

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship

Every word inspired.



Every word proclaimed.

“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” Col 1:28

ECCLESIASTES

March 1, 2020



Ecc1 1:1-7

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Author

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קהלת

ECCELESIASTES

The Bible contains 7 different types of literature:

- a. Narrative** – tell a story. (Genesis, 1 and 2 Samuel, Ruth, Jonah, Nehemiah, Matthew, Mark, etc.)
- b. Legal** - specify laws. (Deuteronomy, Leviticus, etc.)
- c. Historical** – give the history. (1 and 2 Chronicles, Acts, etc.)
- d. Poetic** - uses rhyme, rhythm, and parallelism. (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Solomon, **Ecclesiastes**)
- e. Wisdom** – applying truths to daily life. (Proverbs, Song of Solomon, **Ecclesiastes**)
- g. Didactic** – line upon line teaching of truth.
(epistles/letters - Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, 1 and 2 Peter, etc.)
- h. Apocalyptic** (Ezekiel, Daniel, Zechariah, Revelation)

1 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

Author

“Qoheleth” a preacher, a teacher – one who calls and gathers people together.

“the son of David” – David had many sons.

6 sons were born when he was king in Hebron: Amnon, Daniel, Absalom, Adonijah, Shephatiah, and Ithream.

13 sons when he was king in Jerusalem - Shimea, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, Ibhar, Elishama, Eliphelet, Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet.

+++

“king in Jerusalem” – Solomon (born 990 BC, died 931 BC, Reigned as king 971 BC – 931 BC)

- No descendant of David other than Solomon ever achieved the scope of accomplishments or the breadth of experience that the writer describes in this Book.
- One who possessed everything the world could give, not only of material things, but of intellectual gifts also.

Solomon had:

- unrivaled wisdom (1:16)
- unequalled wealth (2:7) He had a fleet of ships that would bring gold to him every day from far off lands.

1 Kings 10:26-29

26 Now Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen; and he had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen, and he stationed them in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem.

27 The king made silver as common as stones in Jerusalem, and he made cedars as plentiful as sycamore trees that are in the lowland.

28 Also Solomon's import of horses was from Egypt and Kue, and the king's merchants procured them from Kue for a price.

29 A chariot was imported from Egypt for 600 shekels of silver, and a horse for 150;

- opportunities for pleasure (2:3)
 - extensive building activities (2:4-6)
 - From the world's viewpoint, Solomon had it all.
- *No other descendant of David measured up to such specifications.

Solomon wrote 3 books in the Old Testament:

- Proverbs
- Song of Solomon
- Ecclesiastes
- Many believe Solomon wrote the Song of Solomon in his youth, the Proverbs in his middle age, and the book of Ecclesiastes when he was old.

1 Kings 4:29-33

29 Now God gave Solomon wisdom and very great discernment and breadth of mind, like the sand that is on the seashore.

30 Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the sons of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt.

31 For he was wiser than all men, than Ethan the Ezrahite, Heman, Calcol and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was known in all the surrounding nations.

32 He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005.

Solomon's History

1 Kings 3:3-14

- 3 Now Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David, except he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.
- 4 The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place; Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.
- 5 In Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream at night; and God said, "Ask what you wish me to give you."
- 6 Then Solomon said, "You have shown great lovingkindness to Your servant David my father, according as he walked before You in truth and righteousness and uprightness of heart toward You; and You have reserved for him this great lovingkindness, that You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.
- 7 "Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king in place of my father David, yet I am but a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.
- 8 "Your servant is in the midst of Your people which You have chosen, a great people who are too many to be numbered or counted.

9 "So give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

10 It was pleasing in the sight of the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing.

11 God said to him, "Because you have asked this thing and have not asked for yourself long life, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have you asked for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself discernment to understand justice,

12 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 before you, nor shall one like you arise after you.

13 "I have also given you what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that there will not be any among the kings like you all your days.

14 "If you walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and commandments, as your father David walked, then I will prolong your days."

