

Ecclesiastes 1:1-18 - When wisdom fails.

What is life about?

A confronting start

“a dead set waste of time”.

Qohelet = teacher and applier of knowledge to the people. (preacher)

meaningless ... everything we do is ultimately in vain.

We are very finite in a forever world – v 3-4

We are temporary... but the earth remains forever.

Even eternal cycles never finish – v 5-7

... the “forever” cycles of the natural world do the same and they never finish.

The rinse and repeat cycle – v 8-11

... the things we fill our lives with are not satisfying but in fact wearying.

... there is nothing new under the sun.

... a forgotten memory of a previous generation.

Even wisdom is meaningless – v 12-18

... searched for meaning and purpose in life with his great economic resources and power and he has used his God given wisdom to analyse all that occurs under the heavens.

... great wisdom has led to great sorrow and grief.

Life under the sun?

... used 27 times in the book

... life under the heaven = life under the sun

= life on this earth in all the brokenness and messiness of a fallen world impacted by sin.

Why is it good FOR US to know?

1) Something bigger than us

2) A challenge to us

... it is very easy for us to simply adopt the cultural narrative around us in how we live as followers of Jesus.

3) Good for our evangelism

... non-Christians will struggle with and experience the same sense of meaninglessness that this book raises for us.

A few warnings

Firstly, ...do not begin with “Meaningless, meaningless, everything is utterly meaningless”.

Secondly, might well seem very depressing.

Finally, not calling us to some sort of fatalistic worldview