

Ecclesiastes

*The World is
Never Enough*



Reading and interpreting Ecclesiastes is like following a meandering river, as Solomon moves from one topic to another and then back again. But it is meandering with a purpose and a final destination, toward which Solomon leads us.

Exposition

The World is Never Enough

Because *under the sun* ...

pleasure (2:1-3),

achievement (2:4-11),

wisdom (2:12-16),

work (2:17-23),

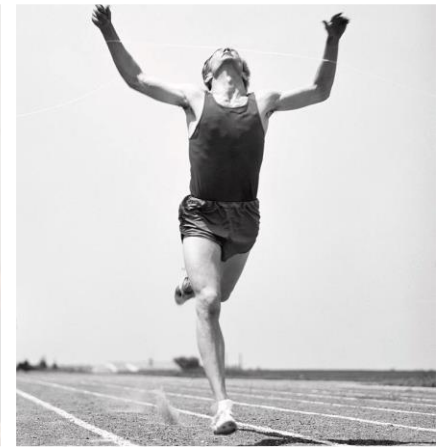
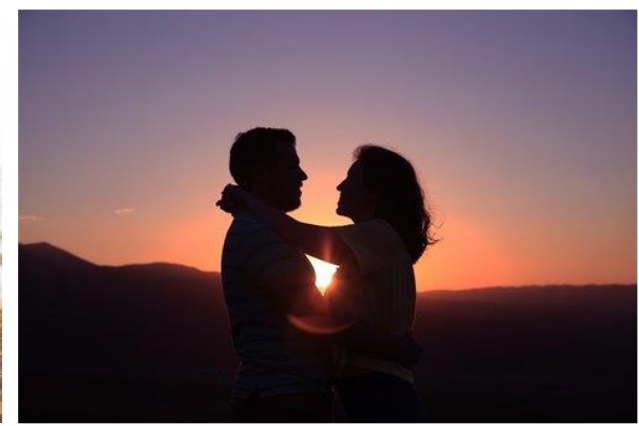
riches (5:10-12, 15)

. . . are all hebel: *meaningless, fleeting, futile, frustrating, pointless, absurd* . They do not gain us eternity, lasting fulfillment, or final meaning.

When Solomon tells us that all we do in life is ultimately *hebel*, he means that we should not expect to get from this world what it cannot give: eternity, lasting fulfillment, or final meaning. He does not mean that we should do nothing or that life cannot ever be enjoyed.



Life can and should be enjoyed when we have the means and opportunity to do so (2:24-25; 5:18-20; 9:7-10).



Exposition

The World is Never Enough

- I. *This is a weary and worn-out world.*
- II. *We are captives on the carousel of life & time.*
- III. *Eternity beckons but eludes us.*
- IV. *Death awaits us all.*
- V. *Remember your Creator and fear God.*

I. This is a weary and worn-out world.

(1:1-11)

- Against the backdrop of an earth that remains “forever”, human life and human history are transitory and futile.
- The cycles of nature flow on endlessly, never seeming to reach a goal or fulfillment.
- This world is weary and wearisome, and we are never satisfied with what it offers to our senses.
- Nothing new or unique happens in history; things only seem new because we forget the past.

