

Life: An Unending Cycle of Meaningless

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

Introduction:

1. Who is the speaker?

2. What is the message?
 - a. Vanity, futility, meaninglessness, mystery, enigma, absurdity, irony, brevity.
 - b. The word is in every chapter but chapter 10 and occurs 38 times overall.

3. We are looking at life under the sun.
 - a. Used almost 30 times.
 - b. Colossians 3:1-4

4. Is there anything to gain?
 - a. 3:9
 - b. Not used elsewhere in the OT. Used 10 times in this book.

The First Statement on the Search for Meaning:

1. There is nothing to gain because life is an unending cycle that goes on without us.
 - a. Nature's unending cycle.

 - b. Our part in this unending cycle.
 - i. We can't fully comprehend it.
 - ii. We are never satisfied in it.
 - iii. We do the same things over and over.
 - iv. Even when we think we find something new, it really isn't new at all.
 - v. The past is forgotten and one day we will be forgotten as well.

LOOKING AT LIFE BEYOND THE SUN:

- God says this unending cycle will come to an end.
 - Revelation 21:5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."
 - Isaiah 62:2, 66:22; Jeremiah 31:31; Ezekiel 11:19; Ezekiel 36:26; Psalms 33:3, 96:1, 98:1.
 - Joel 2:31 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and awesome Day of the LORD.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.
 - Philippians 3:19-21 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. 20But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.
 - If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world. -C.S. Lewis

- The unending cycle is not wearisome, but a great reminder of the nature of God.
 - Psalm 19:1-6
 - Lamentations 3:22-23 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
 - Psalm 92:1-2 It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High, 2proclaiming your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night,

- Is there anything to gain?
 - Matthew 16:26 What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?
 - 1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.
 - Matthew 10:42 And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

- We may be forgotten one day, but we point to the one who should always be remembered.
 - 1 Timothy 2:8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel