

## Questions On Ecclesiastes Chapter 1

1. Who wrote the book of Ecclesiastes and what two other books did he write?
2. What descriptions of Solomon are given in verse 1? (and in v. 12)
3. Verse 2 speaks of “vanity of vanities.” (This verse is repeated in 12:8.) Solomon uses the word “vanity” 33 times in this book. What did Solomon say was vain *in this verse*?
4. Though Solomon speaks of vanity in general terms in verse 2, what does he specifically mention in verse 3? (we will see this again later)
  - a) What vanity is represented in verse 4? (this also is elaborated upon later in the book)
5. Verses 5-7 list 3 constants (established by divine law) that are examples of God’s providence in nature. What is cited in verse 5?
  - a) What is cited in verse 6?
  - b) What is cited in verse 7?
6. What 3 areas, including 2 human senses, are mentioned in verse 8 that are never enough... never satisfied?
7. What great history lesson and principle is discussed in verses 9 and 10?

8. Verse 11 fits with verses 3, 4 and 13 in discussing specific areas of *vanity*. What vanity is addressed here?
9. Though wisdom can be overemphasized, misused and even wrongly sourced (James 3:15), what do we know about the source of Solomon's wisdom? (see 1 Kings 3:5-12; 10:24)
  - a) What was the extent of Solomon's wisdom and in what areas did he excel? (1 Kings 4:29-34)
  - b) Though all people sought to hear his wisdom (1 Kings 10:23), what woman was especially impressed by it? (1 Kings 10:1-8).
10. However, verses 13 and 17 of Ecclesiastes 1 suggest that Solomon sought wisdom (or a *type of wisdom*) that God had not given to him. How is this wisdom described in verses 14 and 17?
11. What does it cause according to verse 18?
12. The expression "vanity and vexation of spirit" (v. 14) is used a total of 7 times in Ecclesiastes, suggesting more than mere *emptiness*. What is meant by the term "vexation of spirit?"
13. How does James describe the "wisdom that is from above?" (James 3:17)
14. How does Paul describe "the wisdom of this world?" (1 Corinthians 3:19)