Solomon's Downfall

1 Kings 11:1-12

- 1 Now King Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women,
- 2 from the nations concerning which the Lord had said to the sons of Israel, "You shall not associate with them, nor shall they associate with you, for they will surely turn your heart away after their gods." Solomon held fast to these in love.
- 3 He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives turned his heart away.
- 4 For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been.
- 5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites.
- 6 Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not follow the Lord fully, as David his father had done.

- 7 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable idol of Moab, on the mountain which is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon.
- 8 Thus also he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.
- 9 Now the Lord was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice,
- 10 and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not observe what the Lord had commanded.
- 11 So the Lord said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant.
- 12 "Nevertheless I will not do it in your days for the sake of your father David, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son.

Ecclesiastes is the journey of a desperate man on a search for the answers to life and the quest for fulfillment in life.

Solomon's Temple

“The greatest example of the truthfulness of Solomon's words is the magnificent temple he built in Jerusalem. It was an architectural marvel, an unequaled display of wealth, and a seemingly unassailable fortress. Furthermore, it was built to the glory and praise of the one true God Almighty and Eternal. But over the years of its existence, it was robbed of its beauty and splendor several times, it was neglected and allowed to deteriorate into shambles more than once, and in the end it was torn down stone by stone and even the stones were carried away until only a few stones from one side of the foundation remain today to form an unceasing place of mourning for the Jewish people. Solomon's greatest accomplishment has become the greatest source of sorrow for the most persecuted people in the history of the world. The reason Solomon's temple was so completely destroyed was that, while Solomon was building it, he was neglecting the only treasure that will last forever and in doing so set an example that eventually caused his whole nation to put other gods ahead of the true God. However, near the end of Solomon's life, long before the temple was neglected or destroyed, God showed him that it was just one example that all human achievements are temporary and vanish away like the wind.”

****Solomon's Temple is a picture of Solomon's life – it had a magnificent beginning but deteriorated into a meaningless existence.***

