

Old Testament Survey

Ecclesiastes

Does anything mean anything?

The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem: “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”

Ecclesiastes 1:1-2 NIV



Introduction

- **Written by a man of wisdom**
- **David's family line**
- **Everything is meaningless**
- **Everything lacks substance**



**What do people gain from all their labors
at which they toil under the sun?
Generations come and generations go,
but the earth remains forever.**

Ecclesiastes 1:3-4 NIV



The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises. The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course.

Ecclesiastes 1:5-6 NIV



All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again. All things are wearisome, more than one can say. The eye never has enough of seeing, or the ear its fill of hearing.

Ecclesiastes 1:7-8 NIV



What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which one can say, “Look! This is something new”? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time.

Ecclesiastes 1:9-10 NIV



**No one remembers the former generations,
and even those yet to come will not be
remembered by those who follow them.**

Ecclesiastes 1:11 NIV



Main Point

When life feels like an empty donut, let Jesus be the filling



The Pessimistic Experience

- All the labors - mental, physical, emotional...
- Under the sun - here on earth
- Gain - no profit
- Life is short - death is permanent



The Pessimistic Experience

- Everything is cyclical
- Same stuff, different day
- Nothing is really new
- Nobody remembers previous generations



Fill The Donut

- **When life feels like an endless cycle**
 - **When you follow Jesus you always have substance and accomplish something**
 - **We have the light of life**
 - **We grow closer to Him**



Fill The Donut

- **When nothing feels new**
 - **Just because something is old doesn't mean it can't have new meaning**
 - **New mercies everyday**
 - **New circumstances allow Jesus to do new things in our lives**



Closing

- **When life feels like an empty donut let Jesus be the filling**

