - ". . . *fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*"

KEY PEOPLE OF THE BOOK: The book of Ecclesiastes is an "*autobiography*" about King Solomon - or a book about the one who is writing it. He tells about all the worldly things he experimented with and found them to not bring happiness or contentment. He concluded that true happiness is only from the Lord. Solomon experimented with science, nature, philosophy, pleasure, materialism, wealth, power, religion, and morality - none of these things brought him lasting happiness.

FACTS ABOUT ECCLESIASTES: There are 12 chapters in the book of Ecclesiastes. Solomon, at the beginning of the book, tells the problem - what is it that makes man happy and profits him (benefits) for all the work he does in life. He then sets out to find the answer through things of the world. In the end,

he realizes that all the profit, benefit and happiness for man's work on earth is found in and from the Lord.

CONCLUSION: The book of Ecclesiastes may be a short book, but it is full of good advice for the Christian. Solomon thought he would use his great wisdom to find more to life than what God had given to him. In the end, he found that God was right and that all he needed in life would be supplied to him through his Saviour, Jesus.

ECCLESIASTES AND YOU: All the temptations in life are found in the book of Ecclesiastes. The results of these worldly things are sadness and disappointment. Why not take the advice from the wisest man to ever live and keep your eyes on Jesus. Solomon found that trying to live in an ungodly world is not pleasing to the Saviour nor is it satisfying for any of God's children.

TIPS FOR TEACHING: Go over (according to age group) some of the things of the world that might tempt your students and explain how unhappy those things will eventually make them. At the end of this lesson, review some of the facts about previously studied books and say the books of the Bible in order that have been learned so far - Genesis through Ecclesiastes.