

UNDER THE SUN

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

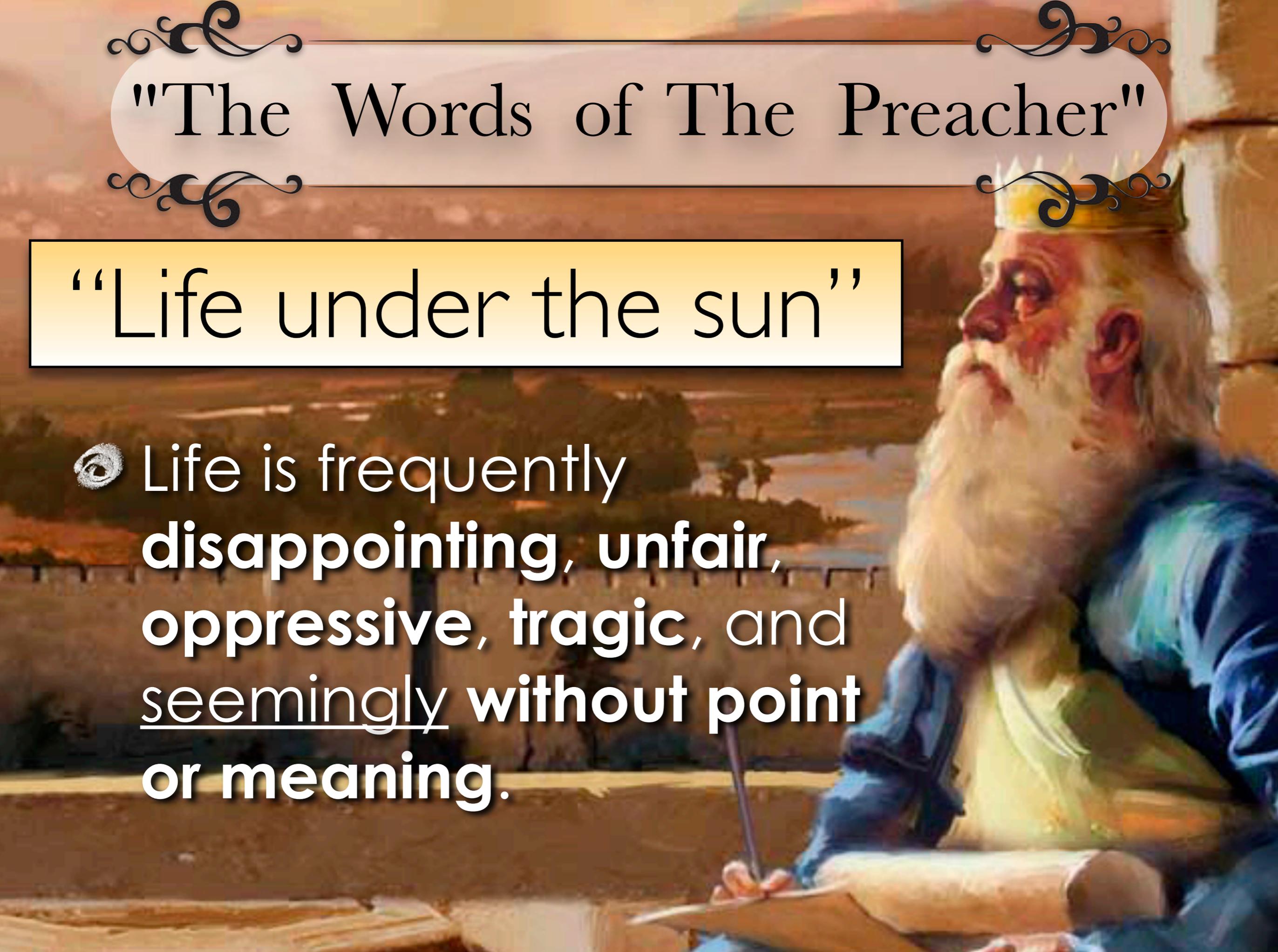
Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. -Ecclesiastes 12:13

“The **WHOLE DUTY** of **MAN**”

(Ecclesiastes 12:9-14)

Ecclesiastes 12:13 (NKJV)

