

From Meaningless to True Meaning, June 25-28, 2026

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? **Circle Two Opportunity...**

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth and 2. Stronger “iron sharpening iron” relationships

Ephesians 4:12–16 (ESV)

Week of Thurs. 6/18 - Wed. 6/24, Days 169-175. Bible Recap: pages 892-931, circa 946-927 B.C.

What stuck out to you this week and why?

HISTORY – Solomon’s demise, God appoints Jeroboam, Rehoboam’s foolishness, Jeroboam’s evil

THIS WEEK: 1 Kings 10-14, 2 Chronicles 9-12. We looked at 1 Kings 10-11 and 2 Chronicles 9 last week

NOTICE how the theme of pride that leads to foolish choices pops up repeatedly

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. – **Solomon!!**

Proverbs 29:23 One’s pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.

Summary of 1 Kings 12-14 and 2 Chronicles 10-12:

- ✓ **Rehoboam**, Solomon’s son, assumes throne. God causes him to act so kingdom is divided
refuses wisdom of old men, took counsel of young men to impose heavier loads, leads to rebellion.
He is left with Kingdom of Judah, 2 southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin,
gathers men to fight Jeroboam, stopped by prophet Shemiah, yet was war between them continually
priests and Levites cast out of northern cities so come to Judah and Jerusalem – for 3 years they made the
kingdom secure “for they walked in the way of David and Solomon.” (2 Chron. 11:17b)
He takes 18 wives and 60 concubines, fathering 28 sons and 60 daughters, made sons leaders of Judah
leads Judah to worship other gods
1 Kings 14:23–24 (ESV) ²³For they also built for themselves high places and pillars and Asherim on every high hill and
under every green tree, ²⁴and there were also male cult prostitutes in the land. They did according to all the abominations
of the nations that the Lord drove out before the people of Israel.

5th year, Shishak, king of Egypt, took treasures of the Temple and the palace, “*He took away everything*”
2 Chronicles 12:5 (ESV) ⁵Then Shemaiah the prophet came to Rehoboam and to the princes of Judah, who had gathered
at Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said to them, “Thus says the Lord, ‘You abandoned me, so I have abandoned you to
the hand of Shishak.’ ”

Rehoboam and princes humble themselves, God accepts and sends prophet Shemiah to tell them God
will not destroy them but they will be servants to Shishak

Rehoboam substituted bronze shields for the gold ones taken;
2 Chronicles 12:14 (ESV) ¹⁴And he did evil, for he did not set his heart to seek the Lord.
- ✓ **Jeroboam**, Solomon’s servant, appointed by God as discipline, rules Israel/ 10 northern tribes
Solomon tried to kill him, so he fled to Egypt. Returned to confront Rehoboam about abuse.
He fears people going to Jerusalem to worship, so sets up “high places” of worship with 2 golden calves
(Bethel and Dan), creates an entirely new religious system
1 Kings 12:28 (ESV) ²⁸So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, “You have gone
up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.”
God’s prophet from Judah confronts Jeroboam who stretches out hand to seize the prophet, God withers
his hand. He asks prophet to pray and his hand is restored. Prophet refuses to go home with king at
God’s command. An evil prophet of Israel lies to get him to disobey God by staying with him in Israel. The
false prophet receives word from the Lord that confronts, predicts his death – killed by lion on way home.
Jeroboam continued in rebellion. His son gets sick, wife disguises self, goes to prophet Abijah, to whom God
revealed the deceit in advance. Prophet: “your son will die and all males of Jeroboam will die.”

