

PART III

Failed Kings in a United Kingdom

A Chronicle of Redemption - A Message Series by David Platt

Dr. Bart Box

Chapter 22: Vanity and the Divine Design Ecclesiastes

The Question Before Us All...

What is the meaning of life?

Understanding Ecclesiastes...

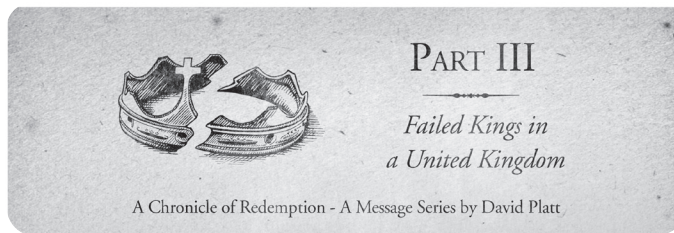
- We must understand the basic _____.
 - Ecclesiastes is located in the _____ tradition of Israel.
 - Thus, we must exercise great _____ in our interpretation.
- We must understand the overall _____.
 - Two _____ are apparent in the text:
 - The voice of the _____.
 - The voice of the _____.
 - The key to understanding Ecclesiastes is found in the _____ and _____.
 - In the beginning, we have the Preacher's basic _____.
 - In the end, we have the narrator's final _____.
- We must understand two key _____:
 - "Vanity" ...
 - "Vanity" refers to meaninglessness, _____, or pointlessness.
 - "Under the sun" ...
 - "Under the sun" denotes life without _____ to God.

Hearing Ecclesiastes...

- In the Old Testament context:
 - The Preacher observes two _____:
 - What we see "under the sun" is _____.
 - What we see "under the sun" is _____.
 - _____ is pointless.
 - _____ is pointless.
 - _____ is pointless.
 - _____ is pointless.
 - The narrator offers two _____:
 - _____ God.
 - _____ His commandments.
- In the New Testament context:
 - All of us live under the _____ of God.
 - This curse is by divine _____.
 - The curse _____ us to the problem of sin.
 - And the curse _____ us to Jesus.
 - Jesus _____ us from the curse of God.
 - Suddenly, in Christ, there is something _____ "under the sun."
 - And, in Christ, no longer is anything _____.

Applying Ecclesiastes...

- Be _____ about empty pursuits.
- Be _____ in the Lord.
- Be _____ for His return.



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Chapter 22: Vanity and the Divine Design Ecclesiastes

The Question Before Us All...

What is the meaning of life?

Understanding Ecclesiastes...

- We must understand the basic **genre**.
 - Ecclesiastes is located in the **wisdom** tradition of Israel.
 - Thus, we must exercise great **care** in our interpretation.
- We must understand the overall **structure**.
 - Two **voices** are apparent in the text:
 - The voice of the **Preacher**.
 - The voice of the **narrator**.
 - The key to understanding Ecclesiastes is found in the **beginning** and **end**.
 - In the beginning, we have the Preacher's basic **message**.
 - In the end, we have the narrator's final **assessment**.
- We must understand two key **ideas**:
 - "Vanity" ...
 - "Vanity" refers to meaninglessness, **futility**, or pointlessness.
 - "Under the sun" ...
 - "Under the sun" denotes life without **reference** to God.

Hearing Ecclesiastes...

- In the Old Testament context:
 - The Preacher observes two **problems**:
 - What we see "under the sun" is **permanent**.
 - What we see "under the sun" is **pointless**.
 - **Wisdom** is pointless.
 - **Pleasure** is pointless.
 - **Labor** is pointless.
 - **Life** is pointless.
 - The narrator offers two **guidelines**:
 - **Fear** God.
 - **Keep** His commandments.
- In the New Testament context:
 - All of us live under the **curse** of God.
 - This curse is by divine **design**.
 - The curse **alerts** us to the problem of sin.
 - And the curse **points** us to Jesus.
 - Jesus **redeems** us from the curse of God.
 - Suddenly, in Christ, there is something **new** "under the sun."
 - And, in Christ, no longer is anything **vanity**.

Applying Ecclesiastes...

- Be **warned** about empty pursuits.
- Be **laboring** in the Lord.
- Be **longing** for His return.