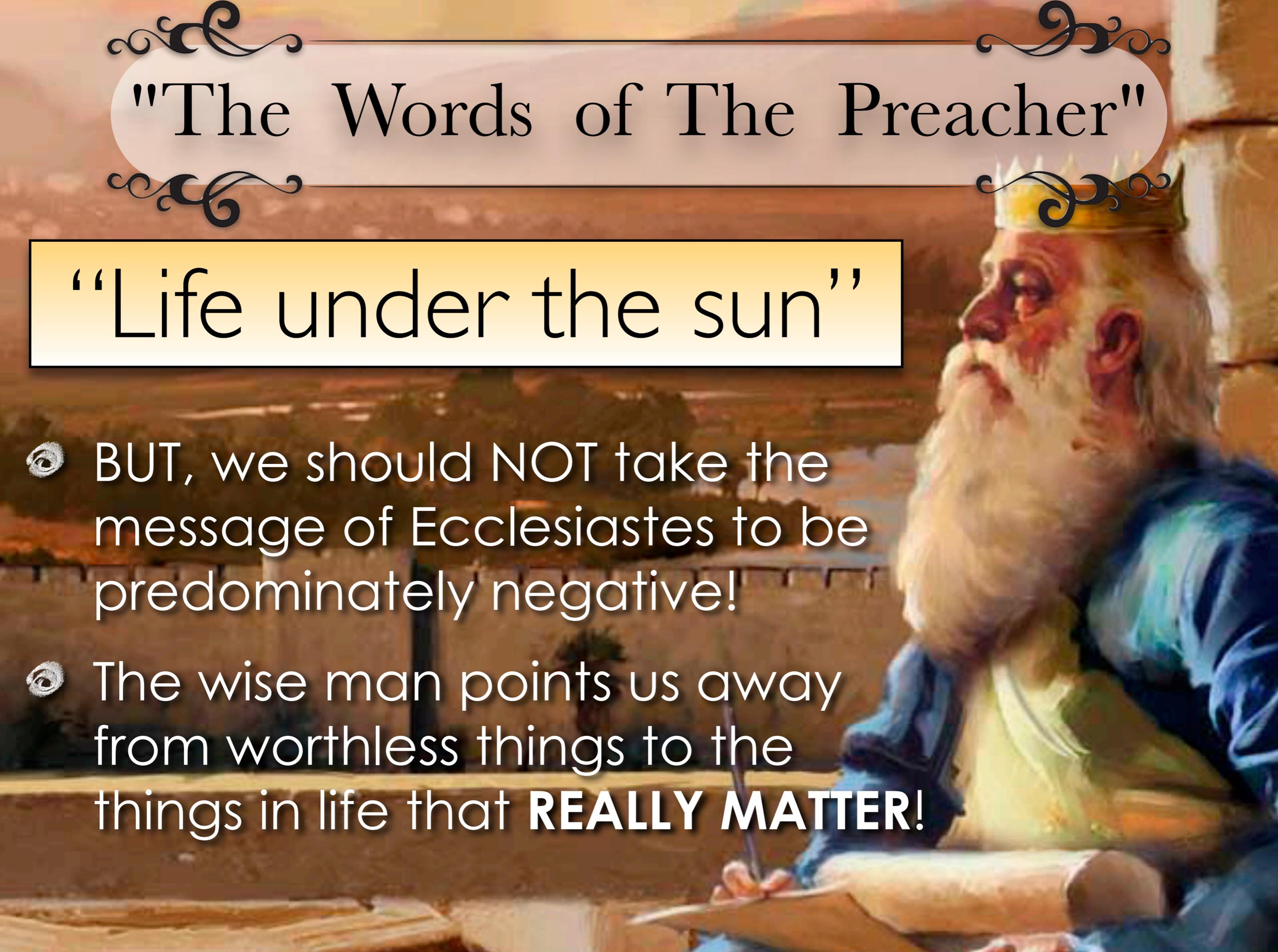
¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all.



"The Words of The Preacher"

“Life under the sun”

- Life is frequently **disappointing, unfair, oppressive, tragic, and seemingly without point or meaning.**



"The Words of The Preacher"

