THE EMPTY KING

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**DATE: 1/6/2019 am**

**TEXT: Ecclesiastes 1:1-3; II Peter 3**

**SERIES INTRODUCTION**

We are going to begin a new series of messages this morning out of the Book of Ecclesiastes

Titled … ***“The Conclusion of the Whole Matter”***

Solomon is the writer of this amazing Book

Imagine being the Son of King David

There is no doubt that growing up around David and his mighty men and hearing about their exploits would have made quite an impression on young Solomon

When David was King his reign was marked by war and bloodshed

Yet, the Bible describes David as a Man after God’s own heart

And it wasn’t like David was perfect (we know that)

As we enter into the Book of Ecclesiastes, we find the Holy Spirit using the words of (now) King Solomon to introduce us to this wonderful Book in the Bible

**v. 1 - *“The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem”***

The title of this Book means *“preacher”*

And the 12 chapters of this Book make up one Sermon

Of which we see the Preacher introducing to us this Sermon in **vs. 1-3** …

***“The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem” “Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity” “What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?”***

We find the Conclusion to this sermon in **Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14** were it reads …

***“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man” “For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil”***

When God’s Word says – ***“the conclusion of the whole matter”***

He means just that – the ***“Whole Matter”***

He tells us here that the Whole Duty of Man is to ***“fear God and Keep His Commandments”***

So, with that, let’s begin this tremendous series of Sermons from God’s Word called …

**“THE CONCLUSION OF THE WHOLE MATTER”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**SERMON INTRODUCTION**

This Blessed Book we call the Bible is the Word of God

And is Divided up into 39 books in the OT and 27 books in the NT

And in the Heart of the OT, there are 5 books that deal with the great issues of man

These books are Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon

These books do not deal with the national issues or the soon-to-come world-shaking events of the Nation of Israel

Instead, they deal with the Heart Issues of Man

Notice the expression in **v. 5 – *“king in Jerusalem”***

We’re going to find this morning the Life of an Empty King

If we found a man somewhere else in the Kingdom of Israel, a man with absolutely nothing of this world’s goods

A poor and uneducated man

And that man said – *“I have nothing; my life is empty”*

We wouldn’t be surprised

But in the Book of Ecclesiastes we go to the other extreme

We go to the Palace of the King, in the time of the most glorious reign of any king in the World’s History

And we find Solomon saying – *“My Life is Empty”*

This book deals with the Subject of ***Vanity*** or ***Emptiness***

And the Fact that Only God can Fill our Lives!

The word *vanity* or some form of it is use over 30 times in this book

The word ***“vanity”*** means *vapor*

A vapor is something we cannot grasp or hold

The expression ***“under the sun”*** is found over 25 times in this book

When we use this expression, we are talking about *something on the earth*

And with these expressions we find the 2 Keys to understanding Ecclesiastes (The Sermon)

*Solomon Concluded that Everything under the sun is Vanity*

*That Life on earth apart from God is Empty!*

The last of the Ten Commandments that God gave Moses says – ***“Thou shalt not covet”***

Our nation is certainly guilty of violating this last Commandment

We live in the Pursuit of things

Materialism is the order of the day

We are a Deceived, Empty generation that has grown up in a materialistic society thinking that Happiness and Fulfillment can only be found in more things

You can say, *we have been sold a bill of goods*

The pursuit of Things has left an empty world filled with people who have empty lives!

Our message this morning is titled …

***“The Empty King”***

Let’s look at this Empty King and how …

**I. HE HAD EVERYTHING**

The book of Ecclesiastes takes us to the Palace where we find this Empty King

We are looking at a man who had everything

Notice what Solomon says to himself in **Ecclesiastes 2:10**

***“And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them,”***

Everything Solomon saw and wanted … he got

Solomon was …

**A. A ‘Blessed’ Man**

In **I Kings 3:5-10** God told Solomon that he could ask for anything he wanted

And Solomon asked for wisdom to lead God’s people

And the Bible tells us in **v. 10** that – ***“And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing”***

Because Solomon thought right, God Blessed him

The wealth of Solomon was so great that when the Queen of Sheba heard about all he had

She said – *“I can’t Believe it” / “I don’t believe it”*

*“Nothing on earth can be so magnificent and no man on earth so wise”*

Therefore, she traveled a great distant to see for herself

**I Kings 10:7 – *“Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard”***

She said – *I’ve never seen a man blessed like this man*

**I Kings 10:27 – *“And the king made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones,”***

This man’s reign was filled with such wealth that silver was as plenteous as the stones of the fields

And let me tell you Israel is filled with lots of stones

Solomon was **a ‘Blessed’ Man**

Solomon was …

**B. A ‘Privileged’ Man**

His father was the Great King David

His Throne was over the Mighty Nation of Israel

His time period was a time of Prosperity

Anything and Everything that a man would want, he had

The riches of the oil sheiks today can’t compare to what Solomon had!

