

**PLEASE TURN to the
SONG of SOLOMON**

**RAISE YOUR HAND
to BORROW a BIBLE**

**SILENCE CELL PHONES
& LIMIT DISTRACTIONS**



THE BOOKS OF
SONG ^{of} SOLOMON
& ECCLESIASTES



THROUGH THE BIBLE

SOLOMON WAS KNOWN FOR:

**WISDOM
TEMPLE**

**WEALTH
FOLLY**

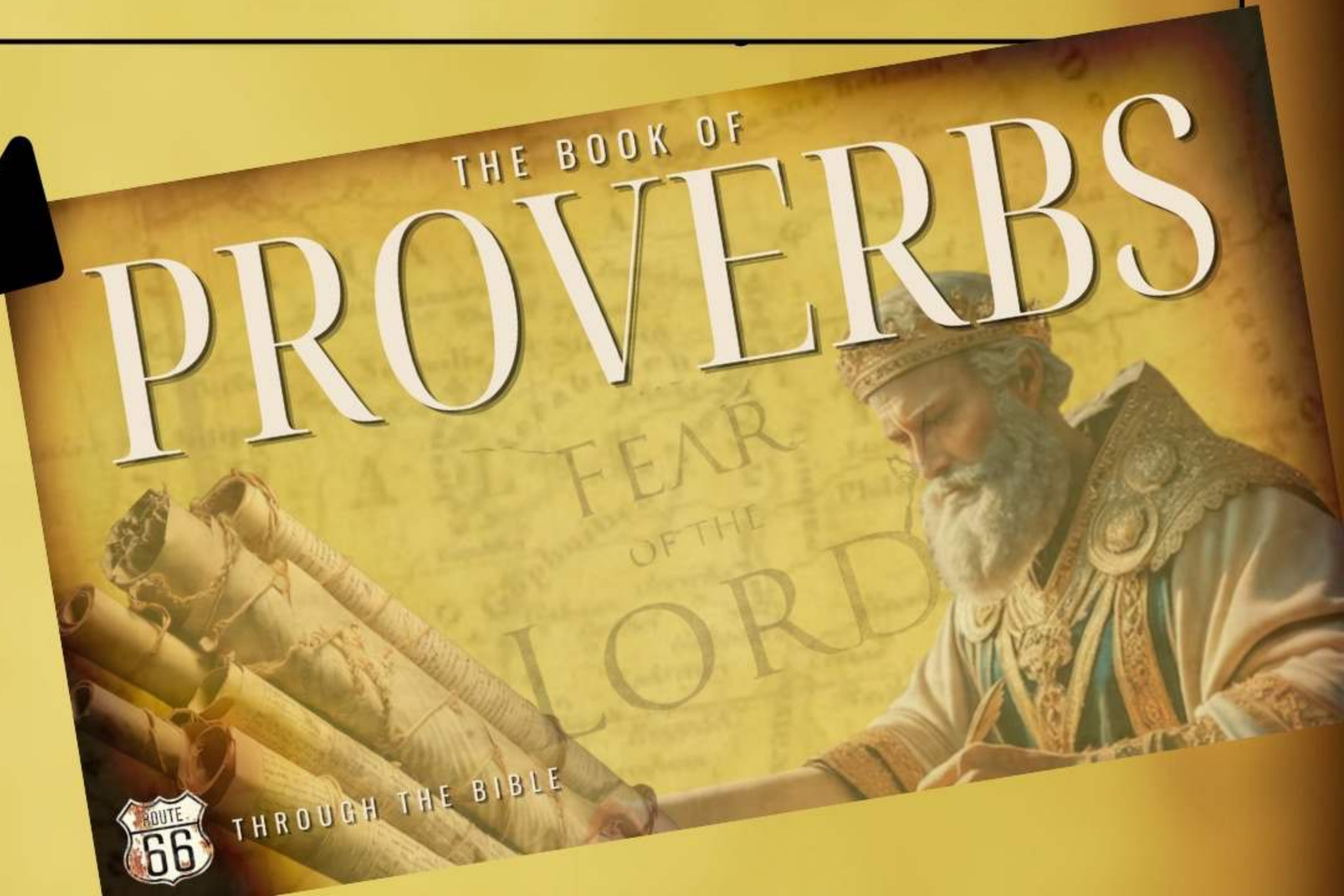
1 Kings 4:29-34: **"God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore." - His "wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than all men, and his fame was in... the surrounding nations." - "He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five." "...men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth... came to hear the wisdom of Solomon."**

SOLOMON WAS KNOWN FOR:

**WISDOM
TEMPLE**

**WEALTH
FOLLY**

**Solomon “spoke
three thousand
proverbs” (1
Kings 4:32)**



SOLOMON WAS ALSO KNOWN FOR:

1 Kings 11:3: “[Solomon] had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines... and his wives turned away his heart.”

