

# UNDER THE SUN

Joy, Sorrow, Vanity, and What Really Matters in Life

*Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. -Ecclesiastes 12:13*

## "The Words of The Preacher"

### **Ecclesiastes 1:1–3 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> “Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher; “Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.” <sup>3</sup> What profit has a man from all his labor In which he toils under the sun?



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## **Ecclesiastes 1:1–11 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> The wind goes toward the south, And turns around to the north; The wind whirls about continually, And comes again on its circuit. <sup>7</sup> All the rivers run into the sea, Yet the sea *is* not full; To the place from which the rivers come, There they return again. <sup>8</sup> All things *are* full of labor; Man cannot express *it*. The eye is not satisfied with seeing, Nor the ear filled with hearing.



## Ecclesiastes 1:1–11 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> That which has been *is* what will be,  
That which *is* done is what will be done,  
And *there is* nothing new under the sun.

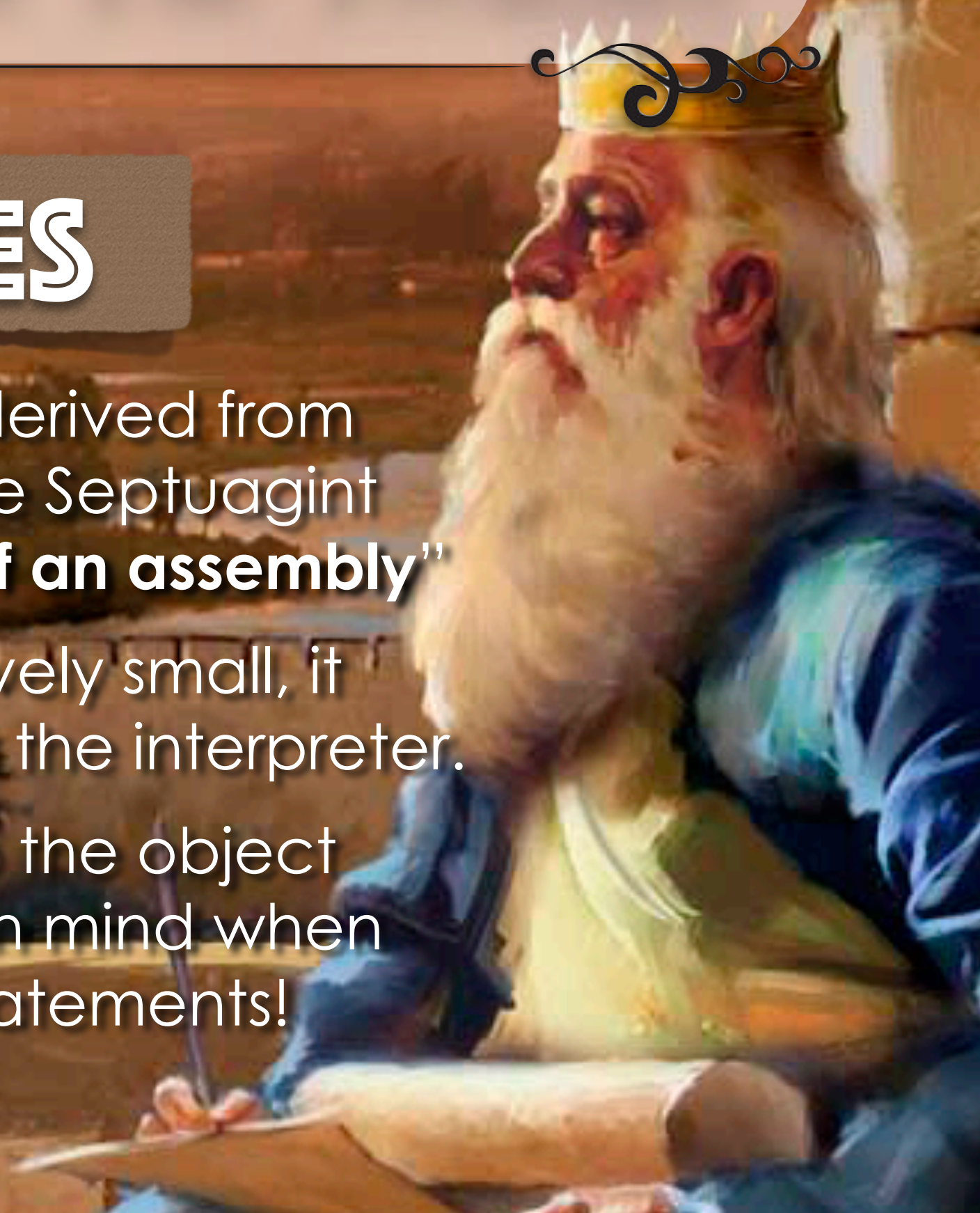
<sup>10</sup> Is there anything of which it may be  
said, “See, this *is* new”? It has already  
been in ancient times before us. <sup>11</sup> *There*  
*is* no remembrance of former *things*, Nor  
will there be any remembrance of *things*  
that are to come By *those* who will come  
after.



# "The Words of The Preacher"

## ECCLESIASTES

- The term ***Ecclesiastes*** is derived from the title of the book in the Septuagint which means “**teacher of an assembly**”
- Though the book is relatively small, it bristles with difficulties for the interpreter.
- Very IMPORTANT to keep the object and theme of the book in mind when analyzing its particular statements!

