

1:1
THE WORDS OF COHELETH, SON OF DAVID, KING OF JERUSALEM

HEBREW: ONE WHO GATHERS PEOPLE

TEACHER

DIFFERENT VIEWS ON AUTHORSHIP

- KING SOLOMON?
- ANOTHER DESCENDANT OF DAVID?
- ISRAELITE TEACHER USING A SOLOMON-LIKE PERSONA

KEY POINT: THE TEACHER IS DIFFERENT THAN THE AUTHOR

ANONYMOUS → TEACHER

ECCLESIASTES

"HEVEL, HEVEL, EVERYTHING IS UTTERLY HEVEL"

HEBREW: VAPOR, SMOKE → USED 38 TIMES

1 TEMPORARY, FLEETING 2 ENIGMA, PARADOX

BEAUTY GOODNESS JUSTICE

THE AUTHOR'S BASIC GOAL

TO LET THE TEACHER DECONSTRUCT ALL THE WAYS WE FIND MEANING & PURPOSE APART FROM GOD

W E A L T H
P L E A S U R E
C A R E E R
S T A T U S

1:1-12 INTRODUCTION TO THE TEACHER

1:3-11 TIME

1:2 CAREER

- WEALTH
- CAREER
- STATUS
- PLEASURE

• WISDOM

• FEAR OF THE LORD (SEE 7:13-18)

HEVEL
NO GUARANTEES
ENIGMA

STRESS AGE LEAVE IT BEHIND

PLEASURE MONDAY ALWAYS COMES

HOW DO YOU LIVE LIFE IN THE MIDST OF HEVEL?

ACCEPT THAT ALL OF LIFE IS OUT OF YOUR CONTROL

11:7-12:7 DEATH

12:8

12:9-14 CONCLUSION & EVALUATION OF THE TEACHER

TEACHER'S WORDS: WISDOM

"OF THE MAKING OF BOOKS THERE IS NO END"

THE CONCLUSION: FEAR GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDS - THIS IS THE WHOLE DUTY OF HUMANS. FOR GOD WILL BRING EVERY DEED INTO JUDGMENT. EVERY HIDDEN THING, WHETHER GOOD OR EVIL (12:13-14)

THE GREAT EQUALIZER

1:1, 12:9-14 THE AUTHOR

created by the Bible Project

Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.
Ecclesiastes 12:13

STUDY #9: Ecclesiastes 11:1-12:14
What Makes Life Meaningful?

**In your thinking, what does it mean to fear God?

Why Don't Muslims Sing and Christians Do? - John Piper

Revelations 15:4: *Who will not fear oh Lord and glorify your name for you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you for your righteous acts have been revealed.*

So, who will not fear, all will come and worship. So three times: fear, worship, fear, worship, fear, worship. But now there is a *great fear transforming reality*.

Why is it that, in worship, Christians sing and Muslims don't? Why did Christianity produce centuries of music? High music, low music, middle music, happy music, sad music, music everywhere Christianity goes people SING. Why? Because fear has been totally transformed by Jesus.

Because of the Lord's supper, because of a crucified Savior that Islam does not believe in. And without a crucified Savior bearing all the wrath of Allah, Allah will not be sung to. He will be trembled over and maybe you'll kill yourself while killing others in order possibly to get into some paradisiacal relationship.

Oh, how sad is that religion. Bear witness to your Muslim friends the good news that the God who made heaven and earth has sent his one and only Son to bear his wrath that we might not have to bear it and that we can trust him and know that the wrath has been relieved and lifted. The guilt is gone.

There is no condemnation and all my trembling is not trembling out of uncertainty, whether I'm going to fall off the ledge. Rather it's become the sweet trembling of awe and wonder and thanks that I'm not going to fall off the ledge but I was so close and I was just like all those sinners but by grace alone I stand here.

Oh, how can we not tremble with happiness?!

**Has John Piper changed/modified/added to your understanding of fearing God? If so, how?

Flawless -Mercy Me

There's got to be more
Than going back and forth
From doing right to doing wrong
'Cause we were taught that's who we are
Come on get in line right behind me
You along with everybody
Thinking there's worth in what you do

Then like a hero who takes the stage when
We're on the edge of our seats saying it's
too late
Well let me introduce you to amazing grace

No matter the bumps
No matter the bruises
No matter the scars
Still the truth is
The cross has made
The cross has made you flawless
No matter the hurt
Or how deep the wound is
No matter the pain
Still the truth is
The cross has made
The cross has made you flawless

Could it possibly be
That we simply can't believe
That this unconditional
Kind of love would be enough
To take a filthy wretch like this
And wrap him up in righteousness
But that's exactly what He did

No matter the bumps
No matter the bruises
No matter the scars
Still the truth is
The cross has made

The cross has made you flawless
No matter the hurt
Or how deep the wound is
No matter the pain
Still the truth is
The cross has made
The cross has made you flawless

Take a breath smile and say
Right here right now I'm ok
Because the cross was enough

And like a hero who takes the stage when
We're on the edge of our seats saying it's
too late
Well let me introduce you to grace, grace,
God's grace

No matter the bumps
No matter the bruises
No matter the scars
Still the truth is
The cross has made
The cross has made you flawless
No matter the hurt
Or how deep the wound is
No matter the pain
Still the truth is
The cross has made
The cross has made you flawless

No matter what they say
Or what you think you are
The day you called His name
He made you flawless
He made you flawless

No matter the bruises....