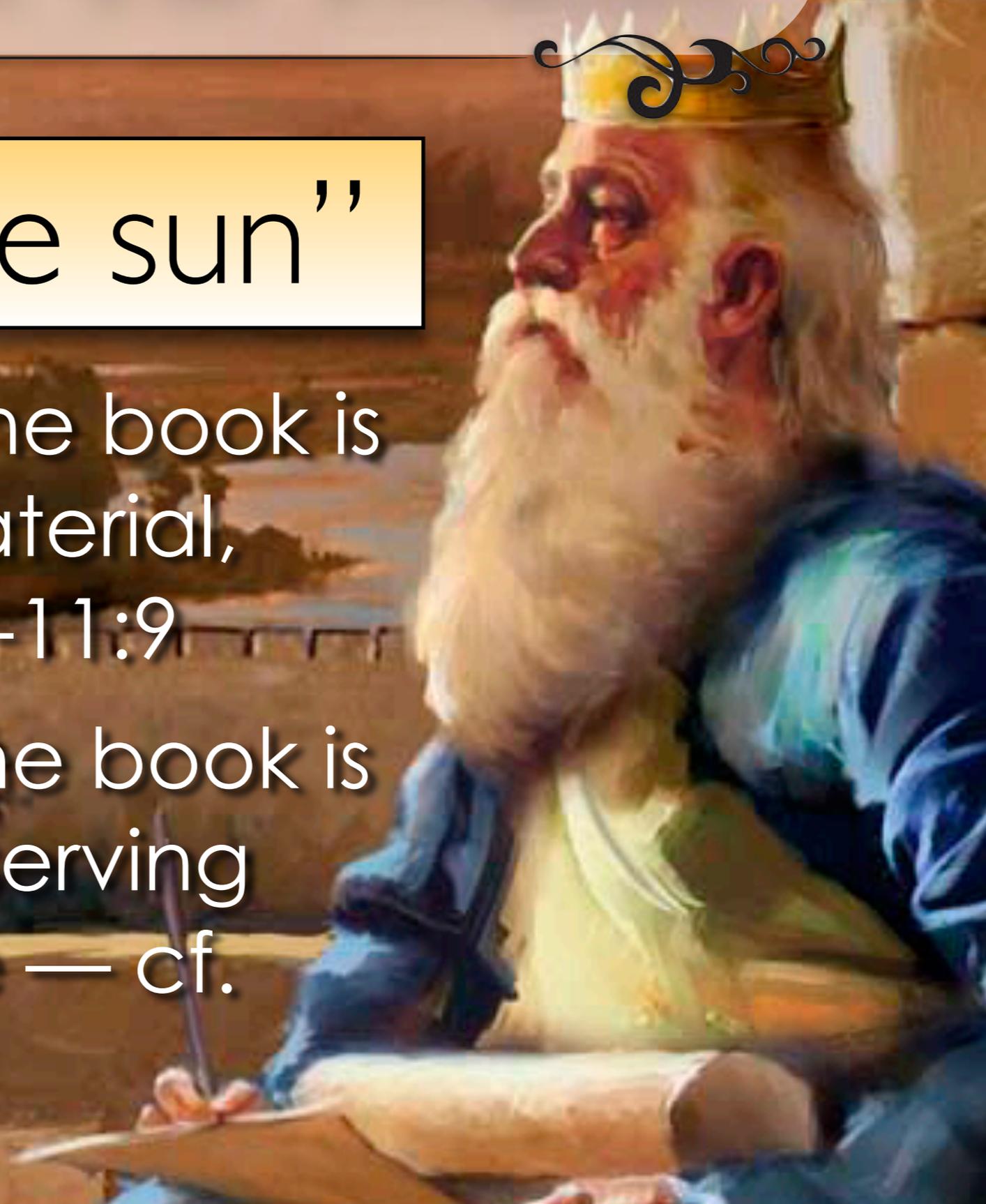
"Life under the sun"

- BUT, we should NOT take the message of Ecclesiastes to be predominately negative!
- The wise man points us away from worthless things to the things in life that **REALLY MATTER!**

"The Words of The Preacher"

"Life under the sun"

