I. Style of Solomon’s Autobiography

A. Ecclesiastes is an autobiography written in a poetic style.

B. The content centers around the word, “Hevel,” which means Vain or Futile.

C. The work is a description of a person of faith “pursuing wisdom.”

D. Premise: Believing in God is not a cure for Hevel.

II. Chapter Three: A Time for Everything

A. A time to be born/to die

B. To plant/to uproot

C. To kill/heal

D. To tear down/build

E. To weep/laugh

F. To mourn/dance

G. To scatter stones/gather them

H. To embrace/refrain

I. To search/give up

J. To keep/throw away

K. To tear/mend

L. To be silent/speak

M. To love/hate

N. Of war/peace

III. The Echoes of the Gospel Infiltrate Ecclesiastes

A. The Beatitudes: Matthew 5 – “How happy (blessed) are …”

1. The Poor in spirit/kingdom of heaven

2. Those who mourn/comforted

3. The meek/inherit the earth

4. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness/filled

5. The merciful/shown mercy

6. The pure in heart/see God

7. The peacemakers/sons of God

8. Those who are persecuted because of righteousness/heaven

9. Those insulted and slandered because of Jesus/reward in heaven.

B. Application of the Beatitudes:

1. Rejoice and be glad – great is your reward in heaven.

2. They persecuted the prophets before you.

C. Matthew 11:16 – 19

1. Jesus proclaims the “vanity” of trying to please others and prove himself.

2. His application – Wisdom is proved by her actions.

3. Thus, echoes of Ecclesiastes are heard in the Gospels.

IV. The Echoes of the Epistles Infiltrate Ecclesiastes

A. 2 Corinthians 4:8ff, “We are…”

1. Hard pressed on every side/but not crushed

2. Perplexed/but not in despair

3. Persecuted/but not abandoned

4. Struck down/but not destroyed

5. Carrying around in our body the death of Jesus/Jesus’ life is revealed

B. Application: Don’t lose heart – it’s transient.