

I. Solomon

Key Verse: 1:1-2

A natural man's quest for worth

II. Introduction 1. 1-11

I. The quest by personal experiment (i.-ii.).

1. The search in wisdom (i. 12-18) (15)
2. The search in pleasure (ii. 1-2) (2:18-26)
3. Comparison of the two (ii.12-23)
4. Search in labor (2:18-19)

II. The quest by general observation (iii. –v.).

1. Sovereignty of the natural order (3:1).
2. Ills and enigmas of human society (iv.). (4:1-2)
3. Advice in view of the foregoing (v. 1-17).
4. Second ad interim conclusion (v. 18-20).

II. Introduction 1. 1-11

III. The quest by practical morality (vi.-viii.).

1. Material things cannot satisfy the soul (vi.). (6:1)
2. So expedient Morality advocated (vii. 1-9) (6:15-16)
3. Strange anomalies (viii. 9-14). (14)
4. Interim conclusion (viii. 15-17).

IV. The quest reviewed and concluded (ix.-xii).

1. God controls all (ix. 1-6)
2. Mirth, wisdom, morals, all fare same (ix. 7-xi. 8)
3. True good- a wise enjoyment of present (xi. 9., 10).
4. Going with faith in God and life beyond (xii. 1-7).

Final conclusion, xii. 13-14

III. The Ten “Vainities”

- ii. 15-16 The “vanity” of human wisdom
- ii. 19-21 The “vanity” of human labor
- ii. 26. The “vanity” of human purpose
- iv. 4. The “vanity” of human rivalry
- iv. 7. The “vanity” of human avarice
- iv. 16. The “vanity” of human fame
- v. 10. The “vanity” of human insatiety
- vi. 9. The “vanity” of human coveting
- vii. 6. The “vanity” of human frivolity
- viii. 10, 14. The “vanity” of human awards

IV. Conclusion

1. God alone is worthy in this world (12:1)
2. God's things of value are worthy of pursuit (9:9)
(12:1-3)
3. God drives times (3:1-8)
4. Need each other (4:9-12)
5. Correct Prayer (I.J 5) (5:1-3)
6. Eternity in heart (Ro.1) (3:11)
7. Enigma (7:28 & next book)