

ECCLESIASTES 2 vs 1

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The Hebrew title of this book is Qoheleth – one who speaks at the assembly – the Speaker. Solomon is not specifically mentioned in this book written around 935 bc though all references point to him as author. Martin Luther seems to be the first to suggest Solomon might not have written the book; but that it was written sometime after the Babylonian exile.

The NASB outlines Ecclesiastes with the following divisions: The Author and the Thesis; The Thesis demonstrated; God's Design for Life; **The Futility of Life**; The Futility of Riches; Advice for Living, and Conclusion.



¹ And I said to myself, Go now, I will try pleasure. So enjoy yourself: and, indeed, this also is vanity.

² I said of endless laughter it is just madness: and, what is the good of pleasure?

³ I sought in my heart to indulge myself with wine, yet guiding myself wisely; **and how to take hold of folly, until I saw what good there is for the sons of men, which they should do under heaven the few days of their life.**

⁴ I enlarged my works; building mansions for me; planting vineyards for me:

⁵ making gardens and orchards for me, and planting trees of all kind of fruits for me:

⁶ I made reservoirs for me, irrigating the forest that brings forth trees for me:

⁷ I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves born in my house; also I possessed great flocks and herds, more than all who were in Jerusalem before me:



⁸ I also amassed silver and gold for me, and the treasure of kings and provinces: I got mail and female singers for me, and the pleasures of men – many concubines, like musical instruments, and that of all sorts.

⁹ Then richer and richer I became, and increased more than all who were before me in Jerusalem: and my wisdom remained with me / well, as far as he could tell.

¹⁰ And what my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any joy; for my heart was pleased with all my labor: and this was my reward for all my labor.

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¹¹ But when I looked on all the works my hands achieved, and on the toil and labor I had done: indeed, all was vanity and an irritation of the spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.

¹² And I turned myself to wisdom, and madness, and folly: for what can the next man do who comes after the king? even what has been already done.

¹³ Then I saw that wisdom is better than folly, as far as light is better than darkness.

¹⁴ The eyes of the wise man are in his head; but the fool walks in darkness: and I myself perceived that one fate happens to them both.

¹⁵ Then I said in my heart, like it happens to the fool, so it happened even to me; so what is the use of all my wisdom? And I said to myself, that this also is vanity.

¹⁶ For the wise is no more remembered forever than a fool; seeing that in the days to come both will be forgotten. Alas the wise man died like the fool.

¹⁷ So I hated life; because the work that was achieved under the sun was grievous to me: for all is vanity and an irritation of the spirit.

¹⁸ Yes, I hated all my labor which I had toiled under the sun: knowing I will leave it to the man that follows me.

¹⁹ And who knows if he will be a wise man or a fool? yet he will govern all my work that I have toiled over, and where I have shown myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity.

²⁰ So I completely despaired of all the toil and struggle which I had done under the sun.

²¹ For when a man labors with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he leaves it to a man that has not labored in it. This also is vanity and a great evil.

²² For what does a man get from all his labor, and of the irritation of his heart, wherein he has labored under the sun?

²³ For all his days he works with pains and grief; yes, and his heart takes no rest in the night. This also is vanity.

²⁴ There is nothing better for a man, than to eat and drink, and enjoy himself as he works. This also I saw was from the hand of God.



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²⁵ For who can eat, and who can enjoy himself, apart from God?

²⁶ For to a man whom God approves, He grants wisdom, knowledge and joy: while to the sinner He gives the task of gathering and amassing wealth, only to leave it to him who is good in the sight of God. This also is vanity and an irritation of the spirit.

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