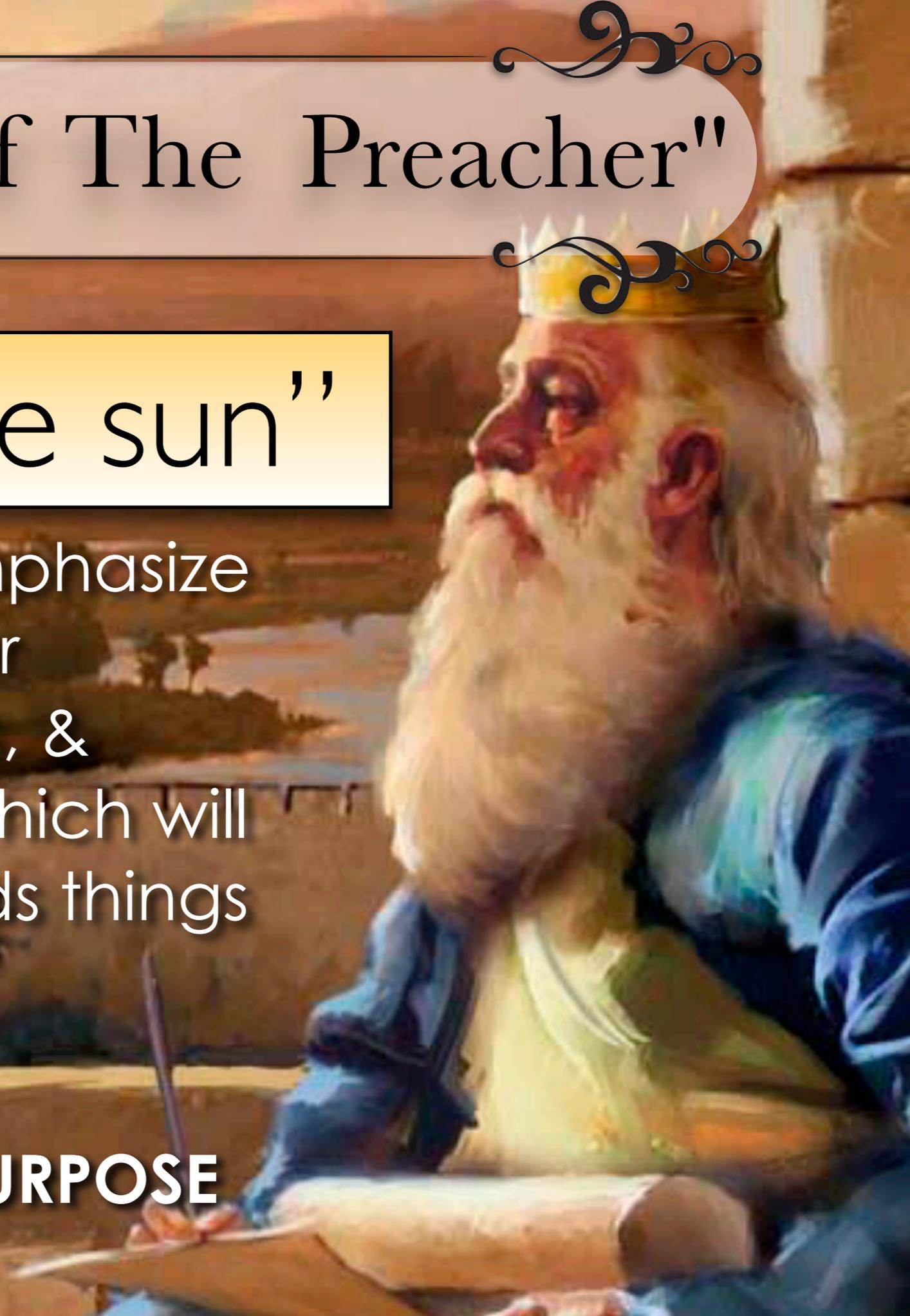
- The main focus of the book is the VANITY of of material, earthly things — 1:1-11:9
- The main point of the book is the importance of serving God throughout life — cf. 11:9-12:1, 13-14



"The Words of The Preacher"

"Life under the sun"

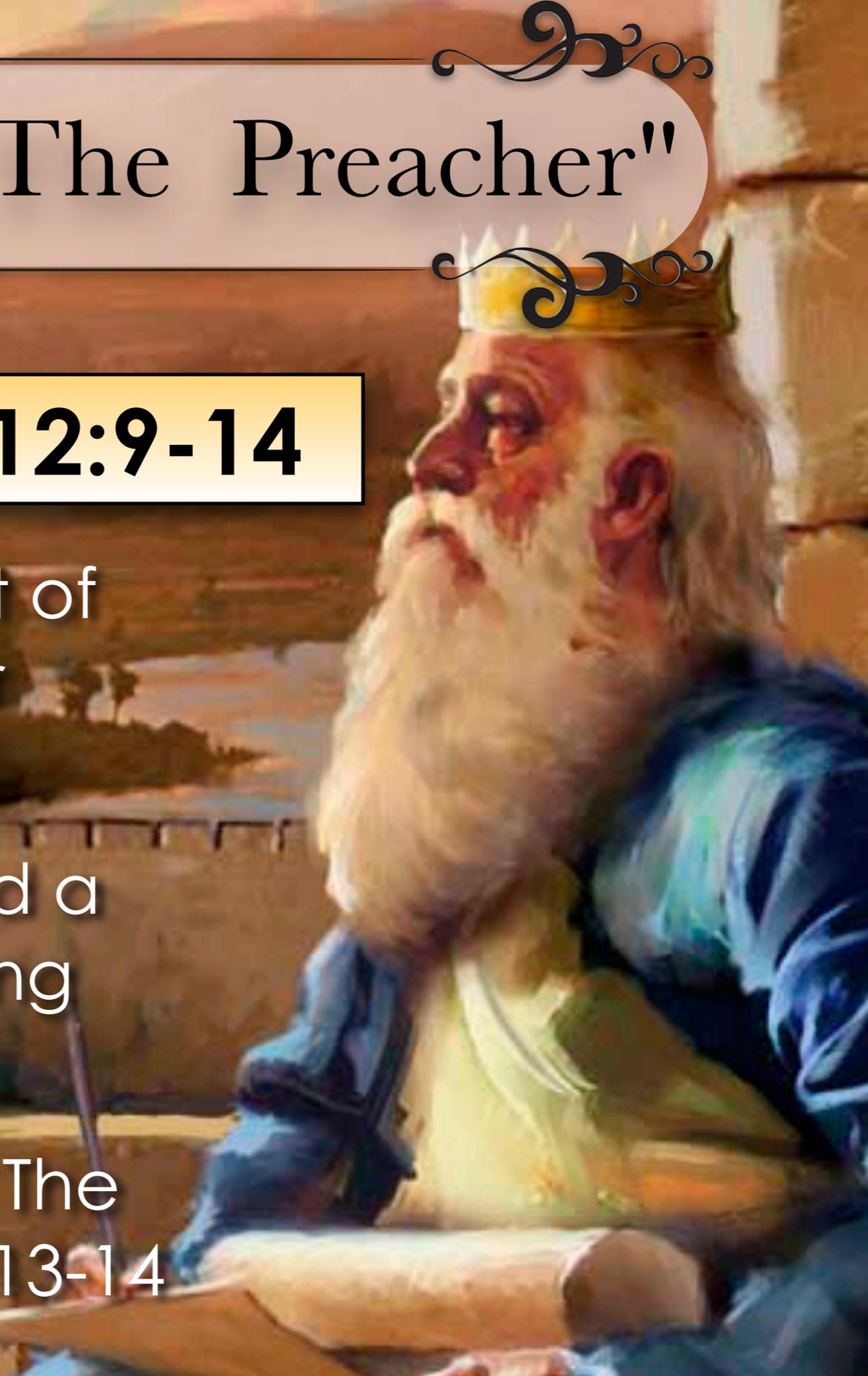
- The last 2 chapters emphasize the need to **INVEST** our resources, time, efforts, & abilities toward that which will **LAST** instead of towards things that will **PERISH** — 12:7
- God will hold us all accountable to our **PURPOSE** in the end. — 12:13,14



