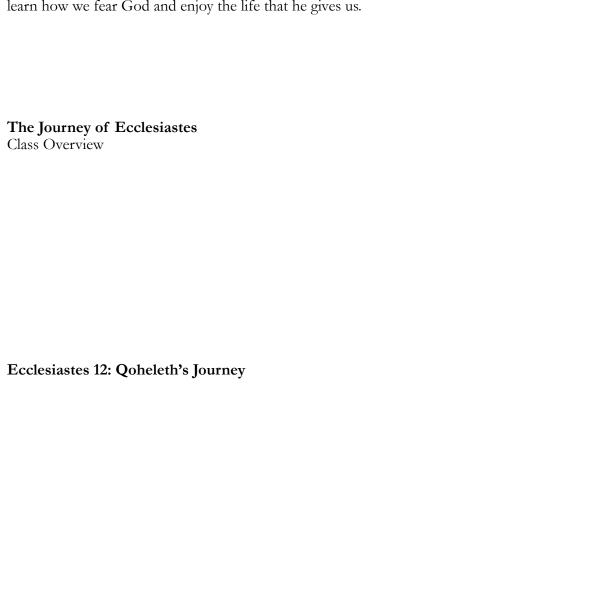
Ecclesiastes: Fear God and Enjoy his Gifts

Glenwood Community Church Class 8 – March 26th, 2023

The purpose of this class is to: understand and internalize the message of Ecclesiastes and to learn how we fear God and enjoy the life that he gives us.



Wounded by Wisdom

Craig Bartholomew's Structure on Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes isn't random! While many authors have attempted to reconstruct Qoheleth's Structure, I have included Craig Bartholomew's breakdown of the text so that you can understand how each passage fits within the whole.

I. Frame Narrative (1:1–11)

- A. Title (1:1)
- B. Statement of the Theme of the Book (1:2)
- C. The Programmatic Question (1:3)
- D. A Poem about the Enigma of Life (1:4–11)

II. Qohelet's Exploration of the Meaning of Life (1:12–12:7)

- A. Qohelet's Description of His Journey of Exploration (1:12–18)
- B. Testing Pleasure and the Good Life (2:1–11)
- C. The Problem of Death and One's Legacy (2:12–23)
- D. Eating, Drinking, and Enjoying One's Labor (2:24-26)
- E. The Mystery of Time (3:1–15)
- F. The Problem of Injustice and Death (3:16–22)
- G. Four Problems (4:1–16)
- H. Worship (5:1-7 [4:17-5:6])
- I. Oppression and Profit (5:8–17 [7–16])
- J. The Gift of God (5:18–20 [17–19])
- K. Riches and Wealth Continued (6:1–12)
- L. Knowing What Is Good for One (7:1–13)
- M. Moderation in Wisdom and Folly (7:14–22)
- N. Qohelet's Reflection on His Journey and the Inaccessibility of Wisdom (7:23-29)
- O. The Enigma of Political Rule (8:1–9)
- P. The Problem of Delayed Judgment (8:10–17)
- Q. The Fate of Death and the Gift of Life (9:1–12)
- R. The Example of a City (9:13–18)
- S. Wisdom, Folly, and Rulers (10:1–20)
- T. Living with the Uncertainties of God's Providence (11:1–6)
- U. Rejoicing and Remembering (11:7–12:7)

III. Frame Narrative: Epilogue (12:8–14)

- A. Restatement of the Theme (12:8)
- B. Epilogue (12:9–14)¹

¹ Adapted from Baker Commentary on the Old Testament: Ecclesiastes, 83-84