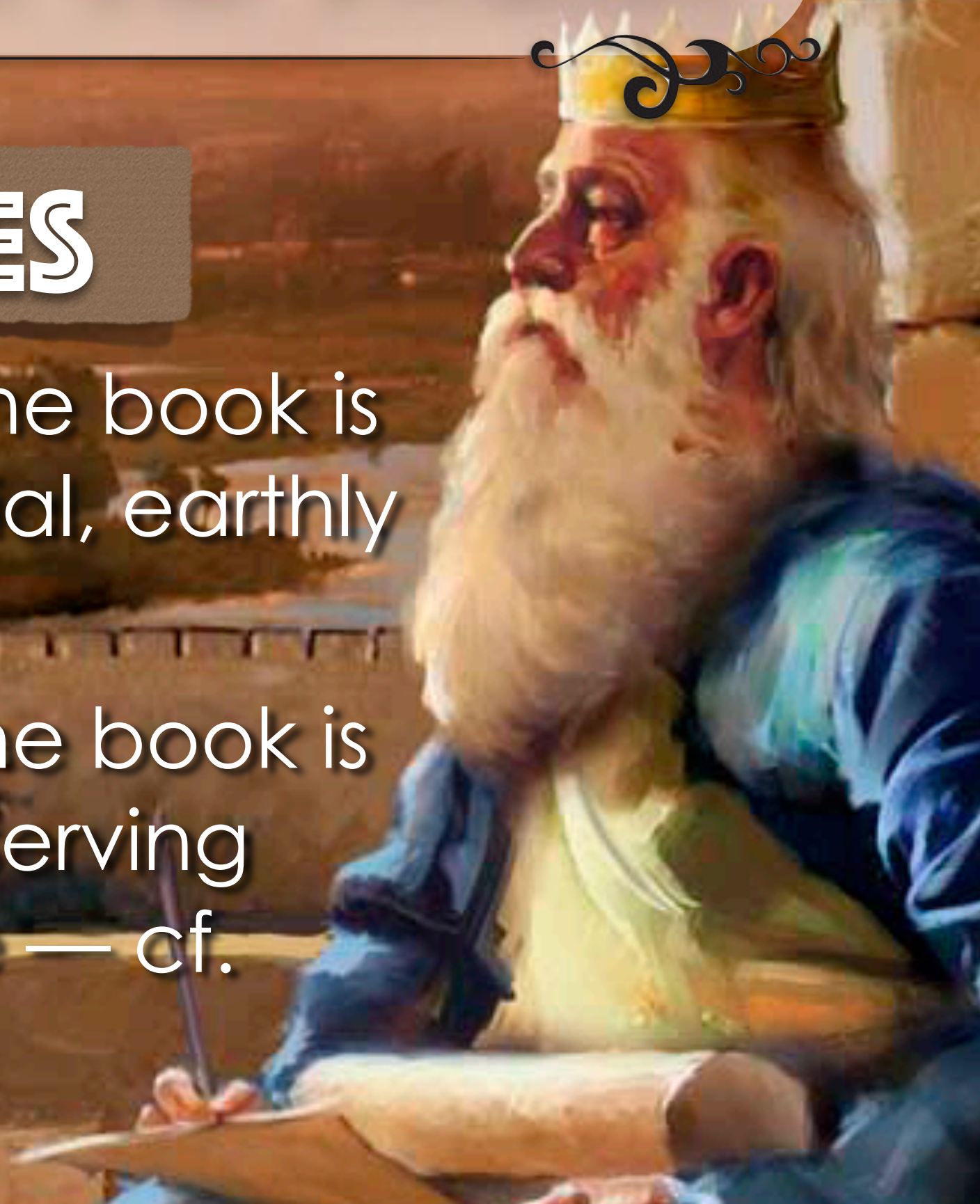




# "The Words of The Preacher"

## ECCLESIASTES

- The main focus of the book is true value of material, earthly things — 1:1-11:9
- The main point of the book is the importance of serving God throughout life — cf. 11:9-12:1, 13-14





# "The Words of The Preacher"

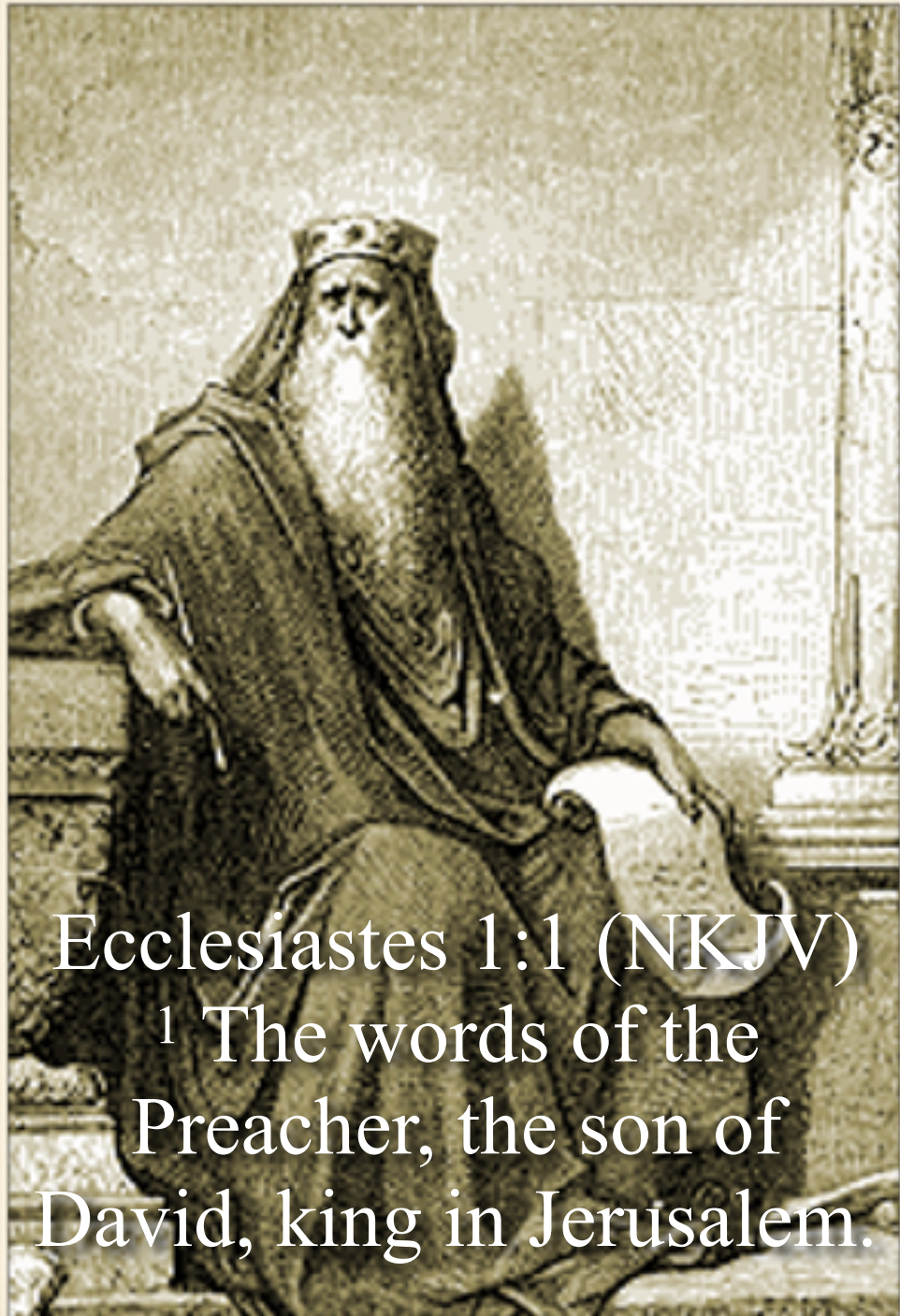


## ► The true **VALUE** of **MATERIAL THINGS**

- Key term: "**VANITY**" (occurs 35 times in 29 verses), which means "futility, uselessness, nothingness"
- Key phrase: "**UNDER THE SUN**" (occurs 29 times in 27 verses), which suggests "from an earthly point of view" --
- The book illustrates the vanity of life when looked at solely from an earthly perspective



# "The Words of The Preacher"



Ecclesiastes 1:1 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> The words of the  
Preacher, the son of  
David, king in Jerusalem.

## ► The **Author**:

- The words of the “**preacher**” - in Hebrew, קהלת Qoheleth (875a); the teacher, leader of an assembly ...

