



Class 8 - Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Kings

Old Testament Seminar - Immanuel Church

Ecclesiastes

Context

- Who is the “Teacher?”
- Setting within the narrative of salvation history

Theme

Meaningful! Meaningful! All is meaningful because all is ordered by an eternal, sovereign, and purposeful God. Therefore, we should fear God and rejoice in what He has given us to do and to have.

Structure of the Book

Vanity of Vanities – Ecclesiastes 1:1-2:23

The Book’s Thesis: Ecclesiastes 2:24-26

There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

Ecclesiastes 3:12-14; 5:18-20; 8:15; 9:7-10

Eating and drinking

Who can enjoy?

God gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy

An opening for the gospel in our culture

The Remainder of the Book

Objection: The Problem of Evil

Three Answers

Practical Application

The Song of Songs

Context

A book about marriage? Or God's love for his people?

Theme

Option #1:

The Song of Solomon sings of the son of David, who is the ideal king of Israel, who is the seed of the woman, seed of the Abraham, seed of Judah, seed of David, who enjoys uninhibited, unashamed intimacy with his beloved, in a garden that belongs to him.

Option #2:

God has created the sexual relationship between man and woman as a beautiful gift. This relation, and the entire marriage relationship is regularly used in Scripture to illustrate the closeness of the relationship between Christ and the Church. Satan's perversion of that gift does not justify the rejection/embarrassment of the gift by Christians. The Song of Songs reminds us of the beauty of this relationship and calls us to the right (i.e. biblical) view of it

The Courtship

The Wedding

The Marriage

The Song of Solomon in light of Genesis 3

A Study Outline for Ecclesiastes

- i. Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 – Antithesis: All is vain.
- ii. Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:23 – All is vain apart from a sovereign Creator.
- iii. Ecclesiastes 2:24-26 – Thesis: All is meaningful if a sovereign God rules the universe.
- iv. Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 – The sovereignty of God affirmed.
- v. Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:16 – Objection: If God is sovereign, why are there so many problems in the world?
- vi. Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 – First answer: Who are you, the created, to point your finger at the Creator; you should be silent and worship in reverence instead.
- vii. Ecclesiastes 5:8-7:14 – Second answer: What is good/prosperity? Those who have it don't necessarily have a blessing from God, nor do those without it necessarily have a curse from God.
- viii. Ecclesiastes 7:15-29 – Third answer: “Bad” things happen to “good” people because no one is good.
- ix. Ecclesiastes 8:1-12:14 – Practical application stemming from chapters 1-7.

A Study Outline for the Song of Songs

- i. Song of Solomon 1:1-3:5 – The Courtship
- ii. Song of Solomon 3:6-5:1 – The Wedding
- iii. Song of Solomon 5:2-8:14 – The Marriage

1 & 2 Kings

Context

- Historical Context

Compiled during the time of the exile

To show exile a result of sin; not Yahweh's unfaithfulness

Events take place roughly between 970 BC and 560 BC

- Redemptive-Historical Context

Covenant with David looms large in the background

What of the promises to Abraham, Israel, and David?

Theme

The King, the covenant representative, sometimes obeys the word of Yahweh and the people are blessed, but sometimes rebels against the word of Yahweh and brings calamity upon the people. Finally, Yahweh's patience runs out and His people suffer the covenant consequences for their sins. Yet, through it all, Yahweh is still faithful to the promises He made to David.

David's Charge to Solomon – 1 Kings 2:1-4

The Zenith of Redemptive-History in the OT – 1 Kings 8:56-61

But Sin Still Remains in the Kingdom – 1 Kings 11:1-14

New Vocabulary

- "Judah"
- "Israel"

The Northern Kingdom: Israel

- “the sins of Jeroboam” – 1 Kings 14:14-16
- Two prophets: Elijah and Elisha – 1 Kings 17-2 Kings 13
Deuteronomy 17:18-20
- The scattering – 2 Kings 17

The Southern Kingdom: Judah

- “for David’s sake” – 1 Kings 15:1-5
- Assyria’s attack on Jerusalem – 2 Kings 18:3-5
- A godly king – 2 Kings 19:16-19
- “Manasseh shed innocent blood” – 2 Kings 21:10-18
- Judah will be removed as well – 2 Kings 23:25-27

All Looks Lost – 2 Kings 25:7

A Little Ray of Hope – 2 Kings 25:27-30

There Must Be Something Greater

Just Like the Fall and Exile from Eden

A Second Exodus Now Needed

A Study Outline for 1st and 2nd Kings

- i. 1 Kings 1-11 – The Height of the Kingdom
- ii. 1 Kings 12-II Kings 17 – The Division of the Kingdom
- iii. II Kings 18-25 – The Fall of the Kingdom

This material is adapted from a course with the same name developed by Capitol Hill Baptist Church. It has been modified for our purposes and has been condensed to fit our time schedule. The original version is available on their website at <https://www.capitolhillbaptist.org/resources/core-seminars/series/old-testament-overview/>