

A WORLDLY VIEW OF LIFE

There are three phrases in the Book of Ecclesiastes that convey Solomon's worldly view of life as a reversionistic believer. (Back-slider) (Prov.14:14)

The first phrase is:	Vanity, all is Vanity.	It is used 38 times in the Book.
The second phrase is:	Chasing after the Wind.	It is used eleven times.
The third phrase is:	Under the Sun.	It is used twenty-eight times.

All three phrases are found in our lesson text: (Eccl.1:14) "I have seen all the works which have been done Under the Sun, and behold all is vanity and striving after the wind."

Today's lesson will study four aspects of Solomon's Worldly View of life as seen through the eyes of a reversionistic believer.
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1. It surprises people that "God" is mentioned 49 times in this Book, because Ecclesiastes is Solomon's worldly view of life and is so bleak and pessimistic.

- Solomon opens our lesson text with these words:
(Eccl.1:13a) "And I set mind to seek and explore by wisdom concerning all that has been done under heaven."
- But then he made this conclusion
(Eccl.1:13b) "It is a **grievous task** which God has given to the sons of men to be **afflicted with**."
- Solomon had asked for God's wisdom and it was given to him as a gift of God's grace:
(1 Kings 3:5, 9-14) "Behold, I have done according to your words. Behold, **I have given you a wise and discerning heart**, so that there has been no one like you, nor shall one like you arise after you." (1 Kings 3:12; 4:29-30).
- How did the wisdom of God become a grievous and afflicted task for Solomon? When he left God out of the equation.
(Rom.4:21) "And being fully assured that what He had promised, he was able also to perform."
- As a reversionistic believer, he thought that he could perform the promise of God in the flesh. He set his mind on the things of the earth rather on heaven.
(Col.3:2) "Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth."
- Every Church Age Believer (CAB) has the same privilege and access as Solomon to the wisdom of God.
(James 1:5; Col.2:2-3) "But if any of you lacks wisdom, **let him ask of God**, who gives **to all men** generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

2. Let's contrast Solomon's worldly view of life with the divine view given by Jesus.

Solomon (Eccl.1:13) "It is grievous and heavy burden that afflicts the believer."

Jesus (Matt.11:28-30) "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, **and I will give you rest**. Take My yoke upon you, and **learn from Me**, for I am gentle and humble in heart; **and you shall find rest for your soul**. For My yoke is easy, and My load is light."

When does divine viewpoint of life become a heavy and burdensome task? When the believer goes negative to the revealed truth of God's word for his life, and chooses to carry the load himself like Solomon. **Solomon stopped learning and leaning on the Lord (1 Pet.5:7).**

Principle: What you set your mind on in life establishes the direction or course of your life.
(Col.3:2) "Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on the earth."

3. The English word for wisdom that is used five times in our lesson text is chokemah (Eccl.1:13, 16, 16, 17, and 18).

- World claims to have this same wisdom by pagan gods. But this is a lie of Satan. And when put to the test, there it is "no contest".
- Wisdom of Egypt's wise men verses **spiritually mature Joseph** (Gen.41:8, 15-16, 28, 32, 39-40).
- Wisdom of Babylon's wise men verses **spiritually mature Daniel** (Dan.2:1-4, 8-13, 15-19, 24-28, and 47-49).
- **Spiritually mature Job** –"And that man (Job) was the greatest of all the men of the east." (Job 1:3b)

4. Chokemah refers to practical divine wisdom. It is used 141 times in OT and mostly in the Wisdom Literature.

The ability to apply the appropriate bible doctrine to human experiences of life. Practical divine wisdom comes from seeking and exploring God's word about life and not from exploring the worldly view of life.

- **Job:** (Job 28:20, 12) "Where then does wisdom come from? And where is the place of understanding?"
- **James:** (Jms.3:15) "This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic." (Jms.3:17) "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy."
- **Daniel:** (Dan.2:27-28a, 47) "As for the mystery about which the king inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians, nor diviners are able to declare it to the king. However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries."
- **Solomon:** (Prov.2:6) "For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding." **This was from a time in Solomon's life when he was a spiritual mature believer.**

NOTE: This was a time when the Queen of Sheba traveled a great distance to listen to Solomon teach the truth of God's word (1 Kings 10) – "It was true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. Nevertheless I did not believe the reports, until I came and my eyes had seen it. You exceed in wisdom and prosperity the report which I heard." (10:6-7; Matt.12:42)