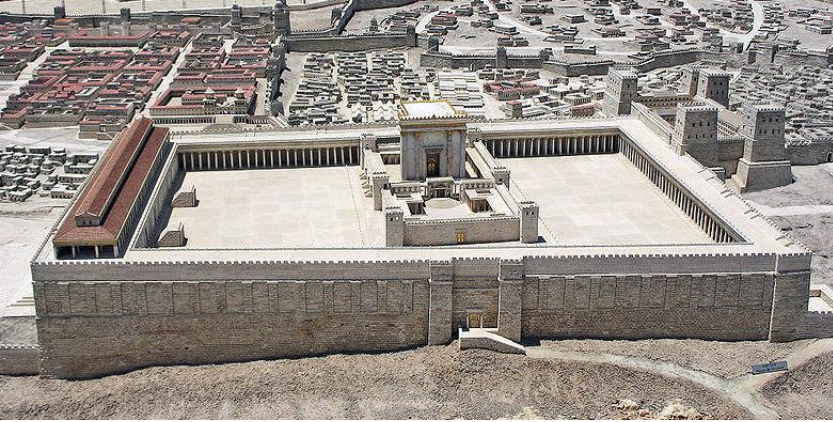


1. Solomon's Temple

Date Built: 950 BC by Solomon

Date Destroyed: 586 BC by Babylon

Scripture: 1 Kings 5-8, 2 Chron. 5

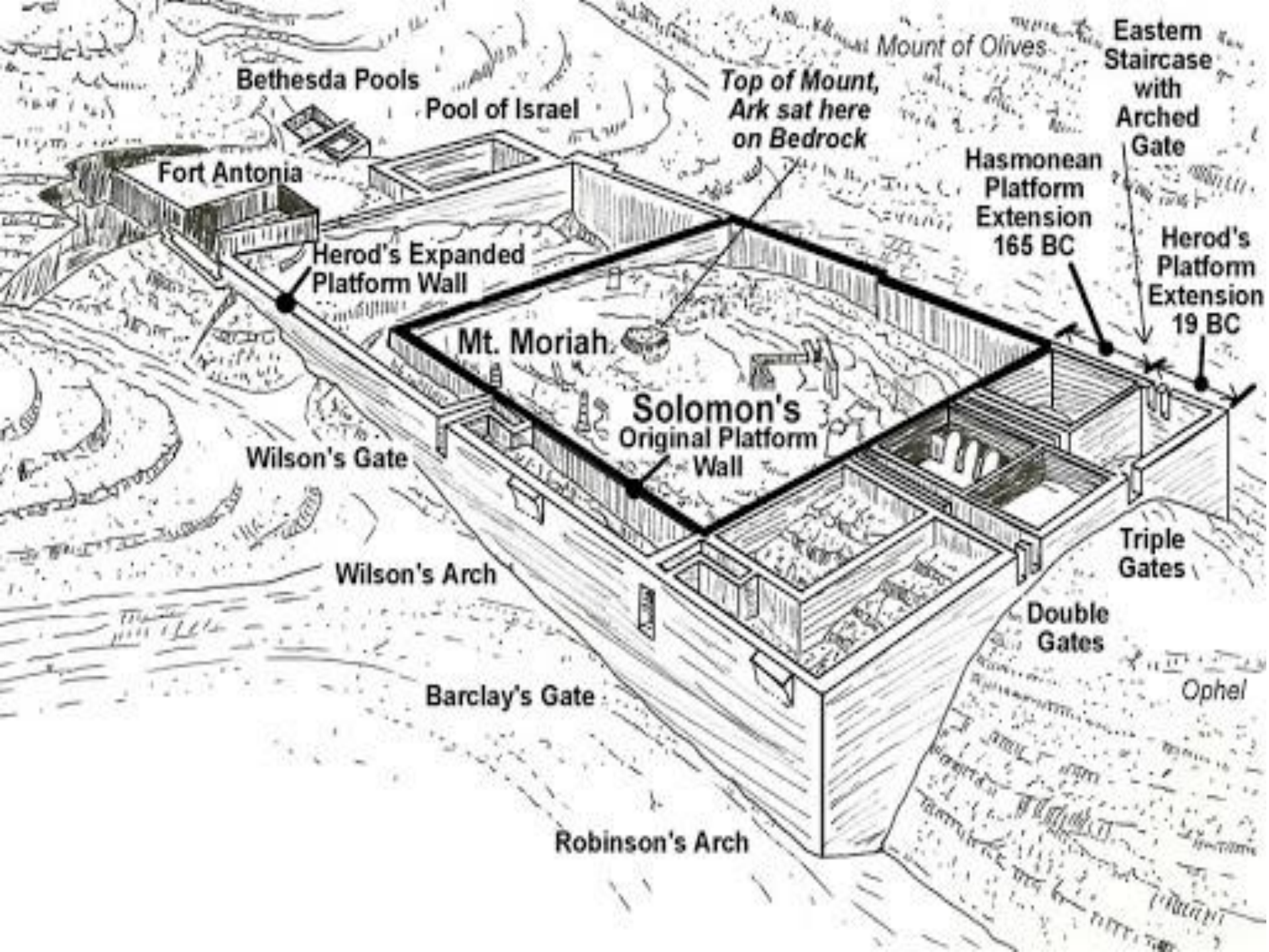


3. Herod's Temple

Date Built: 20 B.C.

Date Destroyed: 70 AD by Titus

Scripture: Matt. 24:1-3



JERUSALEM'S HOLY GROUND

The ancient Jerusalem is a complex of religious sites, each with its own history and significance. From the Temple Mount to the Western Wall, the city is a tapestry of faith and tradition.

Jerusalem, where the golden Temple of Solomon once stood, is a city of many names. The meaning of the name, "City of Peace," and the story of its founding, are central to the city's identity.



THE CITY'S HISTORY
The city's history is a complex of religious sites, each with its own history and significance.

