Interesting Facts About Ecclesiastes

MEANING: “Speaker before an assembly.”

AUTHOR: Solomon

TIME WRITTEN: Probably late in Solomon’s life, about 935 B.C.
NOTE: Jewish tradition asserts that Solomon wrote:
• Son of Solomon in his youthful years.
• Proverbs in his middle years.
• Ecclesiastes in his later years.

POSITION IN THE BIBLE:
• 21st Book in the Bible
• 21st Book in the Old Testament
• 4th of 5 Poetical books (Job - Song of Solomon)
• 45 Books to follow it.

CHAPTERS: 12
VERSES: 222
WORDS: 5,584

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT ECCLESIASTES:

■ The key word in Ecclesiastes is “vanity.”
■ Vanity is the futile emptiness of trying to be happy apart from God.
■ The word “vanity” occurs some 37 times in Ecclesiastes.
■ Life (“under the sun” is used 29 times) seems to be filled with:
  • Inequities
  • Changes in fortune
  • Uncertainties
  • Violations of justice
■ The Book of Ecclesiastes is the record of an intense search for meaning and satisfaction in life on the earth.
■ Live lived without regard for God is life lived without value.
■ When life is viewed “under the sun,” it is declared to be empty. 1:9
■ When life is viewed from God’s perspective (“Above the sun”), it takes on a new and special meaning. 2:24

■ Vanity is the futile emptiness of trying to be happy apart from God.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

“To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:
  A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted;
  A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up;
  A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance;
  A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing;
  A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away;
  A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak;
  A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace.

Ecclesiastes 12:1

“Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, I have no pleasure in them.”