

# *Studies in Ecclesiastes*

## **Part 1**

קהלת  
(Kohelet)

קהל = εκκλησια  
Kahal Ecclesia

**“assembled ones”**

or

**“called-together ones”**

*“Merest breath”, said Qohelet, “Merest breath. All is mere breath.”*

**Q:** What word do these verses share?

**#1: Genesis 4:2**

Again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

**#2: Psalm 39:5**

Behold, You have made my days as handbreadths, and my lifetime as nothing in Your sight. Surely every man at his best is a mere breath.

**#3: Proverbs 31:30**

Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain. But a woman who fears Adonai, she shall be praised.



The world of Ecclesiastes



Ecclesiastes' view of time

Space

Time

תחת השמש

(tachat ha'shemesh)

**“under the sun”**

**29x** in Ecclesiastes

הבל

(hevel)

**“breath”**

**29x** in Ecclesiastes

→ (11<sup>th</sup> Prime Number)

Space

Time

יראת יהוה

(yirat Adonai)

**“fear of Adonai”**

**0x** in Ecclesiastes



The Bible's view of time

**Q: What lie was Solomon believing?**

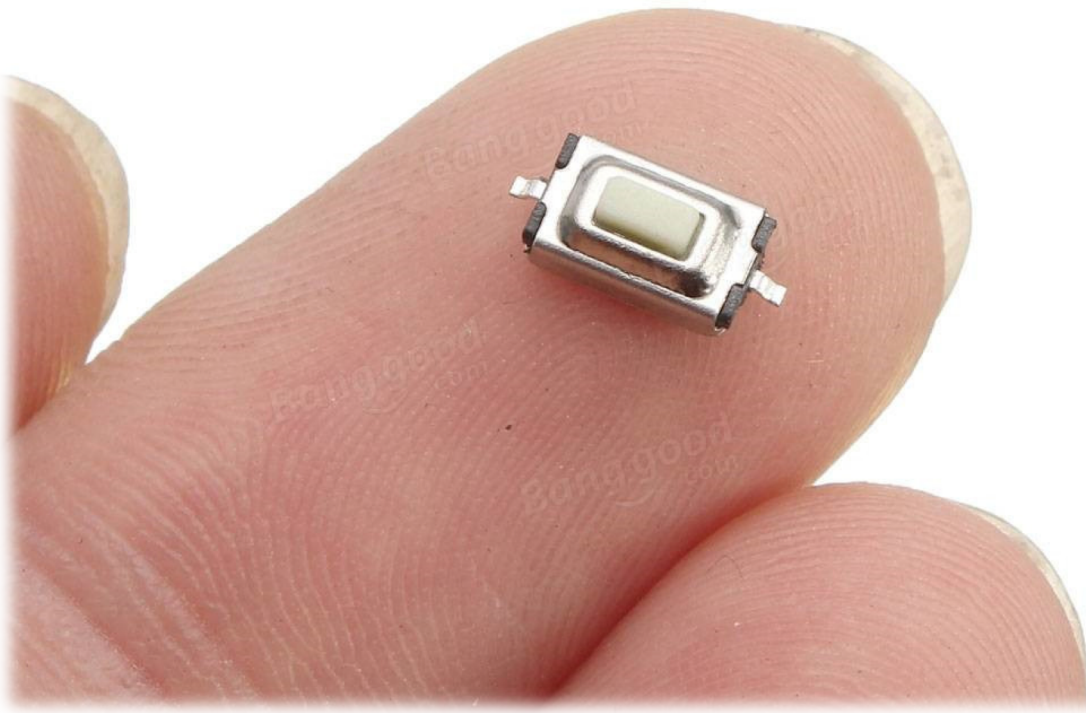
### **Ecclesiastes 2:16**

For there is no lasting remembrance of the wise man *as* with the fool, inasmuch as *in* the coming days all will be forgotten. And how the wise man and the fool alike die!

**Q: What was the result?**

**Ecclesiastes 2:17**

So I hated life, for the work which had been done under the sun was grievous to me; because everything is futility and striving after wind.



The primary cause of depression

### Hebrews 11:4

By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.

### Ecclesiastes 3:11

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, without which man will not find out the work which God has done from beginning even to end.

#### **The Heart of our Problem:**

**We have eternity in our hearts, and  
an expiration date on our bodies.**

עולם  
(*olam*)

**“hidden/age/eternity”**

עלם → Spelling in 3:11

## Outline of Chapters 1-3

### Chapter 1:

- The monotony of life (1-11)
- Solomon's project (12-18)

### Chapter 2:

- Pleasure (1-11)
- Knowledge (12-16)
- Resulting depression & despair (17-23)
- CONCLUSION #1 (24-26)

### Chapter 3:

- The problem identified: TIME (1-11)
- CONCLUSION #2 (12-15)
- Death is universal (16-22)