

Listening Guide

Episode 1- *Ecclesiastes*

“Wisdom, Vanity, and Chasing After The Wind!”

1. Today we are going to start our two-part series on a Jewish Sacred Text known to those in the Christian tradition as the Book of _____ and for those of the Jewish tradition as Qoheleth.
2. Qoheleth, as the writer identifies himself in the book, says things that seem to _____ traditional religious beliefs; they even contradict themselves within the book!
3. ... we still have to wrestle with the idea that King Solomon, as a person, is one of the more _____ heroes to populate the pages of the Christian or Jewish Canon.
4. Just like Proverbs, Ecclesiastes is full of _____.
5. The type of _____ used in this writing, dates to a much later period than other writings from the period of Solomon.
6. Another problem is that the _____ - Solomon- it's never used in the text.
7. This piece of writing is a piece of _____, but it's also a piece of rhetoric.
8. So, Ecclesiastes is King _____ point of view, indisputably.
9. _____ is the art of influencing people, persuading people, arousing feelings, changing people's minds.
10. Christians, Jews, and _____ all agree Solomon holds a unique place in the history of the Near East.
11. In other words, Qoheleth spoke from a _____ point of view, and his wisdom came from the Jewish God, but his goal is not to call people to Judaism or even to call Jews to live better Jewish lives.
12. The goal of Qoheleth is to give practical _____ for life, as he says, “under the sun.”

13. "Your _____ and prosperity exceed the fame of which I had heard."
14. According to Scripture, Solomon was an incredibly successful _____ man.
15. Solomon conducted his entire reign with no armed _____ with anyone; instead of fighting, he made deals.
16. Solomon famously had 300 _____ and over 700 concubines.
17. Peter Elbow wrote a seminal, scholarly piece claiming that if you want to know if a certain set of assertions are true, you should practice what he calls the _____ Game.
18. Elbow argues that people who play regularly the Believing Game, turn out to be people with better _____ and find more truth.
19. Qoheleth breaks down the secrets to living a _____ life; and if we follow his line of reasoning, he negotiates the contradictions in the human experience that we all live and are frustrated by.
20. Qoheleth means _____ to the Assembly.
21. The word *Hevel* means _____.
22. Scholars tell us to call something *Hevel* or vapor, is to apply the _____ of real vapor onto human experience.
23. The _____ experience is, indeed, vaporous in every single way.
24. Theists believe that that is something that God puts inside us: we demand _____.
25. "I have seen all the works that are done under the _____; and, indeed, all is vanity and grasping at the wind."
26. Qoheleth's credibility comes from the voice of _____.
27. Well, if you're not careful when you read all of this, it does read that _____ is not worth living.
28. Qoheleth advocates _____.
29. According to Qoheleth, _____ ways are *Hevel*.
30. We are wired with _____ in our hearts.

31. Judaism is a religion of **hope**.



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