

Background of Ecclesiastes

The Hebrew word

Qoheleth (translated
'Ecclesiastes') occurs
in Scripture only in
this book. It means
'one who assembles'.

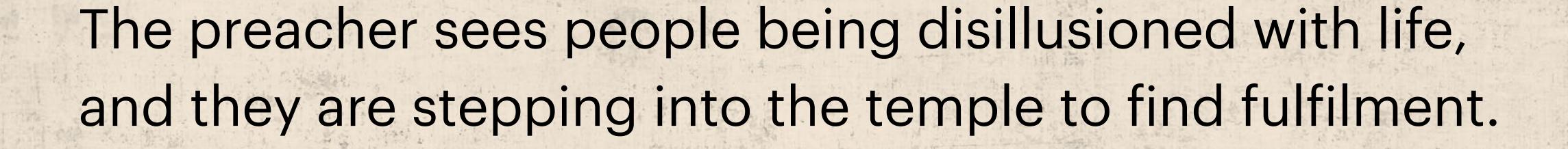
Solomon, the son of David, is the 'Preacher'.

The purpose of Ecclesiastes is to instruct the young on the true values of life, which are to fear God and keep His commandments.





Context







verse 1:

"Guard your steps when you go to the house of God."

The direction of your feet dictates the direction of your life.

Watch:

- + Your posture
- + Your mouth
- + For offenses

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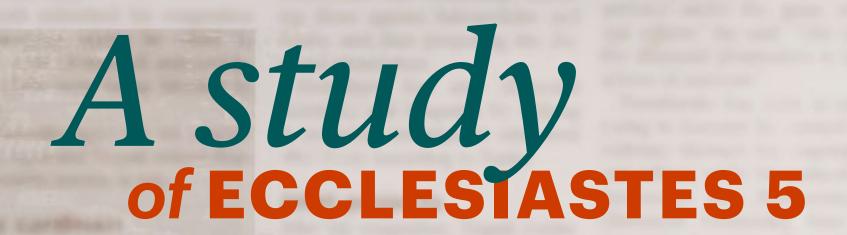
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verse 1:

"To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil."

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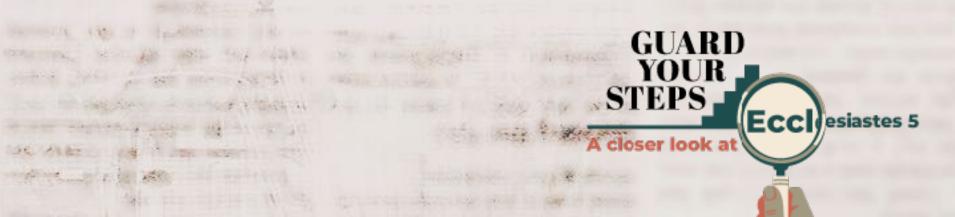
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"Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. ⁵ And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-5 (NLT)





verse 1:

"To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil."

- Listening means obeying.
- Place yourself under the authority of the Word of God.
- Religious activities without obedience is not accepted by the Lord.

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"When you come to appear before me, who has required of you this trampling of my courts? 13 Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations – I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. 14 Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.

ISAIAH 1:12-16 (NRSV)





¹⁵ When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. ¹⁶ Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil.

ISAIAH 1:12-16 (NRSV)





verse 2-3:

"Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few. 3 For a dream comes with much business, and a fool's voice with many words."

- Don't be in a rush to explain what is happening.
- Don't worry about eloquence and start being honest.

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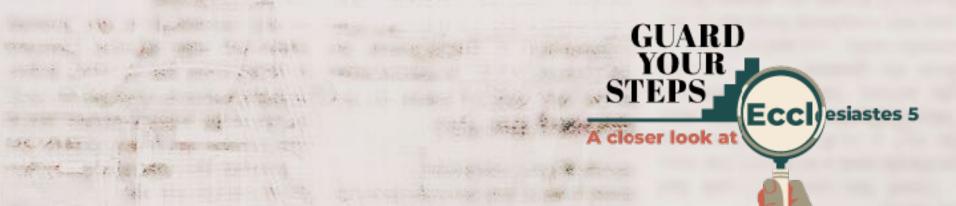
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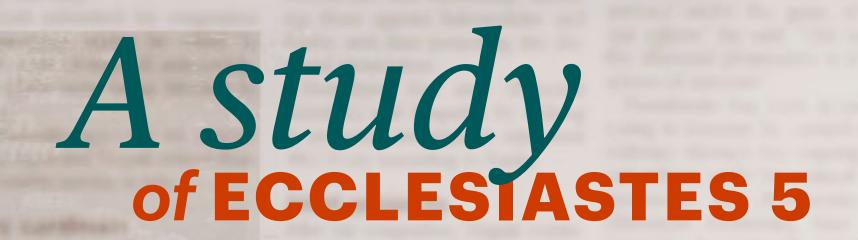
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verse 4-6:

"When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow. 5 It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay. 6 Let not your mouth lead you into sin, and do not say before the messenger (or priest) that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry at your voice and destroy the work of your hands?"

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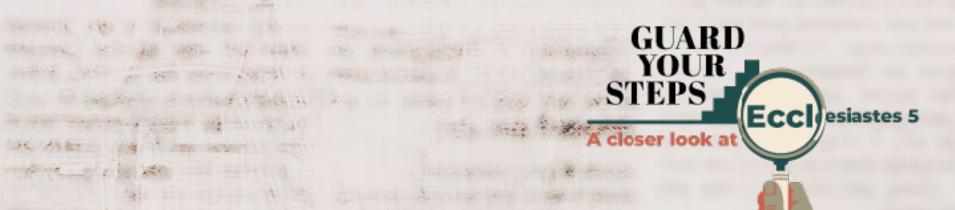
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- Good intentions are not good enough.
- Don't just make empty promises. Ecclesiastes teaches us that there will be a day that we need to give an account of the vows that we made.





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Sometimes God ordains the desert.





¹⁴ Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her. 15 And there I will give her her vineyards and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. And there she shall answer as in the days of her youth, as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt. ¹⁶ "And in that day, declares the Lord, you will call me 'My Husband,' and no longer will you call me 'My Baal.' 17 For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, and they shall be remembered by name no more.

HOSEA 2:14-17 (ESV)



