

“Deconstructing Our Idols”

Ecclesiastes 1:1-18

Introduction: Essential Background (vv.1-3)

- Author:
- Main Theme:
- Purpose:
- Key Terms/Phrases:
 - “Life under the sun”
 - “Hevel” = meaningless, vanity, vapor

The Conclusion of Wisdom (vv.4-11)

- All is “vanity/meaningless”:
 - Four Analogies: passing generations, the sun, wind, & water
 - An additional angle: “Nothing new under the sun”
 - What is the author’s point?

The Teachers Pursuit of Meaning (vv.12-18)

- Two Tests:
 - Test #1: he uses wisdom to understand all human activity
 - Test #2: he compares wisdom with folly

Why is this in the Bible? A New Way to Live:

- 1) To show us that worldly wisdom is a faulty compass that leads to destruction.
- 2) To show us the wisdom of God in the gospel teaches us how to understand our lives and reframes our vision, so that in this frustrating life, we need not despair because we aren’t trying to find our life and meaning here, because we’ve found it in Jesus Christ.