

2. LIFE UNDER THE SUN #1; Chs 4 to 7: Hardships & Companions; Poverty & Wealth; Suffering & Sin

Chapter 4 vs 1-3 The Oppressed

Q 1: This observation is timeless, sad to say. What is different today about historical times? Do people care any more today than yesterday? What does Jesus have to say about this situation? What is our duty?

Chapter 4 vs 4-16 Folly of Toil with Greed, Envy and Avarice

Q 2: What are the messages from this section? What does Jesus have to say about these matters? Why is advancement meaningless? What would it mean for humanity if there were no 'strivers' and 'opportunists' in the world? How does that fit in with Jesus' message to us? Vs 13-16; what does this say about political leadership?

Chapter 5 vs 1 – 20 This is what is Wise, this is what is Good, this is what is Proper.

Q 3: look at each of the 3 sections of this chapter: 1-7; 8-17; 18-20. Summarise the positive aspects that the Preacher is advising or observing. What parallel verses in the NT can you recall? The Words of Jesus & Apostles?

Chapter 6 vs 1-12 Another Evil – Wealth, Possessions, the Serendipity of Life, the certainty of the end.

Q 4: What is the Preacher actually referring to? Is it the fact of having wealth, or the expectations that come with it? Do you have examples in history or present of the Folly of which the Preacher is referring? What should be our attitude and lifestyle in such a position?

Chapter 7 v 1 to Chapter 8 v1 True Wisdom

Q 5: List the things that the Preacher considers to be True Wisdom, and why so. Is the Preacher advocating pessimism as a way of life? If not, what? What parallels in the teaching of Jesus and the Apostles can you recall?

Q 6: Ch 7. 20: cf Rom 3 10-31; Isaiah Ch 53. What is the culmination of this verse in Ecclesiastes? Do you think that the Preacher is being Prophetic and Messianic, or just Fatalistic?

Q 7: Ch 7 v 27 to Ch 8 v 1: Summarise the True Wisdom found by the Preacher. What is meant by the v 28? Is this Misogynistic or overly Patriarchal, or is there an underlying message? cf: Gen Ch 3, Rom 5 v 12.