"The Words of The Preacher"

The last 7 verses — 12:9-14

- Restatement of the result of the Preacher's search for meaning - 12:8
- The value of wisdom, and a warning against the wrong kind of study - 12:9- 12
- The grand conclusion — The REAL purpose of life - 12:13-14



Ecclesiastes 12:9–14 (NKJV)

⁹ And moreover, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out *and* set in order many proverbs. ¹⁰ The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and *what was* written *was* upright—words of truth. ¹¹ The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd.

Ecclesiastes 12:9–14 (NKJV)

¹² And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books *there is* no end, and much study *is* wearisome to the flesh. ¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. ¹⁴ For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

“The **WHOLE DUTY** of **MAN**”

THE PREACHER’S CONCLUSION (12:8)



Ecclesiastes 12:8 (NKJV)

8 “Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher, “All is vanity.”

(cf. 1:2, 14; 2:17; 4:4)

“The **WHOLE DUTY** of **MAN**”

THE PREACHER'S CONCLUSION (12:8)

■ **ALL IS VANITY** when life is viewed solely from an earthly perspective (1:2,3; 12:8)

- 👁️ **Pleasure** - 2:1
- 👁️ **Labor** - 2:11,22-23; 4:4
- 👁️ **Wisdom** - 2:15
- 👁️ **Difficulty in life** - 2:17
- 👁️ **Leaving an inheritance** - 2:18-21
- 👁️ **Riches** over family - 4:7-8
- 👁️ **Loving wealth** - 5:10
- 👁️ **Wandering desire** - 6:9
- 👁️ **Foolish laughter** - 7:6
- 👁️ **Injustice** in this life - 8:14
- 👁️ **Days of darkness** - 11:8
- 👁️ **Childhood & youth** - 11:10

“The **WHOLE DUTY** of **MAN**”

THE PREACHER'S CONCLUSION (12:8)

- **ALL IS VANITY** when life is viewed solely from an earthly perspective (1:2,3; 12:8)
 - ▶ There is no advantage of wisdom over folly - 2:15-16
 - ▶ Man is no different than animals - 3:19-21
 - ▶ The dead know nothing and they have no more reward - 9:5-6
 - ▶ IF LIFE UNDER THE SUN IS ALL THERE IS - THEN LIFE IS MEANINGLESS - WITHOUT PURPOSE - WITHOUT HOPE
 - ▶ BUT LIFE UNDER THE SUN IS NOT ALL THERE IS!