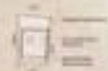
THE TEMPLE MOUNT

The Temple Mount is the holiest site in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. It is the site of the Temple of Solomon, the Temple of Herod, and the Dome of the Rock.



THE WESTERN WALL

The Western Wall is the last remaining remnant of the Temple of Herod. It is a place of prayer and pilgrimage for Jews from around the world.



THE DOME OF THE ROCK

The Dome of the Rock is an Islamic shrine located on the Temple Mount. It is one of the most important sites in Islam.



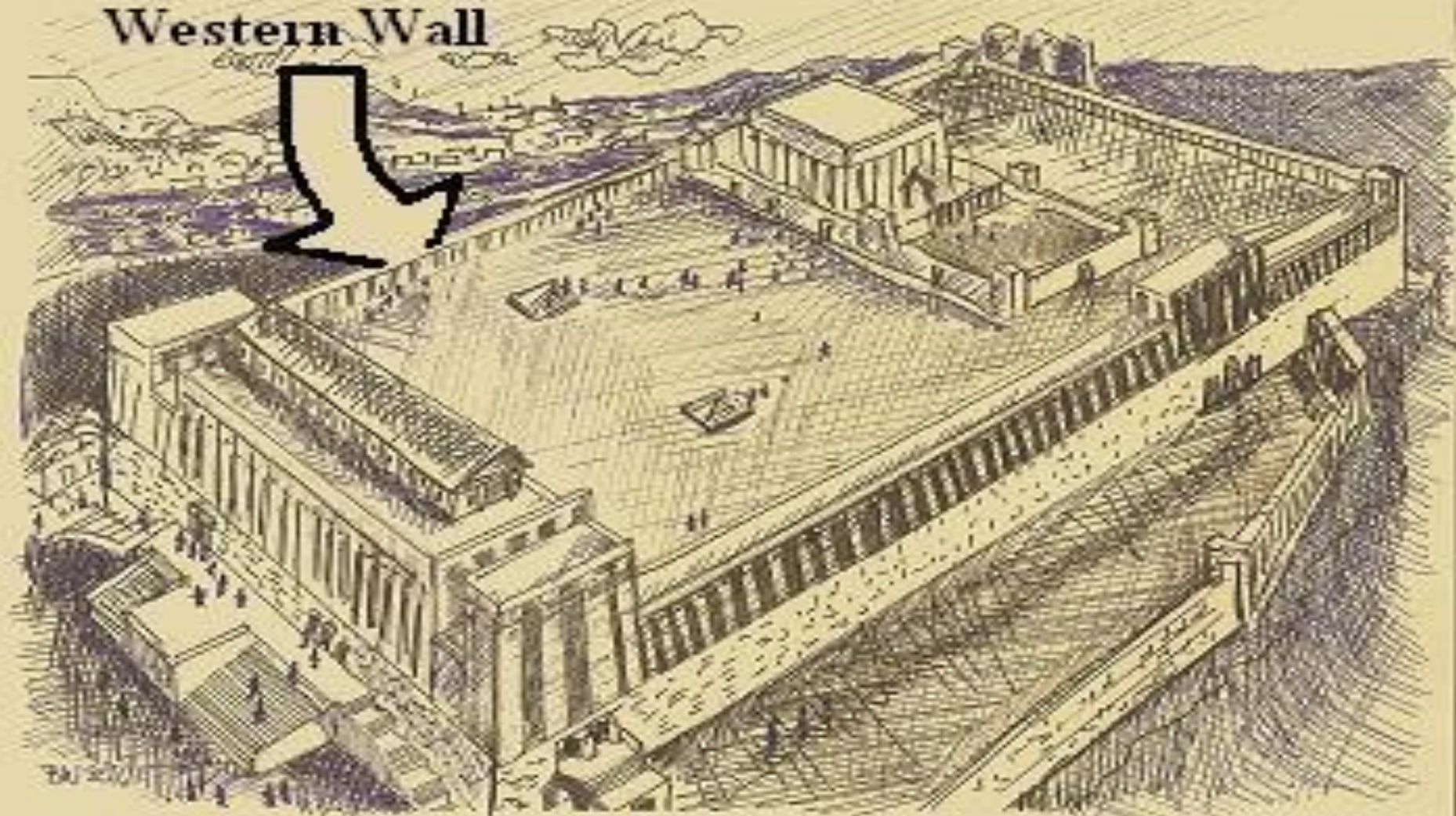
THE CITY OF JERUSALEM

The City of Jerusalem is a city of many names and many faiths. It is a city of peace and a city of hope.