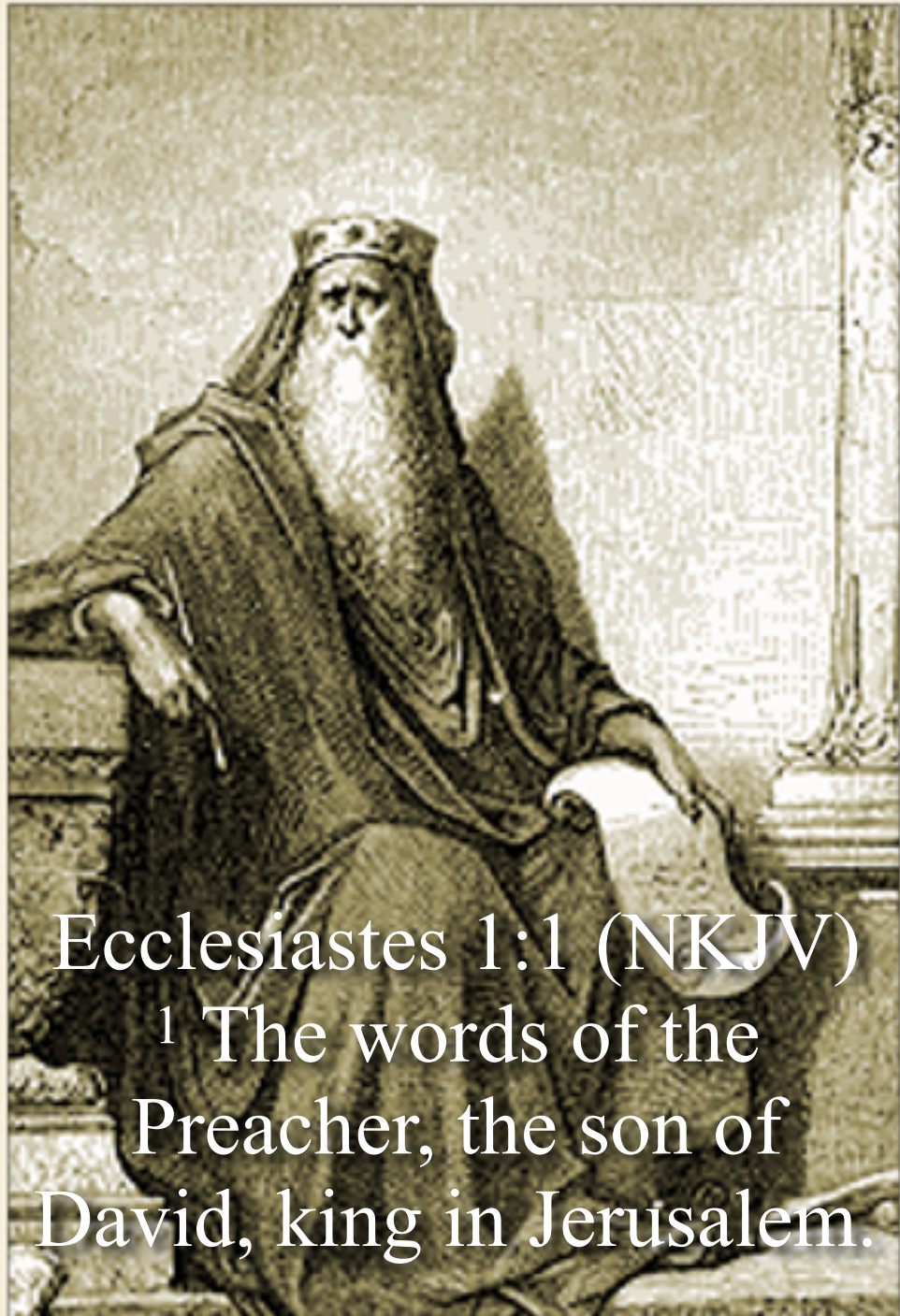
## ► **Internal references certainly point to Solomon:**

- His reign: Eccles. 1:12
- His wisdom - 1:16; cf. 1 Ki 3:12
- His building activities & wealth- 2:4-9; cf. 1 Ki 7:1-12; 2 Chr 9:13-28



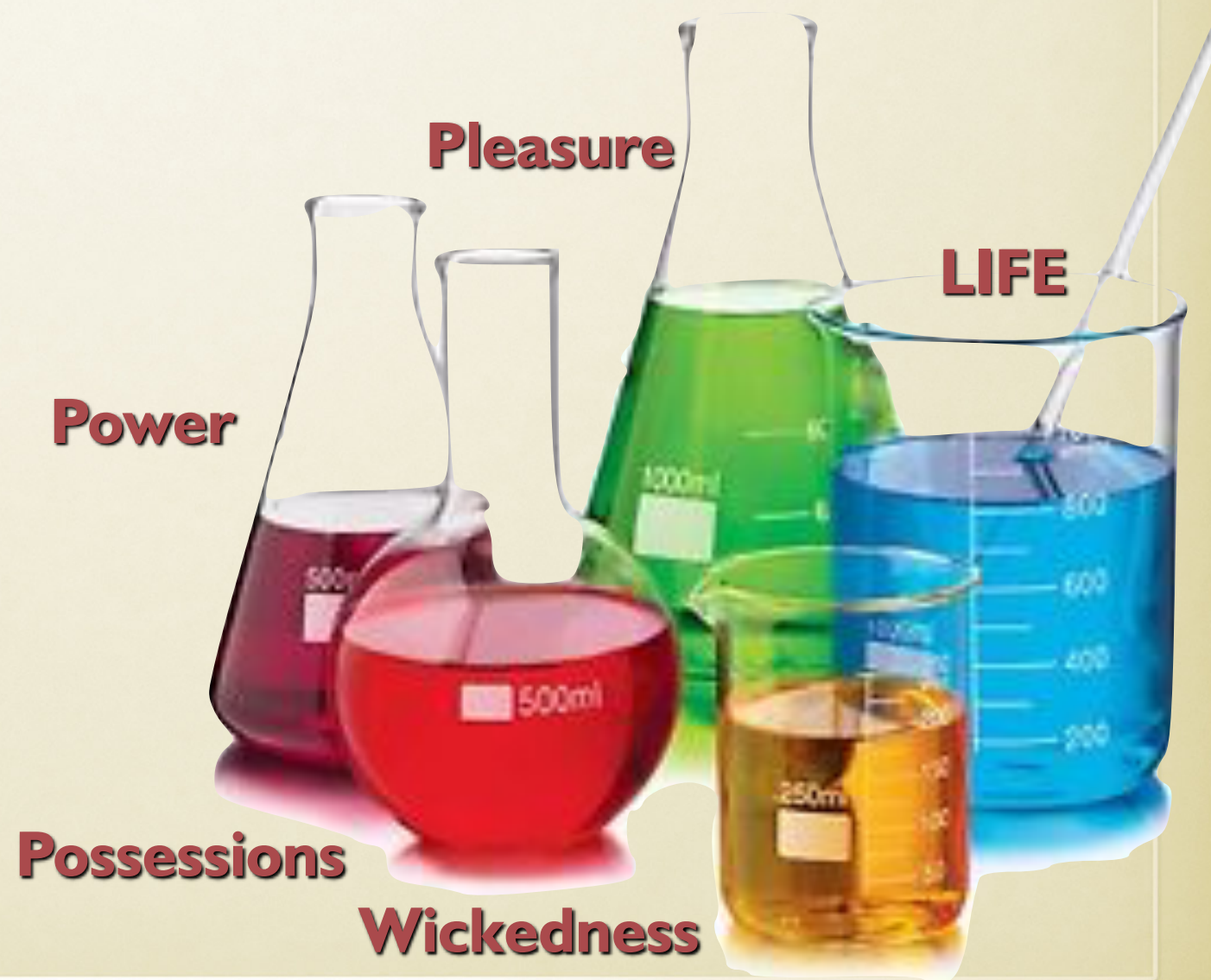
# "The Words of The Preacher"

► An **EXAMINATION / STUDY** of life "under the sun"