“The **WHOLE DUTY** of **MAN**”

HIS CREDENTIALS TO SPEAK (12:9–11)

Ecclesiastes 12:9
(NKJV)

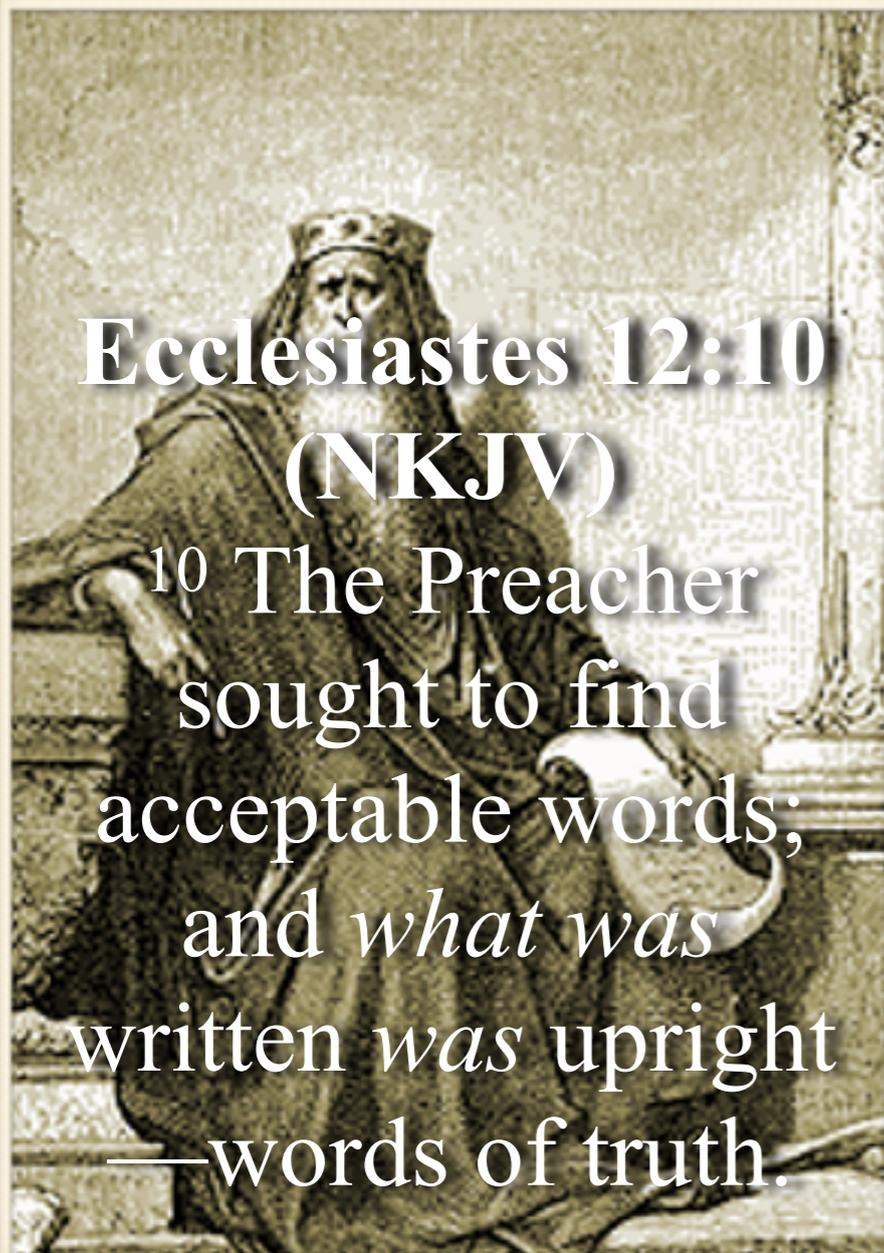
⁹ And moreover, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out *and* set in order many proverbs.

■ He claims the gift of wisdom (12:9)

- ▶ The term **wisdom** (chakham) implies that which is from above, taught by God.
- ▶ He was a teacher of “**knowledge**” — His public teaching was proof of his ability to function as a leader of godly thought — His careful words speak for themselves.

“The **WHOLE DUTY** of **MAN**”

HIS CLAIMS ABOUT HIS BOOK (12:10-11)



- **He sought acceptable words (12:10)**
 - ▶ He carefully sought out the best and most accurate terms for conveying his message.
 - ▶ The word “upright” (yosher) suggests he personally believed all he wrote. -
 - ▶ What he wrote consisted of “words of truth,” i.e., it was objectively true (12:10).

“The **WHOLE DUTY** of **MAN**”

HIS CLAIMS ABOUT HIS BOOK (12:10-11)

Ecclesiastes 12:11
(NKJV)

11 The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd.

- **Koheleth classifies his book with other wisdom books (12:11)**
 - ▶ They are “**goads.**” — a rod with an iron spike, or sharpened at the end, used in driving oxen.
 - ▶ Words of wisdom restrain from error and urge in the right direction. - The pain which truth inflicts is for our good and not for evil.

