

# Ecclesiastes 1

Chapter 1 of 12 · 18 Verses · Authorized King James Version

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## Vanity of Vanities

- <sup>1</sup> The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.
- <sup>2</sup> Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.
- <sup>3</sup> What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?
- <sup>4</sup> One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever.
- <sup>5</sup> The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose.
- <sup>6</sup> The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirlleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.
- <sup>7</sup> All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.
- <sup>8</sup> All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.
- <sup>9</sup> The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.
- <sup>10</sup> Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us.
- <sup>11</sup> There is no remembrance of former things; neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come with those that shall come after.

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## The Preacher's Quest for Meaning

**12** I the Preacher was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

**13** And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith.

**14** I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.

**15** That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered.

**16** I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all they that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge.

**17** And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit.

**18** For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.

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## HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

### God — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

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### Heaven — שָׁמַיִם (Shamayim)

Heaven, sky

The Hebrew **shamayim** (שָׁמַיִם) means heaven or sky—God's dwelling place and the realm above earth. 'The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's' (Psalm 115:16), yet 'the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him' (1 Kings 8:27).

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**Spirit** — רוּחַ (Ruach)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Hebrew **ruach** (רוּחַ) means spirit, wind, or breath—invisible but powerful. It describes both the Holy Spirit and the human spirit. God's Spirit gives life and empowers His people.

**Word** — דָּבָר (Davar)

Word, thing, matter

The Hebrew **davar** (דָּבָר) means word, thing, or matter—God's creative and authoritative speech. 'By the word of the LORD were the heavens made' (Psalm 33:6).

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**CROSS REFERENCES**


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**Ecclesiastes 1:1**    **Kingdom:** Ecclesiastes 1:12. **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 7:27

**Ecclesiastes 1:2**    **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 2:11; 2:17; 2:19; 2:23; 2:26; 4:4; 5:10; 12:8; Psalms 144:4; Romans 8:20

**Ecclesiastes 1:3**    **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 2:11; 2:19; 2:22; 3:9; 5:16; Isaiah 55:2; Matthew 16:26; John 6:27

**Ecclesiastes 1:4**    **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 6:12; Psalms 104:5; Zechariah 1:5; Matthew 24:35

**Ecclesiastes 1:6**    **Parallel theme:** John 3:8

**Ecclesiastes 1:8**    **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 27:20; Matthew 11:28

**Ecclesiastes 1:9**

**Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 2:12; 3:15; 6:10; 7:10; Isaiah 43:19; Jeremiah 31:22; 2 Peter 2:1; Revelation 21:1

**Ecclesiastes 1:10**    **Parallel theme:** Acts 7:51

**Ecclesiastes 1:11**    **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 2:16; 9:5; Psalms 9:6; Isaiah 42:9

**Ecclesiastes 1:12**    **Kingdom:** Ecclesiastes 1:1

**Ecclesiastes 1:13**    **References God:** Ecclesiastes 3:10. **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 1:17; 7:25; 8:9; Genesis 3:19; Psalms 111:2; Proverbs 4:7; 18:1; 18:15; 23:26

**Ecclesiastes 1:14**    **Spirit:** Ecclesiastes 2:11; 2:17; 2:26; 4:4; 6:9

**Ecclesiastes 1:15**    **Creation:** Isaiah 40:4. **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 3:14

**Ecclesiastes 1:16**    **References Jerusalem:** Ecclesiastes 2:9. **Parallel theme:** 1 Kings 4:30;  
10:7; 2 Chronicles 2:12; Hebrews 5:14

**Ecclesiastes 1:17**    **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 2:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:21

**Ecclesiastes 1:18**    **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 2:15; 2:23; 7:16; Job 28:28

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