

**Christian World View**  
**The Four States of Man**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> · The Natural Man**  
**Ecclesiastes**

# The Old Testament

the wisdom literature

Job

Psalms

Proverbs

Ecclesiastes

Song of Solomon

Pentateuch	History	Wisdom	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
Deuteronomy Numbers Leviticus Exodus Genesis	Joshua Judges Ruth 1 & 2 Samuel 1 & 2 Kings 1 & 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther	Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon	Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel	Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi

# The Old Testament

## the wisdom trilogy

1

### Proverbs

#### wisdom for life

- lady wisdom calls
  - lady folly calls
- “Solomon” = “375”  
375 proverbs  
proverb = “truism”  
wise counsel  
general life truths  
obey → blessing  
disobey → judgment  
true wisdom which  
requires wisdom

2

### Ecclesiastes

#### the natural man

- commentary on life  
under the curse
- life is meaningless
- no advantage = nothing  
is left over after life

3

### Job

#### the spiritual man

- commentary on the life  
of the righteous
- life is perplexing
- no explanation = always  
trust God

# The Book of Ecclesiastes

## a commentary on the curse of man

### the life of Adam

**created by God**

➔ Genesis 1:26

made in the image and likeness of God to rule over the creation

**blessed by God**

➔ Genesis 1:28

be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over it

**commanded by God**

➔ Genesis 2:16-17

the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

**sustained by God**

➔ Genesis 2:29-30

every plant and every tree for food

### the sin of Adam

**man was tempted**

➔ Genesis 3:1-5

**man was disobedient**

➔ Genesis 3:6-7

**man was cursed**

➔ Genesis 3:17-19

**land** is cursed

nature is cursed

**labor** is cursed

sorrow and sweat all your days

**life** is cursed

until you return to the ground – dust to dust

spiritual death – Genesis 2:16-17 · physical death – Genesis 3:19 · eternal death – Genesis 3:22-24

# The Book of Ecclesiastes

## a commentary on the curse of man

**the author** = King Solomon

“preacher” ➡ Hebrew · “QOHELET” = one who addresses an assembly  
from QAHAL = assembly

Greek · EKKLESIASTES from EKKLESIA

Latin · ECCLESIASTES

**the theme** = *“Vanity of vanities, vanity of vanities, all is vanity” (1:2).*

“vanity” ➡ “HEBEL” (Hebrew) = vapor · breath · “meaningless”  
emptiness · no substance · no value · no permanence · no significance

