

Ecclesiastes Pt. 2

Can't Get No Satisfaction

December 13, 2025

Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-8; 2:18-24; 5:10-16

Last time when we looked at the Book of Ecclesiastes we observed that the author of the book is trying to provide the answer to the question *What is the meaning of life?* or *What is the meaning of life under the Sun?* He does it by employing poetic language, full of repetitions, metaphors, emotions. He depicts the life under the Sun as miserable for those who defy God, and gives hints of hope and joy to those who fear God.

The Book of Ecclesiastes is part of the Wisdom Literature in the Old Testament. It does not contain promises, but observations from life experience. It does not mention covenant, redemption, God's covenant name. God in Ecclesiastes is referred to as *Elohim* not as *YHWH*.

1. We talked about the fleeting nature (vanity of vanities) of the life *under the Sun*
 - There is nothing new under the Sun, all things come and go – *a generation goes and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever*
 - Human life is like a vapor – no one will remember us in a few years time; we are born, we toil and then we die *under the Sun*
 - My suggestion – the Book of Ecclesiastes serves as a pre-evangelistic text: by showing the futility of the life *under the Sun* it drives one to desparation in hope of turning to God (comp. *Rich Young Ruler*)

- We pointed out two allusions to Jesus Christ:
 - *set your minds on the things that are above, not on things that are on earth* Col. 3:1-2 vs. Eccl. 5:2 and the theme *under the Sun*
 - Only the Lord (Jesus) can make what is crooked straight (Luke 3:4-6) vs. Eccl. 1:15; 7:13
2. Today we are going to look at another theme present in the Book of Ecclesiastes – labouring, toiling, working in vain or, more generally, not finding fulfillment, satisfaction in the fruits of the labour or in possessions *under the Sun*
- the idea of finishing work, reaching rest from the labour, is present in the Bible from the beginning chapters of the Book of Genesis (2:1-2)
 - Remembering the Sabbath Day is part of the Ten Commandments – in Exodus 20:8-10 in the context of creation, while in Deuteronomy 5:12-15 in the context of redemption
 - Sabbath: from Men Godward *consecration*; from God menward *consumation*
 - The futility of one's labour under the Sun is a common observation:
 - Classical music: *Carmina Burana*
 - Popular music: Pink Floyd *Time*
 - Popular music: Rolling Stones *I can't get no satisfaction*
 - Paul in 1 Cor. 15:32 *What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die"*
 - It is Godly response to this realization that requires divine revelation and the work of the Holy Spirit
 - Not reaching rest, not enjoying the fruits of one's labour is the result of the fall
 - *Snickers. It satisfies.*

3. The Sabbath–Satisfaction theme in the New Testament. The Book of Ecclesiastes as part of the Wisdom Literature; the Preacher, the Wise Man (Solomon):
 - Jesus as the Wise Man, the Wisdom of God – *someone greater than Solomon is here* – Matt. 12:42
 - The parable of the rich fool – Luke 12:13-21 (cannot take it with you)
 - Jesus’s words on the cross: *It is finished*– John 19:30; Hebrews 10:11-14
 - Philippians 1:6 *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ*
 - Romans 8:29-30
4. Finally, one more contrast between *life under the Sun* in Ecclesiastes and the Christian life depicted in New Testament: Philippians 3:17-21