“The **WHOLE DUTY** of **MAN**”

HIS CLAIMS ABOUT HIS BOOK (12:10–11)

Ecclesiastes 12:11
(NKJV)

11 The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd.

■ **Koheleth classifies his book with other wisdom books (12:11)**

- ▶ The words of the wise “are like well-driven nails.” — They are established, substantial, secure — Truth is NOT vacillating
- ▶ The one shepherd is Yahweh — Solomon spoke the words given to him by God — (cf. Gen 48:15; Ps 23:1).

“The WHOLE DUTY of MAN”

HIS CLAIMS ABOUT HIS BOOK (12:10-11)

Ecclesiastes 12:12
(NKJV)

12 And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books *there is* no end, and much study *is* wearisome to the flesh.

■ Not ALL Knowledge Is Helpful — (12:12)

- ▶ The ESV renders verse 12 “My son, beware of anything beyond these.”
- ▶ The warning here is against the unprofitable reading of these contradictory and confusing works of men which were not built upon the foundation of the fear of Yahweh.

“The **WHOLE DUTY** of **MAN**”

ADMONITION REGARDING STUDY (12:12)

Ecclesiastes 12:12
(NKJV)

12 And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books *there is* no end, and much study *is* wearisome to the flesh.

■ Not ALL Knowledge Is Helpful — (12:12)

- ▶ “Much study is a weariness of the flesh.” — one may weary his brain by protracted study of the “many books,” but still not necessarily gain any insight into the problems of the universe or guidance for daily living (12:12).
- ▶ We should make the word of God our chief object of study.

“The **WHOLE DUTY** of **MAN**”

KOHELETH'S CONCLUSION — (12:13,14)



Ecclesiastes 12:13–14 (NKJV)

¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. ¹⁴ For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

“The **WHOLE DUTY** of **MAN**”

KOHELETH’S CONCLUSION — (12:13,14)



- **The conclusion of the whole matter: — (12:13)**
 - ▶ The teaching of the whole book of Ecclesiastes is now gathered up in two powerful sentences.
 - ▶ They guard against the possible misconceptions some may draw from the book.
 - ▶ They put everything into its proper perspective.

“The **WHOLE DUTY** of **MAN**”

KOHELETH'S CONCLUSION — (12:13,14)



**Ecclesiastes 12:13
(NKJV)**

**13 Let us hear the
conclusion of the
whole matter: Fear
God and keep His
commandments, For
this is man's all.**

■ **The conclusion of the whole matter: — (12:13)**

- ▶ To "fear God" is, to revere God, to hold Him in awe — This is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge — Pr 1:7; 9:10
- ▶ Reverence grows out of faith in WHO God is — Ez 1:26-28
- ▶ This reverence will help keep us on the right track — Deut 10:12; Pr 10:27; 23:17

“The **WHOLE DUTY** of **MAN**”

KOHELETH'S CONCLUSION — (12:13,14)



■ **The conclusion of the whole matter: — (12:13)**

- ▶ OBEDIENCE is the REAL test of our respect for God and how much we REALLY value Him — - Deut 13:4; 30:16 ; Jn 14:15 ; 1Jn 2:3-4; 5:3
- ▶ To reverently obey God, "walking in the fear of the Lord" (Ac 9:31), is the whole purpose of EVERY human.

“The WHOLE DUTY of MAN”

KOHELETH'S CONCLUSION — (12:13,14)



■ The Final Judgment (12:14)

- ▶ The whole purpose of man in “fearing God and keeping His commandments” is grounded upon the solemn fact of the future judgment — (12:14; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 2:5-11; 2 Pet 3:10-14; 2 Thes. 1:7-9; Acts 17:30)
- ▶ The inequities of life will be resolved & remedied in the final judgment under the eye of the omniscient and unerring God.