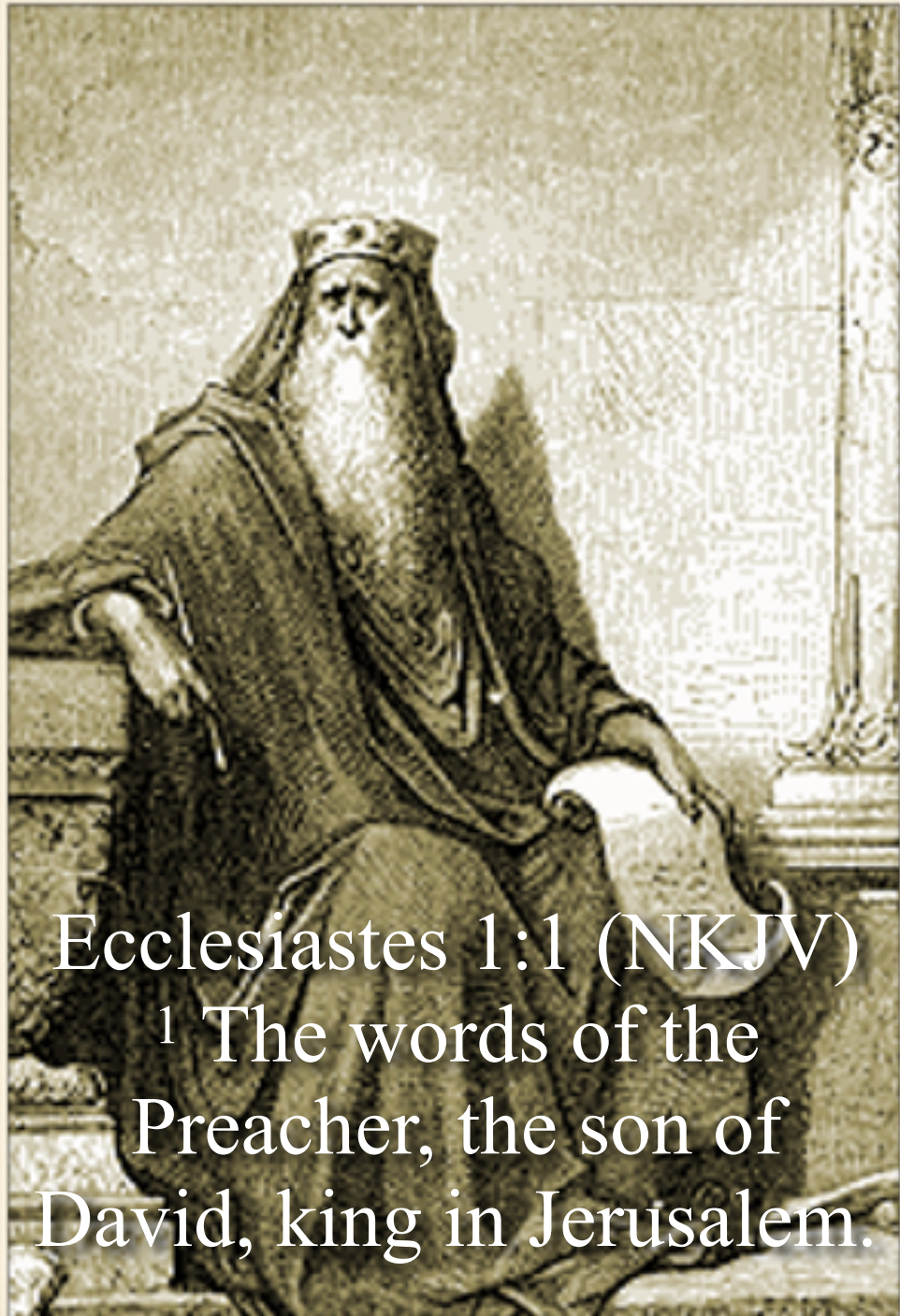
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# "The Words of The Preacher"



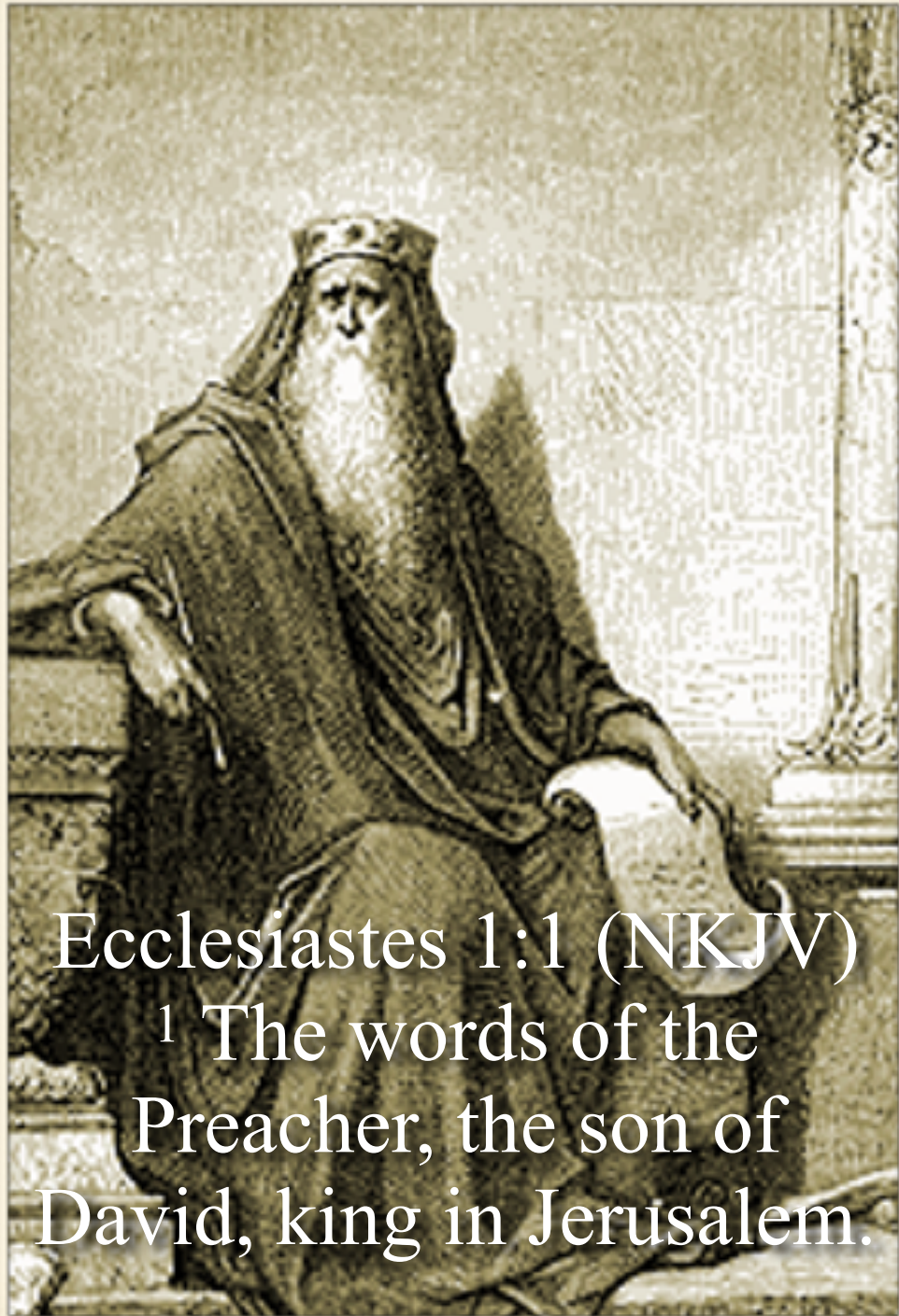
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Preacher, the son of  
David, king in Jerusalem.

- ▶ An **EXAMINATION / STUDY** of life "under the sun"
- ▶ Two opposite views of life.
  - As the natural man would see things, without the light of divine revelation = pessimistic & skeptical. "All is vanity."
  - At other times he writes as one to whom God has revealed himself - the observations and conclusions have the ring of surety and hope. (3:14; 12:11).



# "The Words of The Preacher"



Ecclesiastes 1:1 (NKJV)