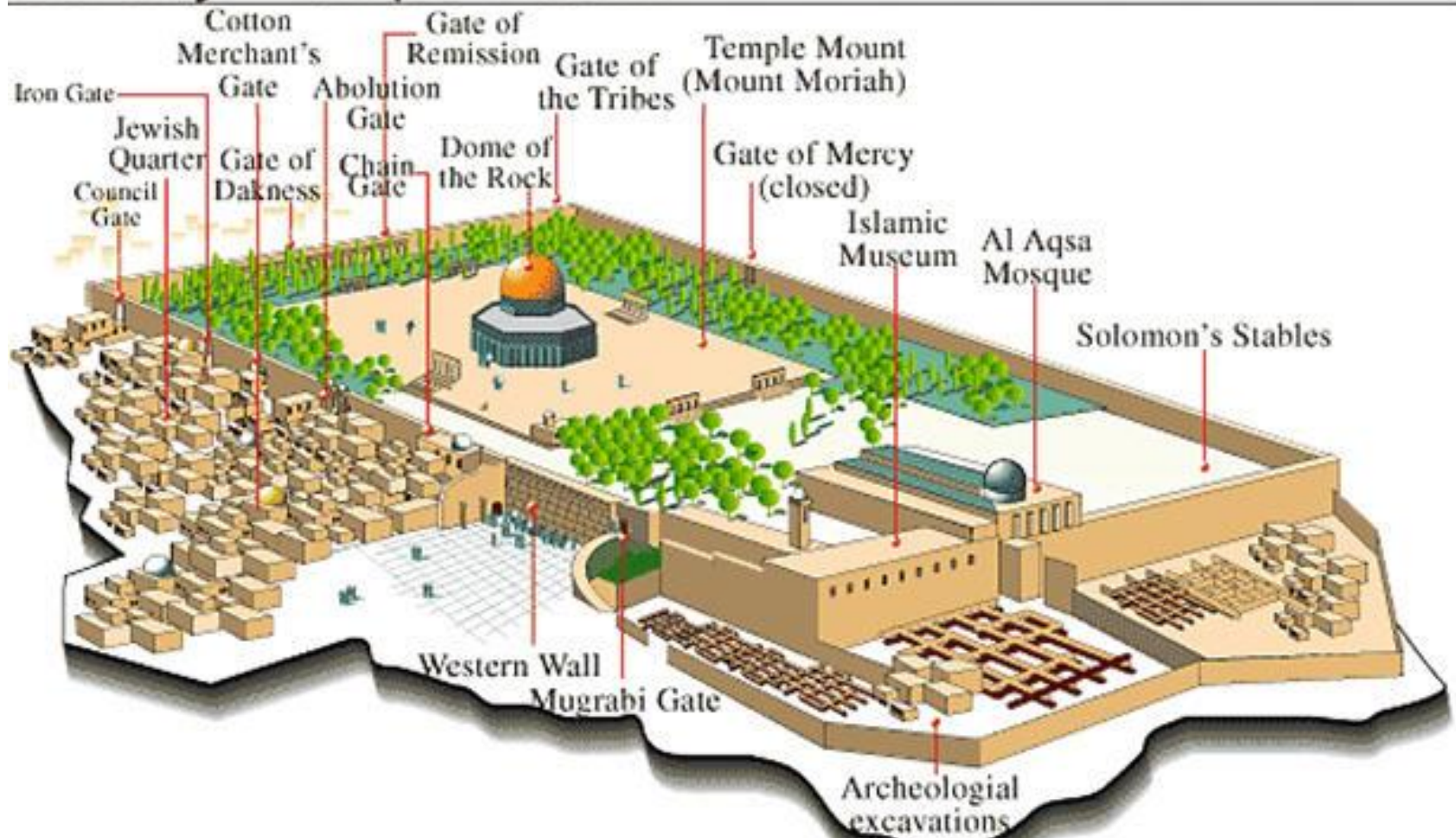


NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Western Wall



Old City - Temple Mount







3 courses by Sunni Muslim cleric before 1967

14 courses during Ottoman Period in 1866

(Temple Mount surface on the other side)

4 courses by Umayyads from 600's AD

7 courses of Herodian ashlar from 19 BC

Date:

- 1 Kings 11:42 says Solomon reigned for 40 years.
- 960 B.C. - the completion of the temple.
- Solomon's reign was from 971 B.C. to 931 B.C.
- Written 931 BC – 935 BC
- Phoenician and Ugaritic influence in the words Solomon used show it was written in the 10th century. Words and cultural phrases used specifically at a particular time. The lack of the word “the” before an adjective.

Purpose:

The purpose of the book of Ecclesiastes is to show that life "under the sun", without God, is pointless and meaningless.

What's the
Point?



- **God** - 41 x's Solomon's exclusive use of the general word for God, *Elohim*, rather than His personal name, *Yahweh* ("Lord") shows that the Creator/creature relationship rather than the Redeemer/redeemed relationship is being considered. Solomon is appealing to all men everywhere.
- **Under the sun** - 29x's
- **Vanity** - 22x's
- **Wise** - 24x's
- **Wisdom** - 27x's
- **Fool** - 25x's
- **Righteous** - 11x's
- **Wicked** - 10x's
- **Evil** - 20x's
- **Labor*** - 26x's
- **Toil** - 6x's
- **Rich** - 8x's -
- **Wealth** - 4x's

A Comparison:

Revelation and Ecclesiastes

Revelation

Mankind is at the end of time.

Life is judged by what has happened
in the past.

Life is seen from God's perspective.

All events have purpose.

Everything matters.

Eternity is realized.

Our only hope is God.

Ecclesiastes

Mankind is at the end of its rope.

Life is judged by what is happening.
In the present.

Life is seen from man's perspective.

All events are meaningless.

Nothing matters.

Eternity is placed in the heart.

Our only hope is God.

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- Solomon starts with his conclusion first.
- **"Vanity"** – lbh – hebel – meaningless, worthless, insignificant, empty, vanity, pointless, nothingness, vapor, void, futile, no purpose. Used 5 times in this sentence and 22 times in this book.