WISDOM – Ecclesiastes, (below - Sunday sermon notes), **Proverbs 27-31** Solomon, Agur, King Lemuel (Solomon)
Proverbs that caught Pastor Herb's attention – **WHICH CAUGHT YOUR ATTENTION?**

- 27:1** ¹Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.
- 27:8)** ⁸Like a bird that strays from its nest is a man who strays from his home.
- 27:9–10** ⁹Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel. ¹⁰Do not forsake your friend and your father's friend, and do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity. Better is a neighbor who is near than a brother who is far away.
- 27:17** ¹⁷Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.
- 27:21** ²¹The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and a man is tested by his praise.
- 28:1** ¹The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.
- 28:5** ⁵Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the Lord understand it completely.
- 28:9** ⁹If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.
- 28:20** ²⁰A faithful man will abound with blessings, but whoever hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.
- 28:25** ²⁵A greedy man stirs up strife, but the one who trusts in the Lord will be enriched.
- 28:26** ²⁶Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered.
- 29:15** ¹⁵The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.
- 29:19–20** ¹⁹By mere words a servant is not disciplined, for though he understands, he will not respond. ²⁰Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.
- 29:25** ²⁵The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.
- 29:26** ²⁶Many seek the face of a ruler, but it is from the Lord that a man gets justice.
- 30:7–9** ⁷Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die: ⁸Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, ⁹lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the Lord?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.
- 31** – 1. Leaders must not be distracted or addicted; 2. A picture of a godly wife

Ecclesiastes: **"vanity"** = *a puff of smoke, a breath, a vapor; not bad but a reality check*

Ecc.1 All Is Vanity, The Vanity of Wisdom

Ecc.2 Vanity of Self-Indulgence, Vanity of Living Wisely, Vanity of Toil

Ecc.3 A Time for Everything, The God-Given Task, From Dust to Dust

Ecc.4 Evil Under the Sun

Ecc.5 - 6 Fear God, The Vanity of Wealth and Honor

Ecc.7 The Contrast of Wisdom and Folly

Ecc.8 Keep the King's Command, Those Who Fear God Will Do Well, Man Cannot Know God's Ways

Ecc.9 - 10 Death Comes to All, Enjoy Life with the One You Love, Wisdom Better Than Folly

Ecc.11 Cast Your Bread upon the Waters

Ecc.12 Remember Your Creator in Your Youth, Fear God and Keep His Commandments

From the Sermon

Bible Recap Thoughts - Look for the gems... we don't have to understand all

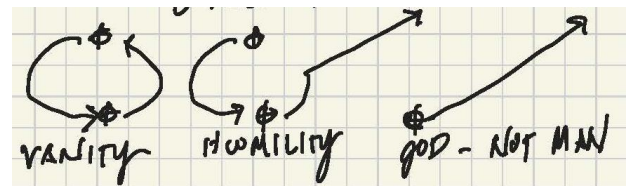
Soul-deep reality check in Ecclesiastes – the meaning of life

➔ Live as an **ARROW** instead of a **CIRCLE**.

Investing days on earth serving the Lord is the only time well spent because that doesn't cycle in vain but leads to eternity.

The **CIRCLE**: ER living, trying over and over to find meaning in this life, experiencing moments of enjoyment that disappoint, so try again in a different way but it is doing the same CIRCLE

The **ARROW** is HR living, a focus on Christ SLO to discover meaning in Him and His ways so that we exit the circle toward God's target: 1. **Becoming like Christ**, 2. **Being a pipeline for Christ**, 3. **Landing in eternity with Christ**



1. New Testament echoes of life's meaning and purpose.

† Command: love God and love people

Matthew 22:37–40 (ESV) ³⁷And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

† Promises: meaning and satisfaction here, and paradise hereafter

John 10:10 (ESV) ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

John 16:24 (ESV) ²⁴Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

Philippians 4:11–13 (ESV) ¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content. ¹²I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

2. Ecclesiastes Realities.

✓ **Life itself is a whiff of smoke... a vapor**

Ecclesiastes 1:1–2 (ESV) ¹The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. ²Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

✓ **Pursuing earthly is empty – achievement, wisdom, pleasure, work**

Ecclesiastes 1:3–11 (ESV) (pew Bible page 553/ Bible Recap page 897)