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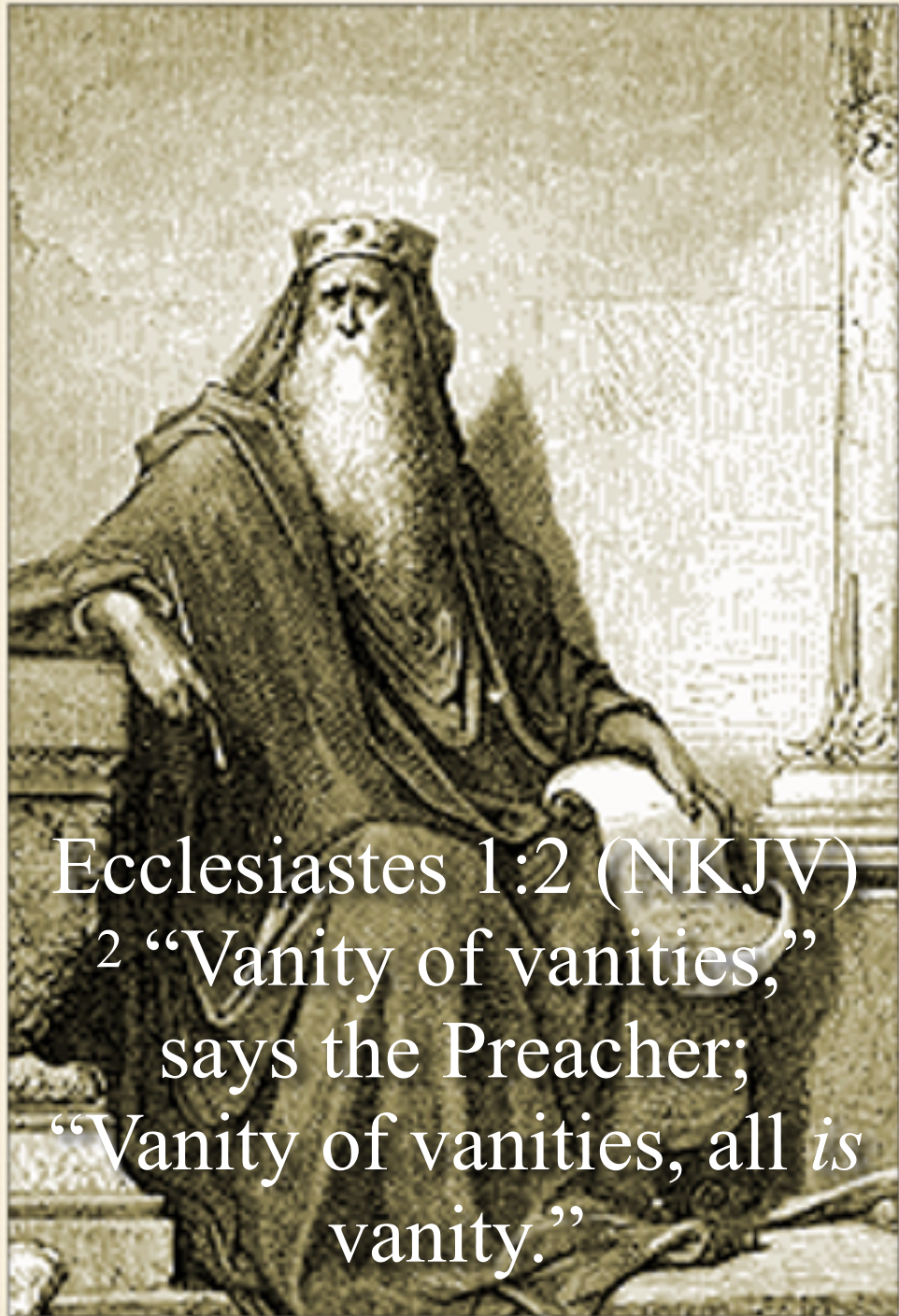
► Answer these questions from both perspectives of life considered in this book ...

- Who am I?
- Where did I come from?
- Why am I here?
- What am I to be doing?
- Where am I going?



# *"The Words of The Preacher"*

*Vanity of Vanities. all is Vanity*



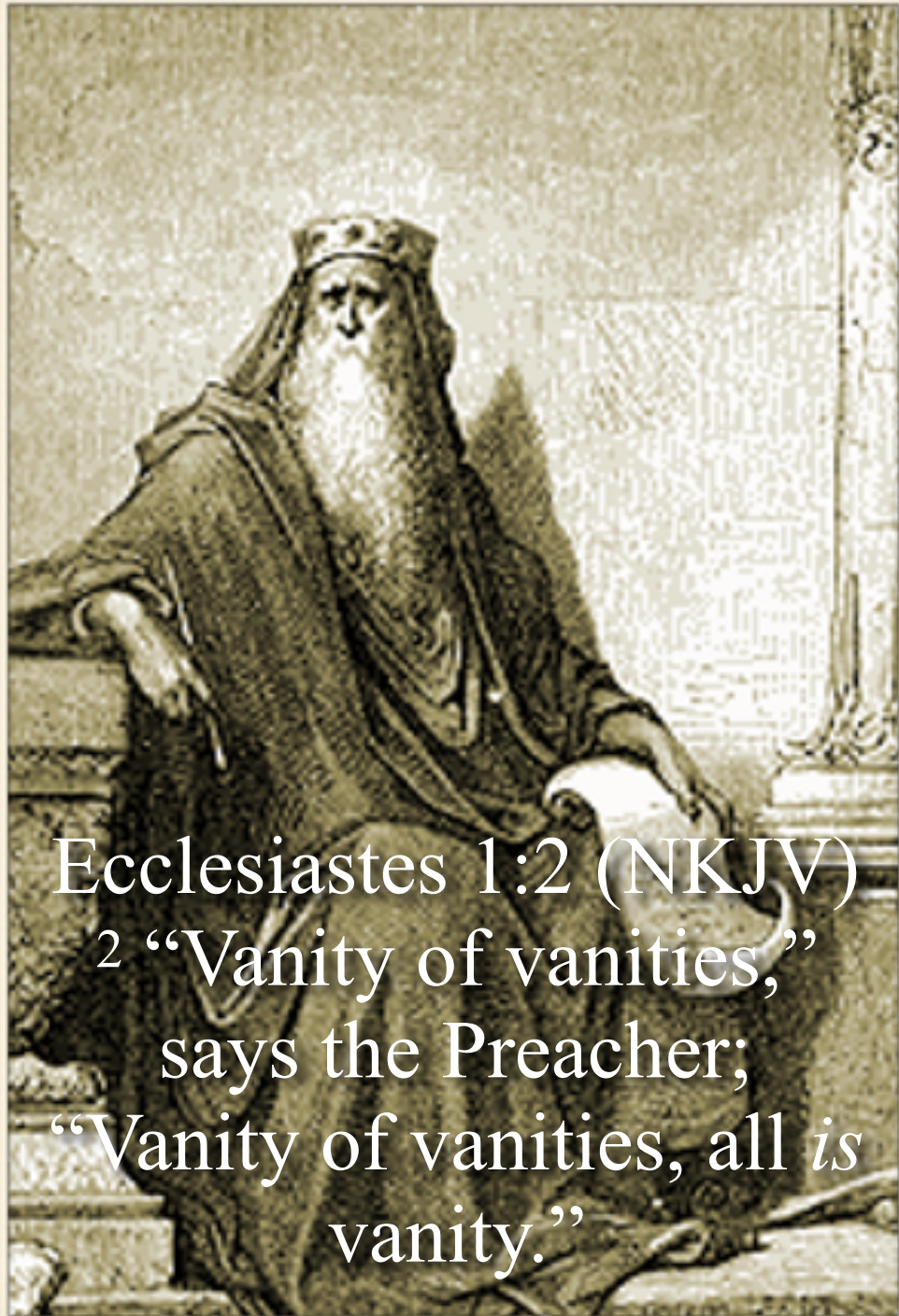
Ecclesiastes 1:2 (NKJV)  
2 "Vanity of vanities,"  
says the Preacher;  
"Vanity of vanities, all is  
vanity."

- ▶ **VANITY:** A FOCUS of the book - (occurs 35 times in 29 verses)
- ▶ A superlative meaning: The emptiest of empties - the greatest degree of futility.



