Finding the Truth: Understanding the Bible

Lesson 19

Studying the Bible: The Wisdom Books: Ecclesiastes

March 1, 2016

The Wisdom Books: Ecclesiastes

Author: Debated, probably Solomon's teaching framed by another's introduction and summary.

Structure: Three Parts

1. Prologue (1:1-11)
   - Introduction of themes
2. Monologue by Qohelet (1:12-12:8)
   - The search for meaning in life.
3. Epilogue (12:8-14)
   - Conclusion for the student.

Terminology:

- Defining the word "hebel" – vanity, meaningless, futility, vapor or wisp of air.

Major Themes:

- God is the Creator of all and the source of life.
- God's ways are not always understandable.
- The way things 'should" be is not often the way they are.
- Life flows in endless cycles that end too soon.
- Death is the great equalizer.

Suggested Reading

HTRTBFAIW: pages 251-254
HTRTBBBB: pages 154-160

Scripture Reading

Book of Ecclesiastes

Key Verses:

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Notes