

# ***Ecclesiastes***

“The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem”

## I. Introduction

### A. Name

1. Ecclesiastes – Greek *ekklesia* (assembly)  
An ecclesiastic is a preacher or teacher.
2. *Qoheleth* – Hebrew from *qahal* (assembly)
  - a. A descriptive title for one who convenes or gathers together an assembly.
  - b. King who gathers his people; shepherd who gathers sheep

### B. Author

1. Solomon
  - a. Son of David (1:1)
  - b. King in Jerusalem (1:1,12)
  - c. Magnified and increased in wisdom (1:16)
  - d. Indulged in pleasure (2:3)
  - e. Enlarged his works (2:4)
2. History
  - a. Solomon asks for and is given wisdom (II Chron. 1:7-12).
  - b. Solomon falls (I Kings 11:1-13).
  - c. Solomon repents and is restored (Eccl. 12:9-10).

### C. *Megilloth* (scroll)

1. Scripture lessons for five festivals
  - a. Song of Songs – Passover
  - b. Ruth – Pentecost
  - c. Lamentations – Fall of Jerusalem to Babylonians
  - d. Esther – Purim
  - e. Ecclesiastes – Feast of Tabernacles
2. Feast of Tabernacles
  - a. Autumn vintage festival
  - b. Reminders of death and the foolishness of living for pleasure

### D. Structure

1. Spoken by a single voice – Solomon
2. Argument that builds from premise to conclusion
3. Four divisions
  - a. 1:2-2:26      Satisfaction is not within man’s power.
  - b. 3:1-5:20      God is sovereign over everything.
  - c. 6:1-8:15      Doctrine is meant for application.
  - d. 8:16-12:14    Objections and practical concerns

## II. Satisfaction is not within man’s power (1:2-2:26).