# *"The Words of The Preacher"*

## *Vanity of Vanities. all is Vanity*



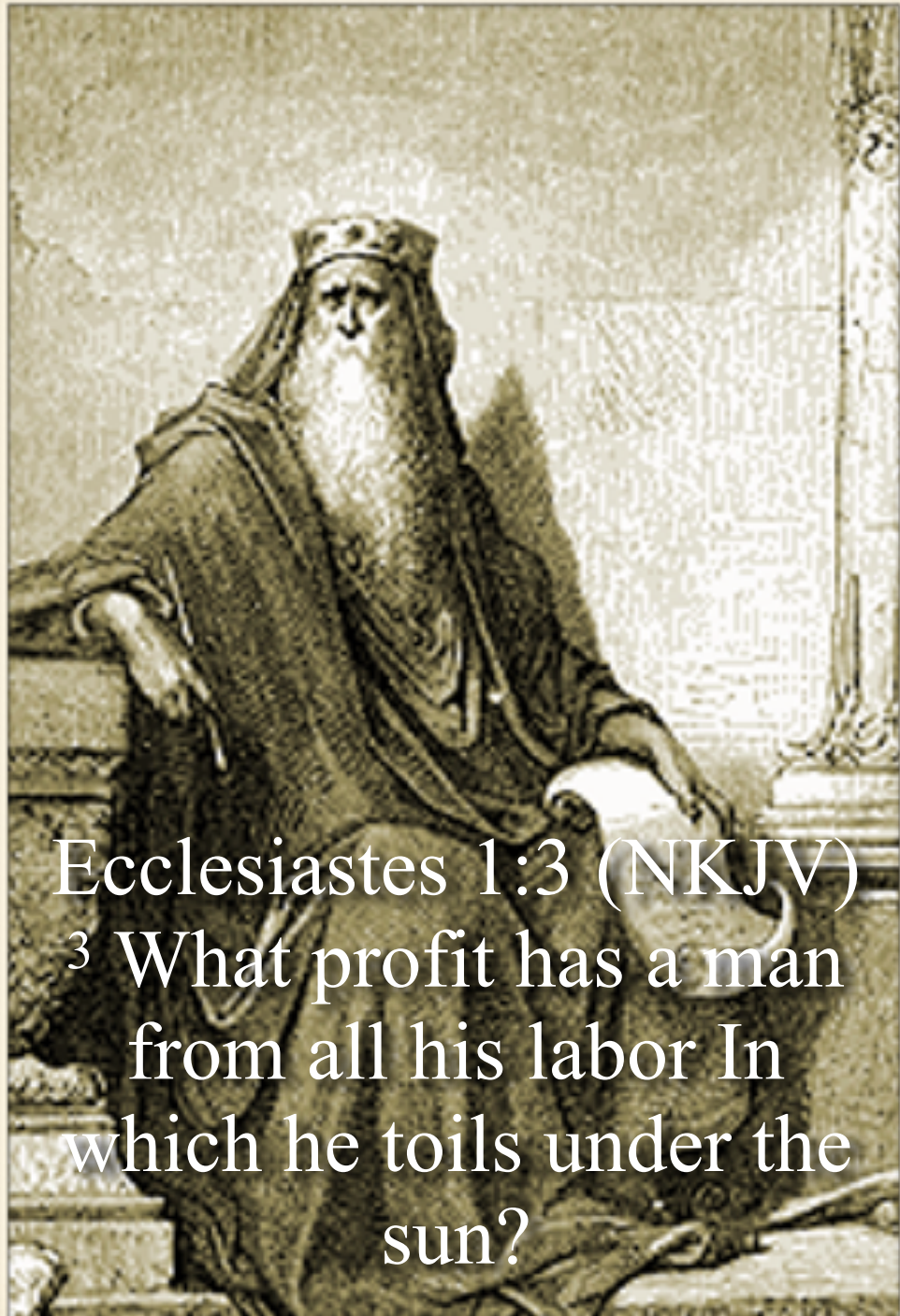
### **ALL IS VANITY:**

- Toil (1:14; 2:11, 17; 4:4, 7-8),
- Wisdom (2:15),
- Righteousness (8:14),
- Wealth (2:26; 5:10; 6:2),
- Prestige (4:16),
- Pleasure (2:1-2),
- Youth and vigor (11:10),
- Days of life (6:12; 7:15; 9:9),



# *"The Words of The Preacher"*

## *Vanity of Vanities. all is Vanity*



Ecclesiastes 1:3 (NKJV)  
3 What profit has a man  
from all his labor In  
which he toils under the  
sun?

### ▶ **ALL IS VANITY:**

- **"Profit"** – That which remains . . . What remains of all men's labor? Cf – 1 Cor 15:17-19
- **"Under the sun"** – A key to understanding the book – Life here on earth from a materialist point of view . . . All labor – i.e. every thought – effort – material reward is ultimately in the final analysis worthless.



# *"The Words of The Preacher"*

*Vanity of Vanities. all is Vanity*

## **Ecclesiastes 1:4–7 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> *One* generation passes away, and *another* generation comes; But the earth abides forever. <sup>5</sup>

The sun also rises, and the sun goes down, And hastens to the place where it arose. <sup>6</sup> The wind goes toward the south, And turns around to the north;

The wind whirls about continually, And comes again on its circuit. <sup>7</sup> All the rivers run into the sea, Yet the sea *is* not full; To the place from which the rivers come, There they return again.



