

# Finding Life's Meaning "Under The Sun"

## Lesson 2

### The Prologue (1:1-11)

#### Introduction

Solomon opens his "assembly" by identifying himself and stating his conclusions about life that is lived "under the sun" (vv. 1-2). He follows that up with the probing question: *Is there anything "under the sun" that has any intrinsic value...that will last?* (v. 3)

To conclude his prologue, Solomon gives his observations about a life that seems to be going nowhere fast and having no lasting value (vv. 4-11).

- 1) What is Solomon's firm conclusion re: all human labor & wisdom "under the sun?" (v. 2) Does he change his mind throughout the book? (12:8)
  
- 2) What question does he pose re: all a man can do during his lifetime? (v. 3) What similar question did Jesus ask? (Mt. 16:26)
  
- 3) Solomon then begins describing life that appears to him to be "going in circles." (vv. 4-11) What comments does he offer from each of the following examples to support this perspective?
  - a) the generations of men (v. 4)
  
  - b) creation (vv. 5-7)
  
  - c) man's activities (vv. 8-11)
  
- 4) When Solomon discusses life "under the sun," he is talking about a life lived without Who? Compare this to what is taught in Jas. 3:13-17.
  
- 5) In such a life, is everything meaningless? (cp. Rom. 1:18-25, 28, 32)
  
- 6) Is this how God originally intended it to be? (Gen. 2:25; 3:7, 16-19; Rom. 8:20)