Solomon had absolutely everything, humanly speaking

Yet, he said continuously that his life was Empty

Notice what he says in **Ecclesiastes 2:17 – *“Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit”***

If we think we can be Better, Happier people by adding something else to the things we already have

We are sore mistaken

God has placed this Book in the Bible to Testify Against that

**HE HAD EVERYTHING (yet)**

**II. HIS LIFE WAS EMPTY**

Even though he had everything, look at the Language he uses in **v. 2**

***“Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity”***

I don’t know about you, but that doesn’t sound good to me

Again, the word ***“vanity”*** means *Empty, a Vapor*

You can’t get a handle on something that is empty

You can’t hold a vapor (It’s always going to be elusive)

If we took an inventory of Solomon’s life, we would find that he was a Brilliant man, well educated

He sought Wisdom from God

He sat at the feet of his father David and was taught how to rule (well educated)

He was an unusually Blessed person

Solomon did not simply look at birds and beasts of the field, he became a zoologist

He did not simply observe plants and flowers, he became

a botanist

He did not simply look at buildings, he became a great architect

He studied irrigation and established fountains and water systems throughout Israel

He was renowned among all the nations for all that he had and all that he could do

However, Solomon considered all that he had …

All his stables and horses, all his buildings. All his wealth, all his wives, everything …

And he said they were all *Vanity*

He could not find fulfillment and peace in any of these things

All was Vanity

How many of us have surrounded ourselves with vanity?

Many have built their lives on Vanity

Many have filled their live with houses, cars, possessions, careers

Most people live for the moment

But one of these days, the Lord is coming back

And then, what is all that going to be worth?

And we’ll have wished we did it differently

We all must realize we have only one life to live and we must not waste it on Things (We got to get it right)

***“Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity”***

**HE HAD EVERYTHING yet …**

**HIS LIFE WAS EMPTY**

**III. NOTHING ON EARTH WILL SATISFY**

Over 25 times, the Expression, ***“under the sun”*** is found in Ecclesiastes

It’s talking about the *earthly*

The carnal things of life

The things that make us comfortable

The Problem is that we get so Comfortable that we forget or simply feel … we don’t need God

The quality of life we enjoy is beyond anything imaginable

God has Blessed us unbelievably …

Yet, we are still not Satisfied

We have more than heart could wish …

But we still Complain

We are a spoiled people

It seems that the more we get, the more we want to have

I’m afraid that the day is coming that all we have will be taken away

(You say, yes, when we go to heaven, maybe not)

What are we going to do then?

It will surely sort out those who are Genuinely Trusting God from those who aren’t

We don’t need everything we think we need

There is definitely a difference between what we need and what we want

Nothing on this Earth can truly satisfy

**CONCLUSION**

Let me close with **II Peter 3:7-10**

Do you know what this old world has in store for it?

FIRE

The houses we live in will be burned up one day

The car(s) we drive will be burned up one day

The clothes we are wearing will be burned up one day

The jobs we work

Everything we are counting as important, down here

Everything we do down here, that doesn’t bring Glory to God

… Is going to be burned up

It will all be ashes … ashes and we’ll all fall down

***“But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men” “But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day” “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up”***

We are only here a little while

We must learn that we shouldn’t place our roots so deeply that when the Lord returns

That it’s more like a rupture than a rapture

Solomon said that things under the sun, without God

… Will only leave a man Empty

I think we need to trust what Solomon said

**INVITATION**

Maybe you’re feeling a little empty today

If you are its because of one of two things

Either you are not saved or you are out of Fellowship with God

Let me invite you to come to Christ as you Saviour

Let me invite you to come and get back into Fellowship with God

**Philippians 3:7, 8 – *“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ” “Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,”***

We really aren’t what we think we are

The only thing that matters in this life is Christ

**HE HAD EVERYTHING**

**HIS LIFE WAS EMPTY**

**NOTHING ON EARTH SATISFY**

**The Empty King**