Word Cloud of Ecclesiastes

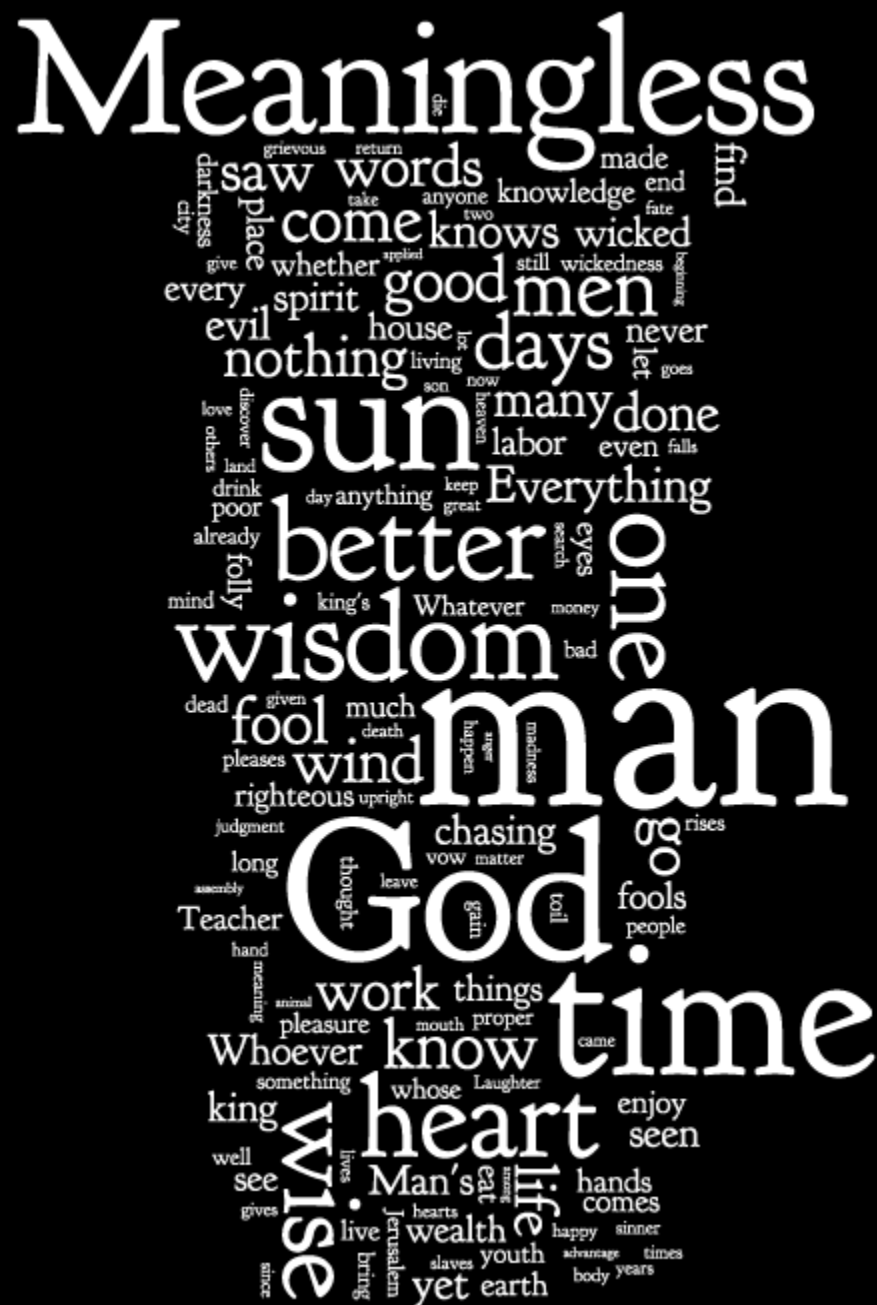
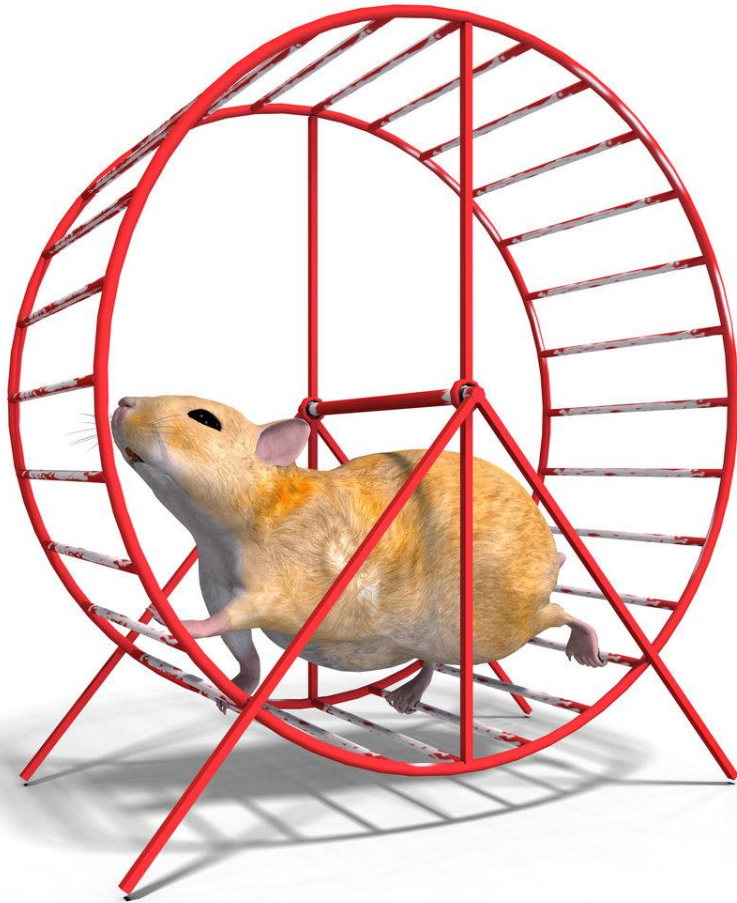


