

**'SMOKE & MIRRORS'**  
*(‘The View of Heaven’ about ‘Life Under the Sun’)*  
 Studies in Ecclesiastes

**Section Quiz**  
*(Chapters 1 through 7)*

What does the word (*book title*) ‘Ecclesiastes’ mean?

Write a one-sentence definition of each of the following:

*‘life under the sun’*

*‘life under heaven’*

*‘grasping after wind’*

*‘vanity’*

What are the three components of a wise person’s life:

1)

2)

3)

Finish these sentences (verses):

*“To everything there is a \_\_\_\_\_, a time for every \_\_\_\_\_ under heaven.”*

*Reference: \_\_\_\_\_*

*“\_\_\_\_\_ are better than one ... and a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ cord is not quickly broken.”*

*Reference: \_\_\_\_\_*

*“When you make a \_\_\_\_\_ to God, do not delay to pay it, for He has no pleasure in fools.”*

*Reference: \_\_\_\_\_*

*“... a severe evil I have seen under the sun: \_\_\_\_\_ kept for the owner to his own hurt.”*

*Reference: \_\_\_\_\_*

*“A good \_\_\_\_\_ is better than precious ointment (anointing) and the day of \_\_\_\_\_  
 than the day of one’s \_\_\_\_\_.” Reference: \_\_\_\_\_*

**“Living ‘Under the Sun’ for ‘Under Heaven’ People”**  
(Solomon’s wisdom about the vanity of ‘chasing the wind’ in the world)  
Ecclesiastes Chapter 7

**‘For Better or Worse?’ Under the Sun’**  
(The ‘better things’ of wisdom under the sun’)  
7:1-14

**A good name / reputation to remember than** ‘social positions’ (vs 1-4)

**A humble, teachable person than** ‘a life of the party comedian’ (vs 5-7)

**A patient, steady, doer of things than** ‘a prideful, hasty, frustrated, dreamer’ (vs 8-10)

**A wise steward of God’s gifts than** ‘waster of inheritances on hopeless causes’ (vs 11-14)

- Describe and discuss someone who is earnestly seeking to be all four of the above positive things with his or her life.
- Describe and discuss someone who does not aspire to have an approved life under heaven (*things in italics above*).
- Which of the above virtuous characteristics comes naturally to you? Which take extra work and discipline? How can you become stronger in the ‘better things’ to ‘overcome’ the ‘worse things’?

**‘Bitter and Vain!’ Under the Sun’**  
(The ‘Bitter things’ of vanity under the sun’)  
7:15-29

**‘Under the sun’ enigmas:** 1) inequities (15)  
(7:15-19) 2) extremes (16-17)  
3) balancing #1 & #2 (18-19)

**‘Under the sun’ offenses:** All people are imperfect and still sin, so don’t take everything you  
(7:20-22) hear seriously – you don’t want others to do so with you, right?  
(Proverbs 19:11)

**‘Under the sun’ wisdom:** Wisdom from above is difficult to get and limited here ‘under the sun’  
(7:23-25) but there is enough to avoid wickedness, madness & folly  
(Deuteronomy 29:29)

**‘Under the sun’ obstacles:** Attaining wisdom from above while ‘under the sun’ is limited because  
(7:26-29) of the distraction of our own flesh and temptations to which we yield.

- Talk about the above issues that you want God to help you be better in so you won’t be distracted in your pursuit of a ‘better’ life ‘under heaven’ while living here ‘under the sun’.
- If you’ve achieved victory in an area above, please share how God helped you overcome.