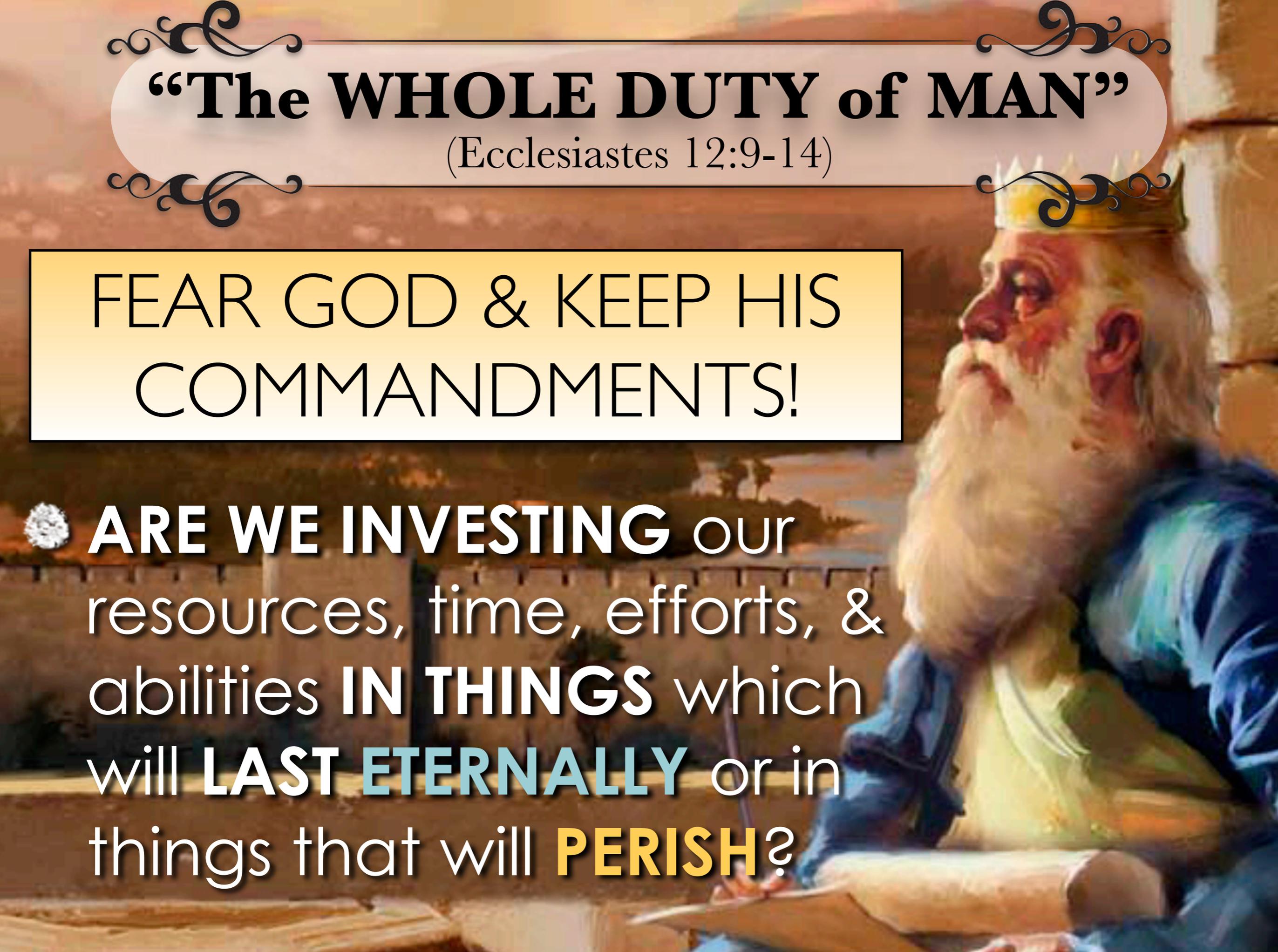
“The WHOLE DUTY of MAN”

KOHELETH'S CONCLUSION — (12:13,14)



■ The Final Judgment (12:14)

- ▶ On that day “every secret thing” will be exposed (12:14).
- ▶ In which every “secret” work will be judged - (Rom 2:16)
- ▶ All hidden works of darkness will be exposed — 1 Co. 4:5
- ▶ Everything now covered will be revealed — Lu. 12:1, 2.
- ▶ No hiding from our all knowing creator — Heb 4:13; 10:31



“The **WHOLE DUTY** of **MAN**”

(Ecclesiastes 12:9-14)

FEAR GOD & KEEP HIS
COMMANDMENTS!

- **ARE WE INVESTING** our resources, time, efforts, & abilities **IN THINGS** which will **LAST ETERNALLY** or in things that will **PERISH**?

“The **WHOLE DUTY** of **MAN**”

(Ecclesiastes 12:9-14)

FEAR GOD & KEEP HIS
COMMANDMENTS!

- The Preacher has demonstrated that life from an earthly perspective alone is truly vanity!
- Has taught us that by fearing God and keeping His commandments, one can endure the vanities and perplexities of life, and enjoy the good things in life!
- We will give an account to GOD!



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 **WHOLE DUTY** of **MAN**”

(Ecclesiastes 12:9-14)

Charts by Don McClain

Preached July 21, 2019

West 65th Street church of Christ/ P.O. Box 190062 / Little Rock AR 72219 / 501-568-1062

Prepared using Keynote

Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

Our Website: w65stchurchofchrist.com

2 CHRONICLES 34:1-7 (NKJV)

¹ Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. ² And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. ³ For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images.