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Day 150 – May 30

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## Israel as a Monarchy (1100 – 930 BCE)

### *Solomon's Reflections on Life*

**Readings:** *Ecclesiastes 12:9,10; 7:7-26; 10:1-11:6; 12:11,12; 7:1-6; 15-18; 7:27-29; 8:1*

### ***Reflections:***

- In these passages from Ecclesiastes we see a collection of proverbs that fit well with the book of Proverbs. In these sections some of his statements stand in apparent contradiction to what he has outlined as being meaningless. For example he states, “Money is the answer to everything,” and “Wisdom brightens a man’s face.” He also says some things that are simply offensive to the modern reader, “I found one upright man among a thousand but not one upright woman among them all.” This statement is to set up his conviction that “God made mankind upright but men have gone in search of many schemes.” In other words, we are all messed up. I can’t defend why Solomon would write this but apparently the one thousand women in his life (total number of wives and concubines) were to be viewed negatively.
- One other statement that he makes is very subversive: “Do not be over-righteous.” Maybe a better translation is, “Don’t be hyper-religious.” This statement is obviously subversive to the religious sensibilities of his day and this is from the guy who built the temple. Again, for the things that are affirmed in this section on general wisdom, we find these foreshadowing statements that will set the stage for coming of the true king, Jesus and his irreligious revolution.