# *"The Words of The Preacher"*

## *Arguments Supporting The Proposition*

**Generations  
come and go:  
(1:4)**

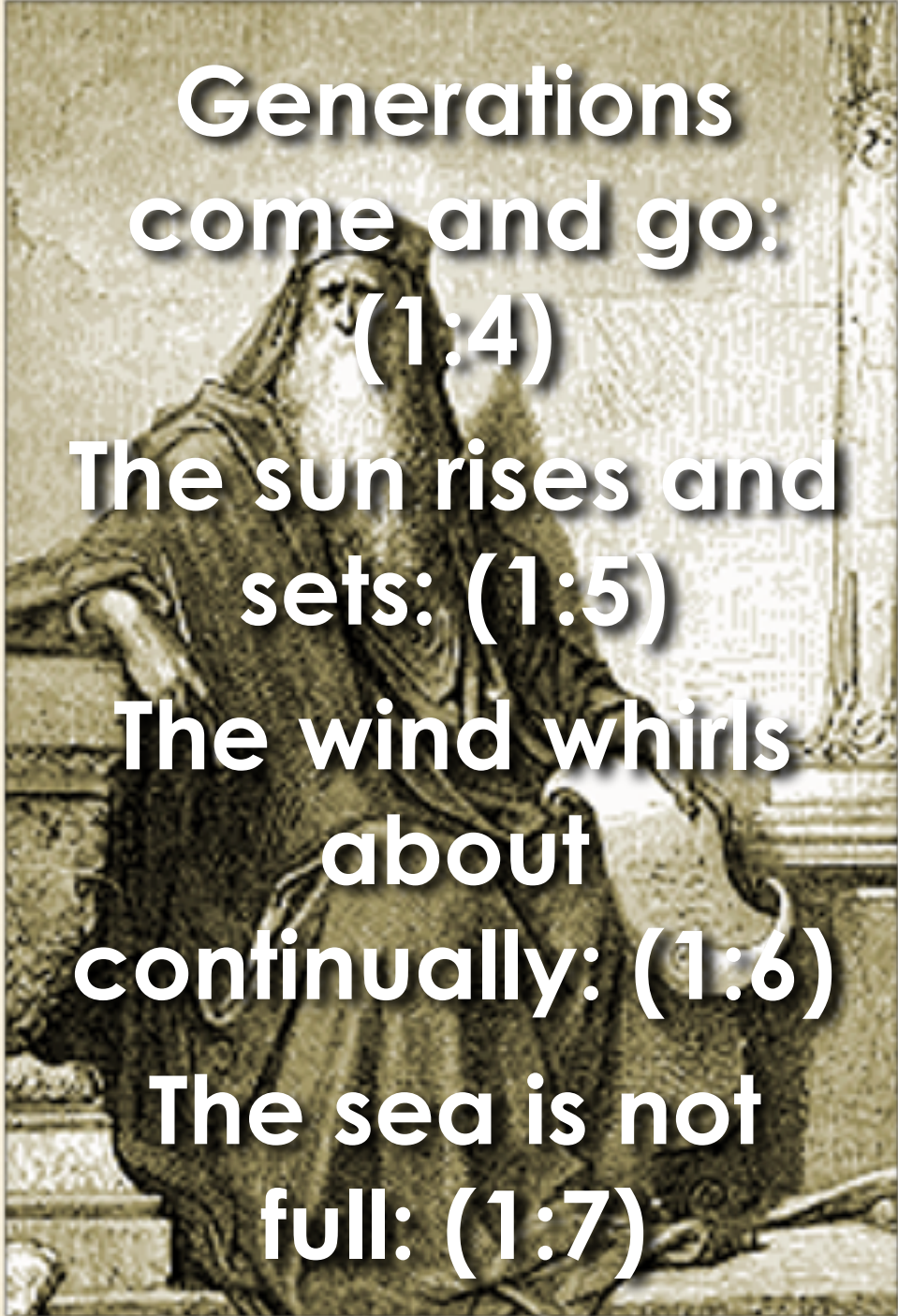


- ▶ We are pilgrims – Heb 11:13-16; 1 Pet 1:17
- ▶ “Yet the earth abides forever” – (Hebrew - `owlam, as long as allowed – Ex 21:6)
- ▶ A comparative – the stability of God’s creation compared with the frailty of human life.



# *"The Words of The Preacher"*

## *Arguments Supporting The Proposition*



**Generations  
come and go:  
(1:4)**

**The sun rises and  
sets: (1:5)**

**The wind whirls  
about  
continually: (1:6)**

**The sea is not  
full: (1:7)**

- ▶ The vanity of continual labor . . .
- ▶ By comparing human life “under the sun,” with these things, we can easily see the frailty of our existence here – James 4:13,14
- ▶ Jesus’ word’s are so true “What shall a man profit if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?” Matt 16:26



# "The Words of The Preacher"

## Arguments Supporting The Proposition



Ecclesiastes 1:8 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> All things *are* full of labor; Man cannot express *it*. The eye is not satisfied with seeing, Nor the ear filled with hearing.

- ▶ Everything takes effort, but it seems to get us no where.
- We want to understand the WHY of things but we are limited in knowledge & understanding – 3:11
- Seeking to understand all these things is an endless endeavor -



# "The Words of The Preacher"

## Arguments Supporting The Proposition



Ecclesiastes 1:8 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> All things *are* full of labor; Man cannot express *it*. The eye is not satisfied with seeing, Nor the ear filled with hearing.

► **Satisfaction cannot be found in things “under the sun!”**

- The greedy / covetous
- The alcoholic / drug addict
- The fornicator / adulterer
- The lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life will never satisfy — but will leave us empty - 1 John 2:15-17; 1 Tim 6:9, 10; etc.



# "The Words of The Preacher"

## Arguments Supporting The Proposition

### ► History Repeats itself

- We are all the same constitutionally as the first man and woman - (Why do we sin? / How do we please God? / What are the consequences of sin? ...)



Ecclesiastes 1:9 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And *there is* nothing new under the sun.



# "The Words of The Preacher"

## Arguments Supporting The Proposition

Ecclesiastes 1:10–11  
(NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> Is there anything of which it may be said, "See, this *is new*"? It has already been in ancient times before us. <sup>11</sup> *There is no remembrance of former things*, Nor will there be any remembrance of *things* that are to come By *those* who will come after.

### ► History Repeats itself

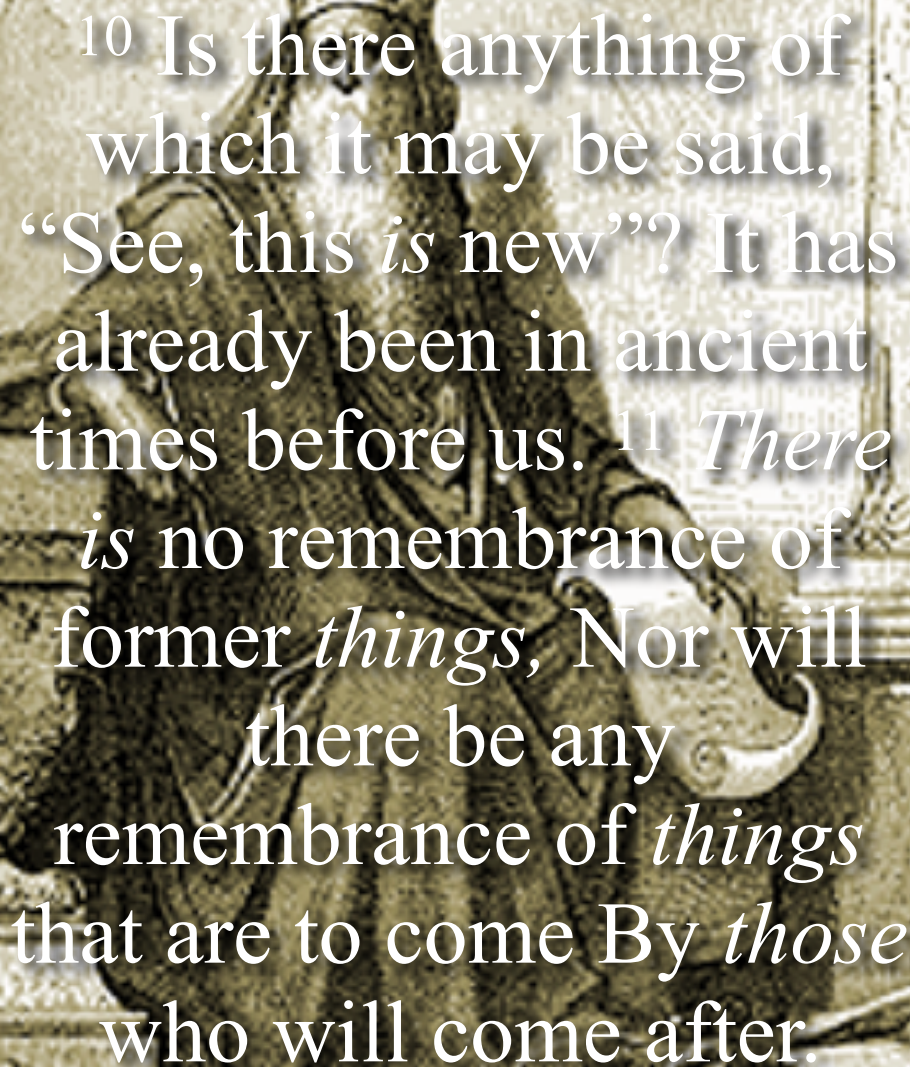
- We are all the same constitutionally as the first man and woman - (Why do we sin? / How do we please God? / What are the consequences of sin? ...)
- But man tends to have short memories - Our incomplete and selective memories is what makes possible the assertion that something new has appeared ...



# "The Words of The Preacher"

## Arguments Supporting The Proposition

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(NKJV)



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### ► History Repeats itself

- All that is invented is only by and through what knowledge and wisdom he equipped man with from the beginning -
- All that is done is to satisfy, or to provide for the basic needs of every man of every time (food / shelter / clothing / communication...