Image attributed to <http://www.wordle.net>

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- **"Vanity"** – lbh – hebel – meaningless, worthless, useless, insignificant, empty, vanity, pointless, nothingness, zero, vapor ("It is all a bunch of hot air."), void, futile, no purpose. Uses this word 5 times in this sentence and 22 times in this book.
- **"vanity of vanities"** – like the "holy of holies." To repeat something in the singular and then move to the plural, therefore means that it's 'meaningless' to the nth degree. There is nothing more meaningless. This is the top of all things meaningless, i.e. of all things meaningless, life is the most meaningless.
- Like a treadmill – good feelings of accomplishment, runners "high", maybe good music, but not getting anywhere.

Are we no better than hamsters??



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- Like a treadmill – good feelings of accomplishment, runners "high", maybe good music, but not getting anywhere.
- Ecclesiastes is almost in the middle between Genesis and Revelation.

Genesis records the source of how life became meaningless.

Ecclesiastes proves and proclaims life's meaninglessness.

Revelation exposes how lives lived meaninglessly will be judged.

- Solomon want us to get the big picture, he wants us to think it through (which 99% of people don't).
- This is what philosophers do.
- Eccl. is intended to shock the reader out of complacency. It is designed to rock the boat, shake the tree, loosen the grip, and pull the chain.

Hello
my name is

Hebel



“A few years ago, scientists at John Hopkins University surveyed nearly 8,000 college students at forty-eight universities and asked what they considered “very important” to them. What do you think these college students said? Make a lot of money? Get married? Get a job? Buy a home? Only 16 percent answered “making a lot of money.” But a whopping 75 percent said that their first goal was “finding a purpose and meaning to my life.”

“The point that Solomon is making is that you live for seventy or eighty years and then you’re gone. Materially speaking, life is short and then you die. You will lose everything you own to the next generation. Your children will rent out your house, purge your possessions, and spend your inheritance. Ultimately, you will be a distant memory at a Thanksgiving meal.”

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3 What advantage does man have in all his work Which he does under the sun?

יִתְרוֹן - yithrown – business term - advantage, gain, profit, is there anything at the bottom line.

עֲמָל - amal – work that is hard, difficult, painful, filled with worry.

“under the sun” (29 times) - this is from Solomon’s viewpoint as he has searched and experienced everything in the world - ground level, horizontal, limited to, and human.

“Under the sun” is the realm where vanity reigns.

What is the Point??

“The point that Solomon is making is that you live for seventy or eighty years and then you’re gone. Physically speaking, life is short and then you die. You will lose everything you own to the next generation. Your children will rent out your house, purge your possessions, and spend your inheritance. Ultimately, you will be a distant memory at a Thanksgiving meal.”

Chuck Colson was once being interviewed. He and his wife had recently moved to Florida into a retirement community; and here are his observations. Most of the people are very unhappy. They're angry with their children for their children have disappointed them for one reason or another. They're overweight and very unhealthy. They eat and drink too much, and they cuss incessantly. Colson, asks, "Is this what we've worked for? Is this really the golden life?"

Next week we will look at Solomon's examples he uses to support his statements.