Ecclesiastes 1:17–18 (ESV)

Ecclesiastes 2:1 (ESV)

✓ **Living in step with Christ in the ordinary gives life meaning**

Ecclesiastes 2:24–25 (ESV)

Ecclesiastes 3:9–13 (ESV)

Ecclesiastes 3:22 (ESV)

Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 (ESV)

Ecclesiastes 5:18 (ESV)

Ecclesiastes 7:14 (ESV)

Ecclesiastes 9:9 (ESV)

Ecclesiastes 12:1 (ESV)

✓ **Bottom line: Arrow not Circle**

Ecclesiastes 12:13–14 (ESV) ¹³The end of the matter; all has been heard. **Fear God and keep his commandments**, for this is the **whole duty of man**. ¹⁴For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

✓ **Next in “His-Story” is era of kings – watch how wisdom and foolishness from Proverbs and Ecclesiastes is lived out and taught through the prophets so WE CAN LIVE GOD’S WISDOM.**

Chronological Guide: pages 64-68

Takeaways:



Kings of Israel and Judah

The Bible defines a good king as one who leads his people to follow and obey God, not turning to other gods, while a bad king is one who turns to other gods and thus leads his people astray and promotes wickedness. / <https://thinkaboutsuchthings.com/the-good-and-bad-kings-of-the-bible/>

4 kings during United Kingdom

Saul (1050–1010 B.C., 40 years)
David (1010–970 B.C., 40 years)
Solomon (970–930 B.C., 40 years)

Ish-bosheth (1010–1003 B.C., 7 years) – Saul's son,
 part of Israel while David ruled Judah

Kings of Israel/ Northern, 0 of 19 "good"

Jeroboam I (930–909 B.C., 22 years)

Nadab (909–908 B.C., 2 years)
Baasha (908–886 B.C., 24 years)
Elah (886–885 B.C., 2 years)
Zimri (885 B.C., 7 days)
Omri (885–874 B.C., 12 years)
Ahab (874–853 B.C., 22 years)
Ahaziah (853–852 B.C., 2 years)
Joram (852–841 B.C., 12 years)
Jehu (841–814 B.C., 28 years)

Jehoahaz (814–798 B.C., 17 years)
Jehoash (798–782 B.C., 16 years)
Jeroboam II (782–753 B.C., 41 years)
Zechariah (753 B.C., 6 months)
Shallum (752 B.C., 1 month)
Menahem (752–742 B.C., 10 years)
Pekahiah (742–740 B.C., 2 years)
Pekah (740–732 B.C., 20 years)
Hoshea (732–722 B.C., 9 yrs)

Last king, conquered by Assyria

Kings of Judah/ Southern, 8 of 20 "good" (bold)

Rehoboam (930–913 B.C., 17 years)
Abijah (Abijam) (913–911 B.C., 3 years)
Asa (911–870 B.C., 41 years)

Jehoshaphat (870–848 B.C., 25 years)

Joram (848–841 B.C., 8 years)
Ahaziah (841 B.C., 1 year)
Athaliah (usurper) (841–835 B.C., 6 years)
Joash (835–796 B.C., 40 years)
Amaziah (796–767 B.C., 29 years)
Uzziah (Azariah) (767–740 B.C., 52 years)

Jotham (740–732 B.C., 16 years)

Ahaz (732–716 B.C., 16 years)
Hezekiah (716–687 B.C., 29 years)
Manasseh (687–643 B.C., 55 years)
Amon (643–641 B.C., 2 years)
Josiah (641–609 B.C., 31 years)
Jehoahaz (609 B.C., 3 months)

Jehoiakim (Eliakim) (609–598 B.C., 11 years)
Jehoiachin (598–597 B.C., 3 months)
Zedekiah (597–586 B.C., 11 years),
*Last king of Judah, destruction of Jerusalem
 and the Babylonian exile.*