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## Arguments Supporting The Proposition

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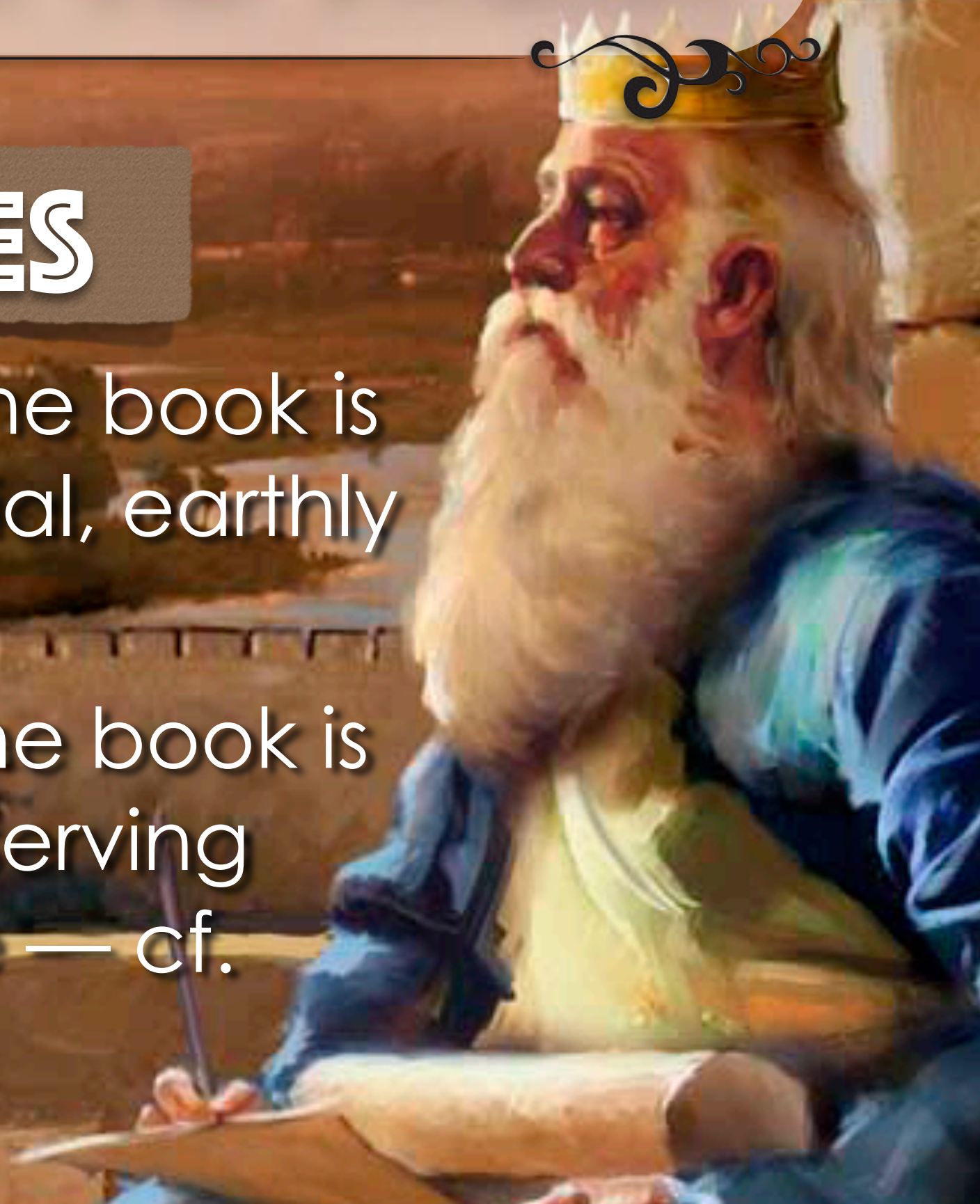
- We tend to forget! A primary reason mistakes made in history are repeated over and over!
- Israel did what? - 1 Cor. 10; Rome did what?
- A personal test . . . Ancestors? Events? Will those who come after you be any different?



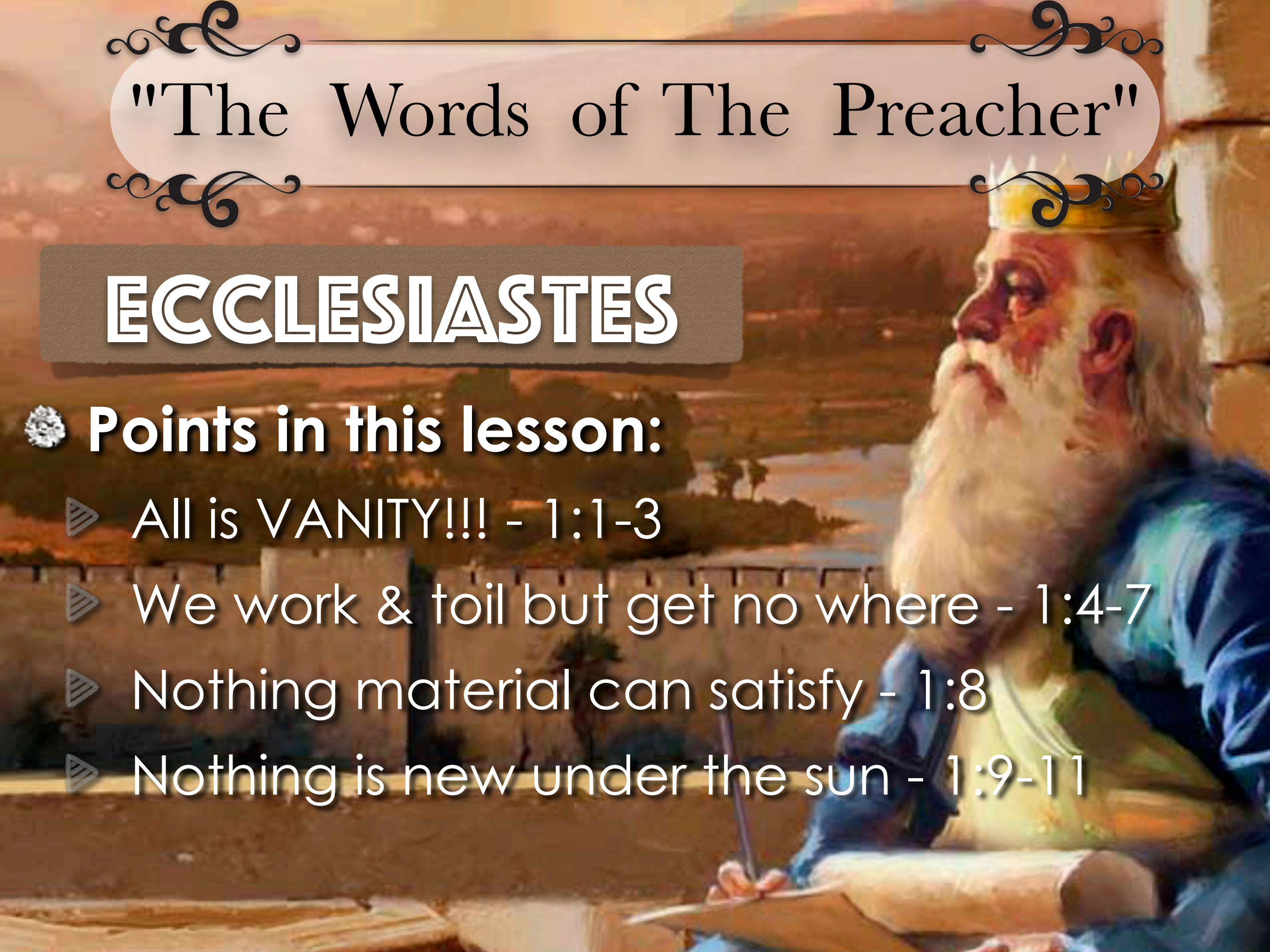
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## ECCLESIASTES

### ● Points in this lesson:

- ▶ All is VANITY!!! - 1:1-3
- ▶ We work & toil but get no where - 1:4-7
- ▶ Nothing material can satisfy - 1:8
- ▶ Nothing is new under the sun - 1:9-11



# "The Words of The Preacher"

## ECCLESIASTES

- One's quality of life is only realized when he/she recognizes the futility of chasing the wind . . . And seeks to serve God with his whole heart!









# UNDER THE SUN

Joy, Sorrow, Vanity, and What Really Matters in Life

*Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. -Ecclesiastes 12:13*

## "The Words of The Preacher"

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Preached January 20, 2019

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