

Digging in the Dark

God's Redemption of Futility's
Frustrations



Outline of Eccl. 1:12–18

- [Background: Solomon in 1 Kings 10–11]
- The Preacher *personally* investigated the meaning of life and the human condition by the methodology of wisdom (1:12–13a; also see 2:12–17; 7:1–29; 9:11–11:10; 12:9–14).
 - Things Traditional Wisdom Finds As Better & Bedrock
 - Things the Preacher's Wisdom Finds As Bitter

Outline of Eccl. 1:12–18

- The Preacher found that God has given mankind a once good, but now an unavoidable and unhappy task, to, as the NT points, groan toward hope (1:13b).
 - God subjected his good world to futility after the fall.
 - God subjected his good world to futility in hope of his power to redeem.

Outline of Eccl. 1:12–18

- The Preacher concluded that he was *personally* unable by his own wisdom to resolve the tensions and close the gaps regarding life's enigmas (1:14–18; cf. 7:1–13).

Finding a Timeless Footing

- Timeless Tension: Wisdom—one of humanity's great attributes—proves ultimately insufficient!
- Timeless Purpose: To redeem human wisdom by returning it to God
- Timeless Truth: God has always wanted to shepherd human wisdom through the gaps and tensions of the human condition to the meaning of life in Christ.
 - The Garden
 - The Law
 - The Prophets
 - The Davidic Ruler
 - Jesus Christ
 - The Holy Spirit
 - Eternal Life in a New Heaven and Earth

Today: Fear the Lord to Redeem Wisdom.

- Fear the Lord to Redeem Life's Order.
- Fear the Lord and Undermine Worldly Wisdom.
- Fear the Lord with Love.
- Fear the Lord with Anticipation.

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