“vanity” = used 37x in the book

**the argument** = *“What advantage does man have in all his work  
which is done under the sun” (1:3)?*

a rhetorical question · expecting the answer ➡ *“no advantage!”*

“advantage” ➡ “YITRON” (Hebrew) = profit · gain · leftover

“advantage” = used 10x in the book

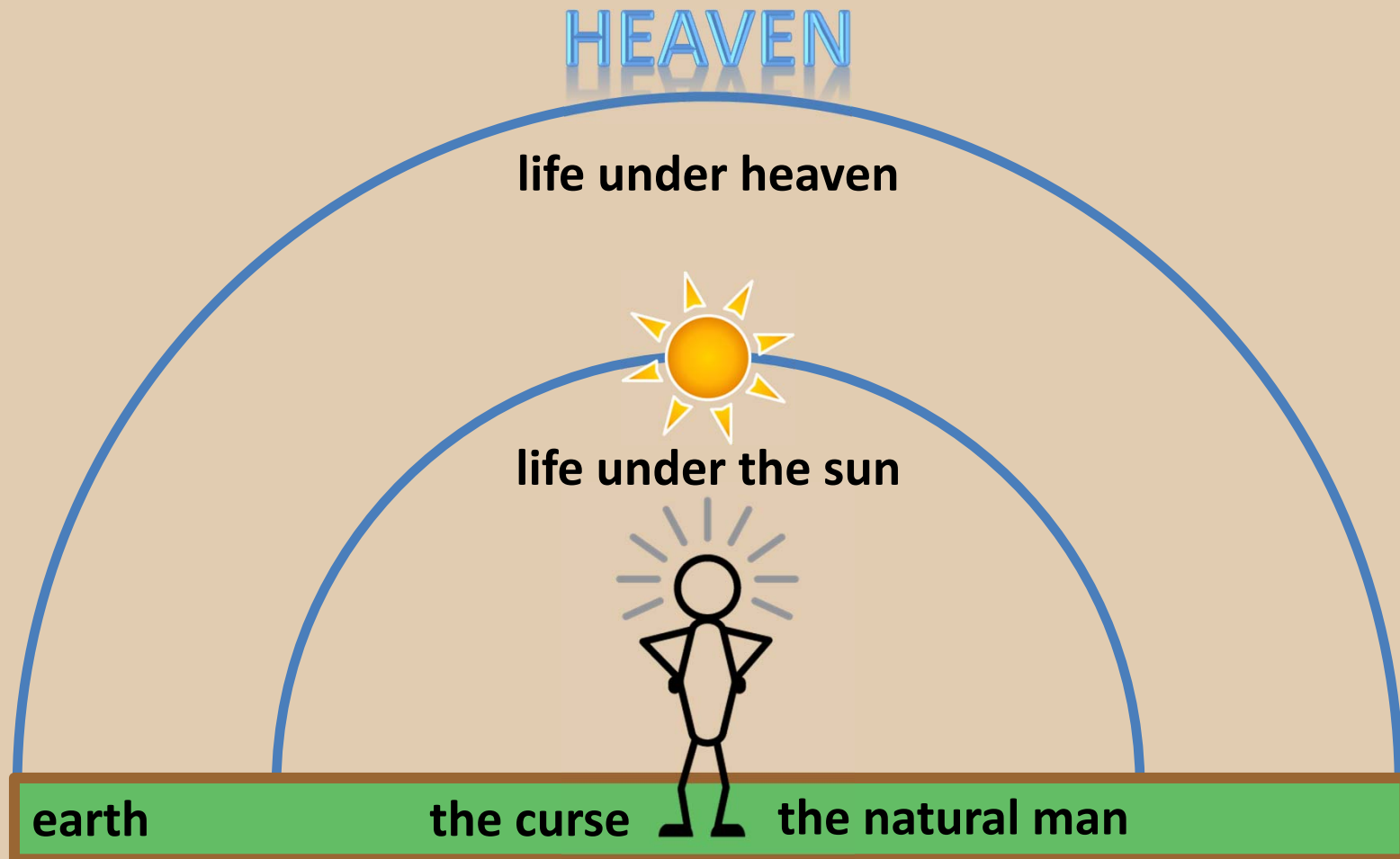
**the realm** = life on earth

“under the sun” ➡ day to day life without reference to God

“under heaven” ➡ day to day life acknowledging God

# The Book of Ecclesiastes

a commentary on the curse of man



# The Book of Ecclesiastes

## a commentary on the curse of man

**the pursuits** = the areas of life examined

- ① **pleasure** ➔ Ecclesiastes 2:1-11      11 verses
- ② **wisdom** ➔ Ecclesiastes 2:12-17      6 verses
- ③ **labor** ➔ Ecclesiastes 2:18 – 6:9      76 verses

**the perplexity** = the things about life that defy understanding

Ecclesiastes 6:10 – 12:8

“Who knows what is good for man during his life?”

“Who knows what will happen to man after his life?”

wisdom can be found · wisdom can be lived · all is vanity

**the conclusion** = the most that the natural man can know about life

Ecclesiastes 12:9-14 ↔ the same truth ↔ Romans 1-3

① **“fear God”**

➔ Romans 1:18-20 ➔ the knowledge of God

② **“keep His commandments”**

➔ Romans 2:14-16 ➔ the knowledge of right and wrong

③ **“God will bring every act to judgment”**

➔ Romans 1:32 ➔ the knowledge of the judgment to come

God witnesses these truths to every heart making all “without excuse”

# The Book of Ecclesiastes

a commentary on the curse of man

## The Book of Ecclesiastes

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
introduction	meaning in life						perplexity in life					
	searching						<p>Who knows what is good for man during his life? Who knows what will happen to man after his life?</p> <p>Wisdom can be found in life. Life can be lived in wisdom.</p>					
	pleasure	wisdom	labor									
<p>“Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher, “Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.” (1:2)</p>												

conclusion

fear God · obey God · know that God will judge (12:13-14)





# The Book of Ecclesiastes

a commentary on the curse of man

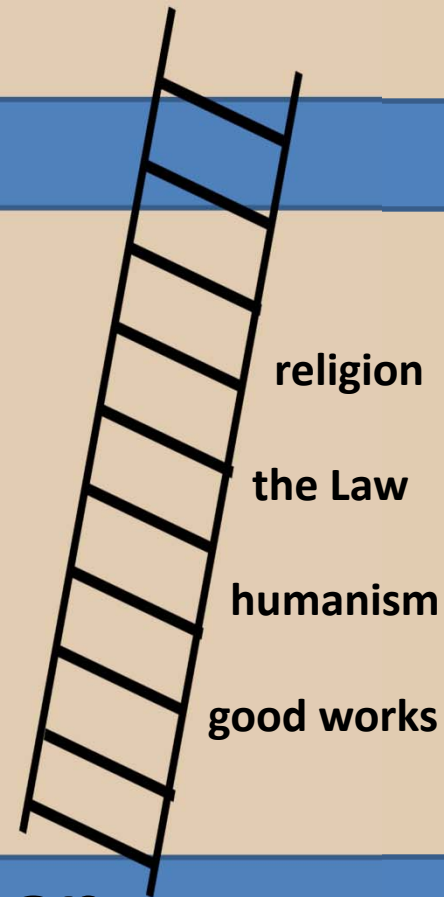
## the curse

land is cursed!  
labor is cursed!  
life is cursed!

all is vanity!  
no advantage!

fear God  
obey God  
know God will judge

no hope in man!  
no way out!



## the natural man

# The Good News

## the promise of the Messiah

“He (God) made Him (Christ) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

God

Jesus Christ

the curse

Christ alone

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us – for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’ – in order that in Christ Jesus the blessings of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith” (Galatians 3:13-14).

the natural man

