

Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon

Breakdown

- Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon are the final books in the Biblical poetry section.
- Both books are traditionally believed to have been written by King Solomon. Many have said that Solomon wrote the Song of Solomon when he was a young man and Ecclesiastes when he was elderly after he had seen much over the course of his life.
- Ecclesiastes was most likely written at the end of Solomon's reign as king around 935 B.C. Song of Solomon was written sometime during his reign from 971 to 931 B.C.

Main Points

- Ecclesiastes is God's record of man's experience and reflection about life out of fellowship with God. The conclusion is that a life lived for self and things of the world is meaningless, and nothing "under the sun" can ever satisfy the human heart except God.
- Song of Solomon is a love poem that shows the joy that can be found in the marriage relationship, which also represents the union between Christ and His bride, the Church.
- Both books point to Jesus as our only true source of satisfaction. It is through Jesus alone that we find meaning and joy. The Church is the bride of Christ, and we look forward to the day when our Lord and Savior comes back for His bride so that we can live together with Him forever.

Did you know?

- The saying "There is nothing new under the sun" originally came from the book of Ecclesiastes. Where did Solomon say this, and what was he referring to?
- President Abraham Lincoln quoted from the book of Ecclesiastes in a speech he gave to Congress during the American Civil War. Do you know what he said?
- The lyrics from the Billboard hit song, *Turn! Turn! Turn!*, are taken almost verbatim from the KJV of the book of Ecclesiastes. Where is this in the book and what does it mean?
- The writer of Ecclesiastes ends the book by stating the duty of everyone. What is our duty and how can we fulfill that duty?
- Song of Solomon is the greatest love poem ever written, but do you remember how many wives and concubines King Solomon had? That shows us once more that God will use any means He can to get His message of love to us.
- Song of Solomon uses analogies that seem unfamiliar and strange to us, but the original readers would have looked for the meaning behind the analogy rather than the picture. For example, what do you think he meant by comparing her neck to an ivory tower?

Further Thought

- There isn't anything in the world that will last forever, except God. God created us to be eternal just like Him. What does that mean for us in our lives right now?
- The writer of Ecclesiastes talks about how everything and every pursuit in the world is meaningless without God. What does that reveal about our relationship with God?
- Song of Solomon is a picture of our relationship with Jesus – He is the groom, and we are His bride. What does the book's longing & excitement tell us about Jesus' feelings for us?