

CHAPTER 1:1-11

Lesson 2

KEY VERSE(S)—

OUTLINE—

- I. **PREMISE:** All is Vanity (1:1-2)
- II. **FUTILITY OF MAN'S LABORS** (1:3-11)
 - A. Monotony of Life (1:3-8)
 - B. Nothing New Comes (1:9-10)
 - C. Nothing Old Remains (1:11)

KEY WORDS (Themes)—

SUMMARY—

The Preacher begins with his judgment of life when it is perceived from a purely world view—it is vain and without profit (1:2). Many of us think the world revolves around us. We think we can make an impact on the world, but our memory dies with the rest of our generation. We are then replaced by another generation who thinks the same thing about itself (1:3). All things are full of labor with no profit (1:3,8) as evidenced by the natural world. Nothing permanent is ever accomplished—either by nature (1:4-7) or by man (1:8).

Man is never content enough to realize his place (1:8). Some call this ambition, achievement, or obsession. The Preacher calls it vanity. Lest we think our generation is different, we are reminded that no generation is different (1:9-10), and the memory of ours will blow away one day like “dust in the wind” (1:11).

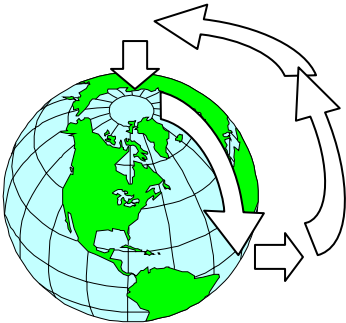
QUESTIONS—

- 1) *Summarize this passage in one sentence.*
- 2) *What is the important lesson we learn when comparing Ecclesiastes 1:3 with Matthew 16:26?*
- 3) *Define the word “forever” (1:4)*
- 4) *How does the scientific knowledge of the Preacher (1:5-7) validate the inspiration of his message?*
- 5) *What is the problem with man looking for satisfaction in things of this world (1:8; cf. Proverbs 27:20)? Where can it be found (Philippians 4:6-7,11-13)?*
- 6) *Man has the ability to discover and to change things, but what is he unable to do (1:9-10)?*
- 7) *How permanent is anything we are able to do in this world (1:4,11; Psalm 39:5)?*

WORTH NOTING—

The writer of Ecclesiastes comprehended two scientific principles that were relatively unknown at the time of his writing. The knowledge of these principles further attests to the divine authorship of this book.

AIR CIRCULATION (1:6)

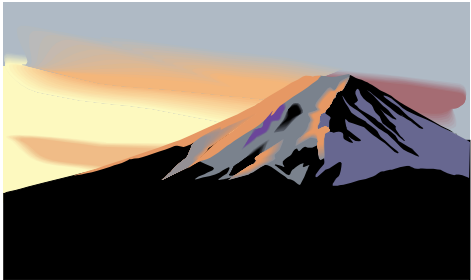


1940AD
As high flying aircraft and special observation balloons provided observations in the upper atmosphere, it was discovered that there is a basic pattern for air circulation. This is caused as the sun warms the ground, the ground heats the air. The sun rays strike obliquely at the poles causing the ground there to heat air less than at the equator. Warm air rises at the equator causing greater pressure at altitude. Air pressure at the ground level is greater at the poles because it is colder and denser. This pressure differential forces the air rising at the equator to flow north at high altitude until it cools and drops down at the pole, at which time it flows southward to fill the space at the equator being emptied by the rising air there.

WATER-VAPOR CYCLE (1:7)

1520AD
Until it was known that the earth was spherical, the common belief was that the rivers flowing into the oceans did not cause the ocean to rise because an equal amount of water was spilling off the ends of the earth. Before Magellan’s discovery no scientist conceived the idea that it was the water of the ocean that was being cycled to provide fresh water of the rivers.

1770AD
It was not observed until the 18th century that clouds can transport moisture away from the area in which they were formed. From observations at only a few points, Benjamin Franklin was the first to recognize that individual storms move from place to place over the earth’s surface. The river-to-sea-to-river water cycle was published by Benjamin Franklin from his observations, thus greatly aiding the study of weather by men.



Source: *Has God Spoken*, A.O. Schnabel, pp.39-44

READING SCHEDULE—

Read this passage every day before the upcoming class (check the box after each day that you read the passage)

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday