

Reading Ecclesiastes

Vanity of Vanities?

Smoky Hill church of Christ

**FALL
2023**

11. READING WITH JESUS (12.9-14)

THE THEME OF THE BOOK

“Vanity of
vanities, all is
vanity”

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Evaluating the Preacher

ECCLESIASTES 12.9-14

DELIGHTFUL WORDS (12.10)

Seeking or finding (8.17)? Delightful? Plain?

GOADS AND NAILS (12.11)

What are the purpose of the words?

BOOKS AND WRITING (12.12)

What is wearying?

SUMMARY?

Ecclesiastes 12.13–14



CONTRAST?

Ecclesiastes 12.13–14



The End of the Matter?

DOES THIS ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS?

Does this even answer all of Qoheleth's Questions (cf. 3.9)



GREGORY OF NYSSA

“...Proverbs is an exercise which trains our souls and makes them supple for the struggle with Ecclesiastes”

MATTHEW ARNOLD

“Ecclesiastes is one of the wisest and one of the worst understood books in the Bible”

MARTIN LUTHER

“This book is . . . one which no one has ever completely mastered...”

MICHAEL V. FOX

“...there is a tremendous interpretive pressure to raise the valleys and lower the hills, to make the way straight and level before the reader”

It's Complicated.

A Preacher's Longing

LONGS FOR JUSTICE

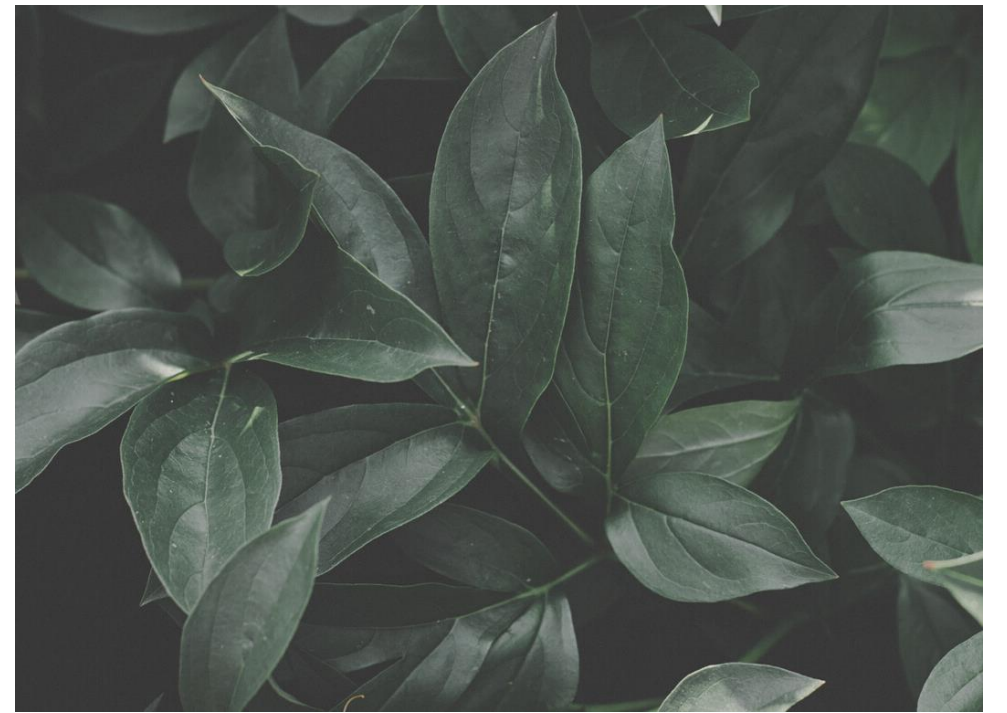
Ecccl 1.3; 2.14–17, 22; 3.16–22; 5.8; 7.15; 8.10–13, 14; 9.1–3, 11; 12.1, 14; cf. John 9.39; 3.17 | 12.47; Mat 25.31–46

LONGS FOR A BANQUET

Ecccl 2.24–26; 3.12; 5.18–22; 8.15; 9.7, 9; 11.9; cf. Isa 25.6; 55.1–2 | Joel 2.24–26 | John 7.37–38; Mat 22.2ff; Rev 7.16; 19.7–9

LONGS FOR RESURRECTION

Ecccl 1.5, 15; 3.10–11, 17–19; 6.6, 12; 8.8, 17; 9.1–3, 12; 11, 10; 12, 7; cf. John 11.24; Acts 2.31; John 10.17–18; Rev 21.5–7; John 3.16; 2 Cor 4.13–15



THE PREACHER'S CONCLUSION?

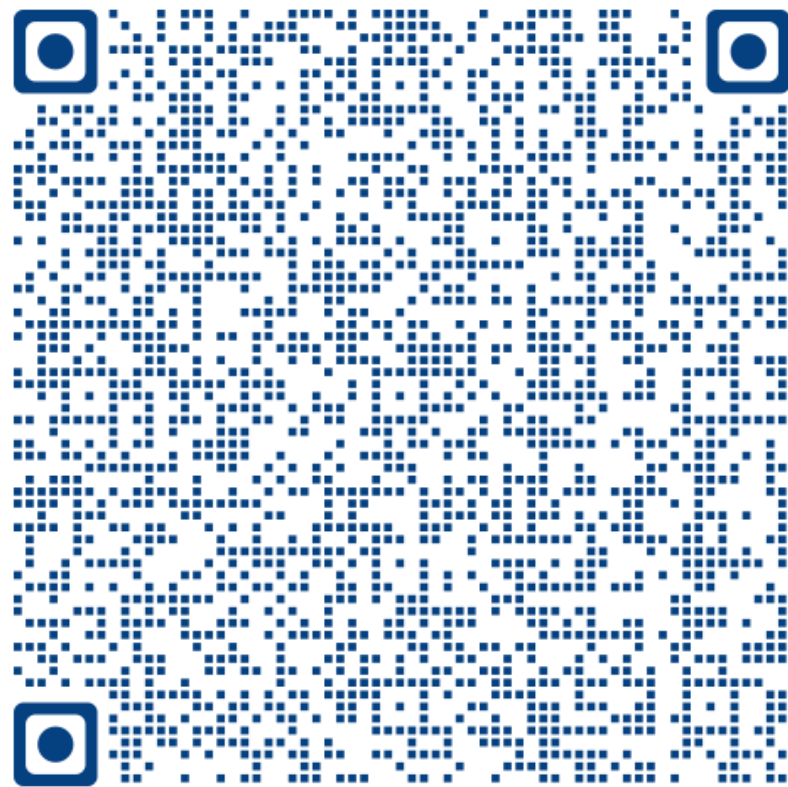
The Preacher Longs for Jesus.

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READ

Exodus 1.1–7



QUESTIONS

- Review the story from the end of Genesis--why is Israel in Egypt? What has God promised to do there? What has their history been like?
- Think through what you know about the story and book of Exodus. Are there places or holes where you don't know as much? What questions do you have?

Next Class

EXODUS

