

# When Everything Feels Empty Notes

Ecclesiastes 1:1-2

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**Main Point:** Because life is fleeting, base your life on what will last forever.

## Reasons I'm Drawn to Solomon's Diary of Despair

1. People are searching for meaning and \_\_\_\_\_ today.
2. The book addresses and answers the biggest and hardest questions of life.
  - Origin: Where did I come from?
  - Identity: Who am I?
  - Meaning: Why am I here?
  - Morality: How should I live?
  - Destiny: Where am I headed after I die?
3. Ecclesiastes speaks to all \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Solomon was led astray into \_\_\_\_\_ worship by his many wives who served other gods.
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ you make and the habits you develop today will shape who you become tomorrow.
  - "How to Ruin Your Life in Your Twenties."
    - Do whatever you want.
    - Live beyond your means.
    - Feed an addiction.
    - Run with fools.
    - Believe your life is about you.
    - Live for immediate gratification.
    - Avoid accountability.
4. We won't find satisfaction until we experience \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Solomon experimented with all the things people still pursue today as they look for purpose in power, possessions, popularity, prestige, and pleasure.
  - Ecclesiastes will help us see that life is \_\_\_\_\_ if lived apart from God.
5. The book is filled with bad news about our sin and good news about salvation.

## Background

1. The word "Preacher" in Hebrew refers to a person who gathered \_\_\_\_\_ to share with God's gathered people.
2. The verb form of this word means "to \_\_\_\_\_," and was used in 1 Kings 8:1 when Solomon called all the people together for the temple consecration ceremony.
3. The name Ecclesiastes comes from the Greek word for \_\_\_\_\_.
4. This book is philosophical in focus, pessimistic in emphasis, and pastoral in tone.
5. He was a wise guy who had everything and found out he had \_\_\_\_\_.
6. He was the son of David and reigned as king in Jerusalem.
7. He wrote Ecclesiastes as an older man seeking to help people find their \_\_\_\_\_ purpose in life.
8. The Preacher was on a search for his \_\_\_\_\_ in life.
9. The journey he took left him deflated, \_\_\_\_\_ and disillusioned.
10. The best word to describe how he felt is "\_\_\_\_\_."
11. Everything is \_\_\_\_\_ and fleeting, like a wisp of smoke.

## Hevél

1. Is also used in Psalm 39:5 to show that life is \_\_\_\_\_, ephemeral, and enigmatic.
2. Psalm 144:4 underlines how fragile life is because we are here today and \_\_\_\_\_ tomorrow.
3. It was also used of idols in Deuteronomy 32:21. The essence of an idol is \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Solomon uses superlatives to describe how utterly empty life is apart from God. He mentions it not once, but twice.

## Solomon's Pursuits

1. Solomon described his pursuits as an empty \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Ecclesiastes 2:1 tells us it might be exciting at first, but it won't \_\_\_\_\_ you.
3. Materialism is a \_\_\_\_\_ that can leave you spiritually bankrupt (Ecclesiastes 5:10).
4. The word "all" means "everything, the whole, entire, without exception."
5. All of life is a vapor of vapors.
6. Because of Adam and Eve's sin, everything is tainted by a transient sense of \_\_\_\_\_ and frustration.
7. Solomon spoke from experience because he experimented with everything and concluded all was \_\_\_\_\_ (Ecclesiastes 1:14).
8. The word "gain" in verse 3, literally means "that which is left over."
9. He had sucked the delight, joy, and pleasure out of everything. And now he wanted to know what would be left over, what would he have to \_\_\_\_\_ for himself when it was all said and done.
10. The phrase "under the sun" means "life \_\_\_\_\_ God."
11. He concluded that life without God is \_\_\_\_\_ worth living.
12. Solomon's dissatisfaction with life and his impending destiny with death led him to \_\_\_\_\_.
13. When God is \_\_\_\_\_, our very existence is empty.
14. The only way to find meaning in everything under the sun is by means of God's \_\_\_\_\_.

## Action Steps

1. Read the entire Book of Ecclesiastes three times this summer.
2. Respond to God by revering Him.
  - Solomon concluded that life is also meant to be lived on the vertical level.
  - Nothing under the sun will satisfy because we have been created to live in an interactive \_\_\_\_\_ with the loving and faithful God who made the sun and sent His Son.
  - To be whole is only possible if we \_\_\_\_\_ God for who He is and obey what He tells us to do.
  - When we build our lives on the solid foundation of Christ by putting our faith in Him, we will find our \_\_\_\_\_.