

# How do we live in a fallen world?

- ▶ The hope of Scripture is Blessing – Salvation
- ▶ The opposition to Salvation
  - The way of the world – folly
  - The adversities of life
  - The futility of life
- ▶ The Wisdom Literature speaks to this situation
  - Proverbs – the way of Wisdom v. the way of folly
  - Job – the trial of faith
  - Ecclesiastes – the futility of life
- ▶ The book of Ecclesiastes
  - Qohelet – King Solomon
    - A single writer
    - One before the assembly
  - Outline
    - 1. Introduction – 1:1-11
    - 2. The Royal Experiment – 1:12-2:26
    - 3. The Reflections on Meaning – 3:1-12:8
    - 4. Epilogue – 12:9-14
  - Theme: Vanity of vanities. All is Vanity (Eccl. 1:1-11)
    - an unfilled ocean
    - an unsatisfied eye and ear
    - nothing new
  - The testimony of Qohelet (Eccl. 1:12-2:26)
    - The vain pursuit of wisdom
    - The vain pursuit of pleasure
- ▶ Lesson 2: A Time for Every Purpose under the Sun
  - The Sovereignty of God (Eccl. 3:1-15)
  - The insignificance of man (Eccl. 3:16-4:16)

## The sovereignty of God

### Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

- ▶ A season and a time for every activity of life (3:1-9)
  - An assigned time
  - Divinely assigned
  - Outside of human control
    - No gain from work (3:9)
    - God has done this (3:11)
  - The significance
    - No human freedom
    - A discouraging message
- ▶ God controls the times (3:10-13)
  - Qohelet is not pessimistic
  - Divinely assigned duty – beautiful
  - Not discoverable
  - Eternity within
  - A gift from God.
- ▶ God's omnipotence (3:14-15)
  - Eternal
  - Lead us to fear God

## Man's insignificance – the indignity of man Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:16

- ▶ Justice and righteousness (3:16-22)
  - There is none
  - A coming time of justice
  - Man is no better than the beasts.
- ▶ Oppression (4:1-3)
  - A common discomfort
  - Man is better not to be
- ▶ The futility of work (4:4-8)
  - Driven by envy
  - Destroyed by idleness
  - Deceived by work
  - An illustration of the futility of work
- ▶ The advantage of community (4:9-12)
  - Two are better than one
  - A threefold cord is not quickly broken
- ▶ The futility of wisdom (4:13-16)
  - The poor wise youth and the foolish old king
  - No lasting legacy

## Vanity of vanities! All is vanity!

- ▶ Because God is Sovereign
  - ▶ Because man is ignoble – depraved
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“Yet you say, ‘The way of the LORD is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?” (Ezekiel 18:25)

“If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.” (1 Corinthians 15:19)

“My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors! Make your face shine on your servant; save me in your steadfast love.” (Psalm 31:15-16)

“My soul, wait thou only upon God, for my expectation is from Him.” (Psalm 62:5)

“. . .working in us that which is pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Hebrews 13:21)

“As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.” (Psalm 17:15)