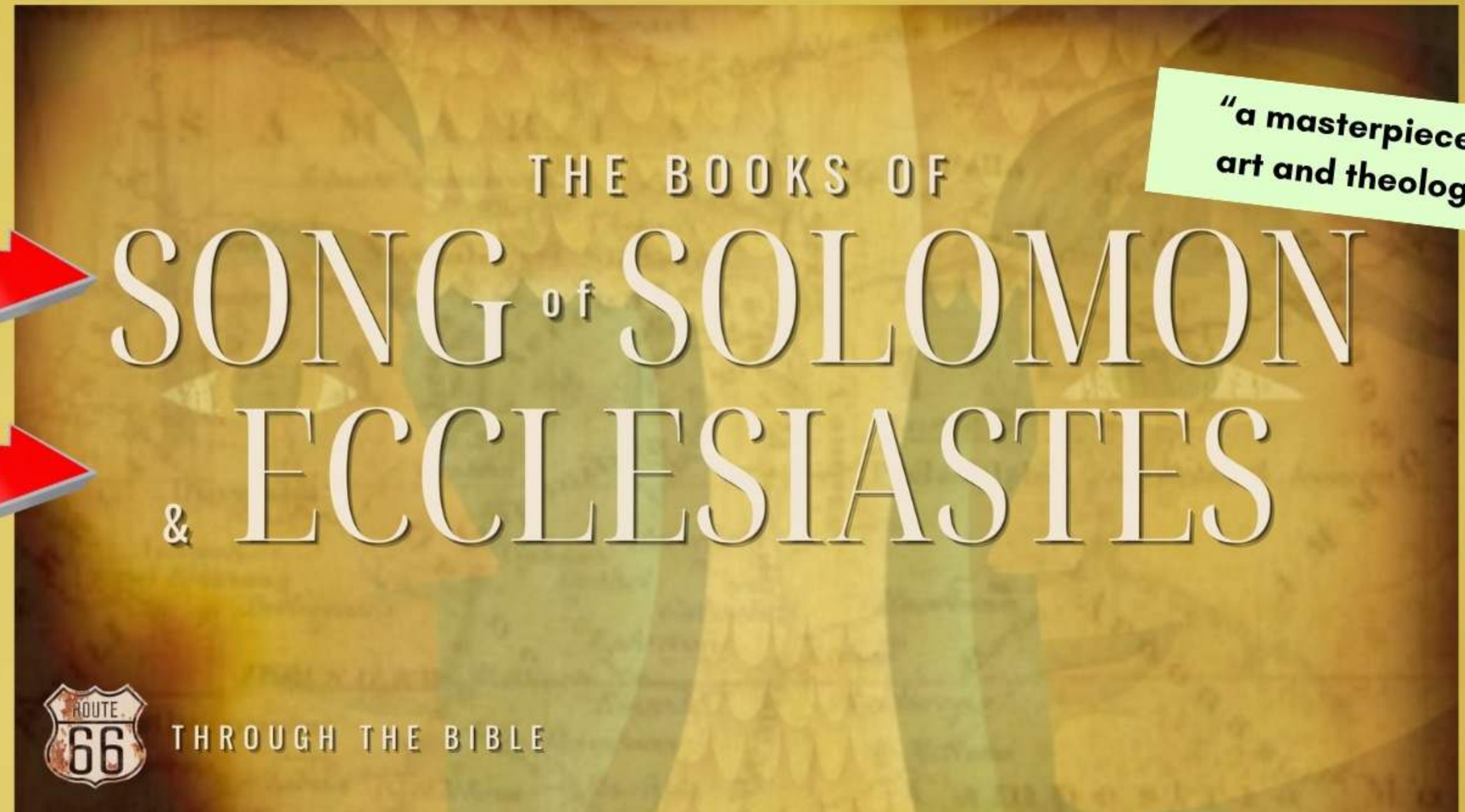
WOMEN  **FOLLY**

VS. 4: “For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.”

SOLOMON WAS ALSO KNOWN FOR:

1 Kings 4:32: “[Solomon’s]... songs
were one thousand and five.”

WOMEN →
FOLLY →



"a masterpiece of
art and theology..."



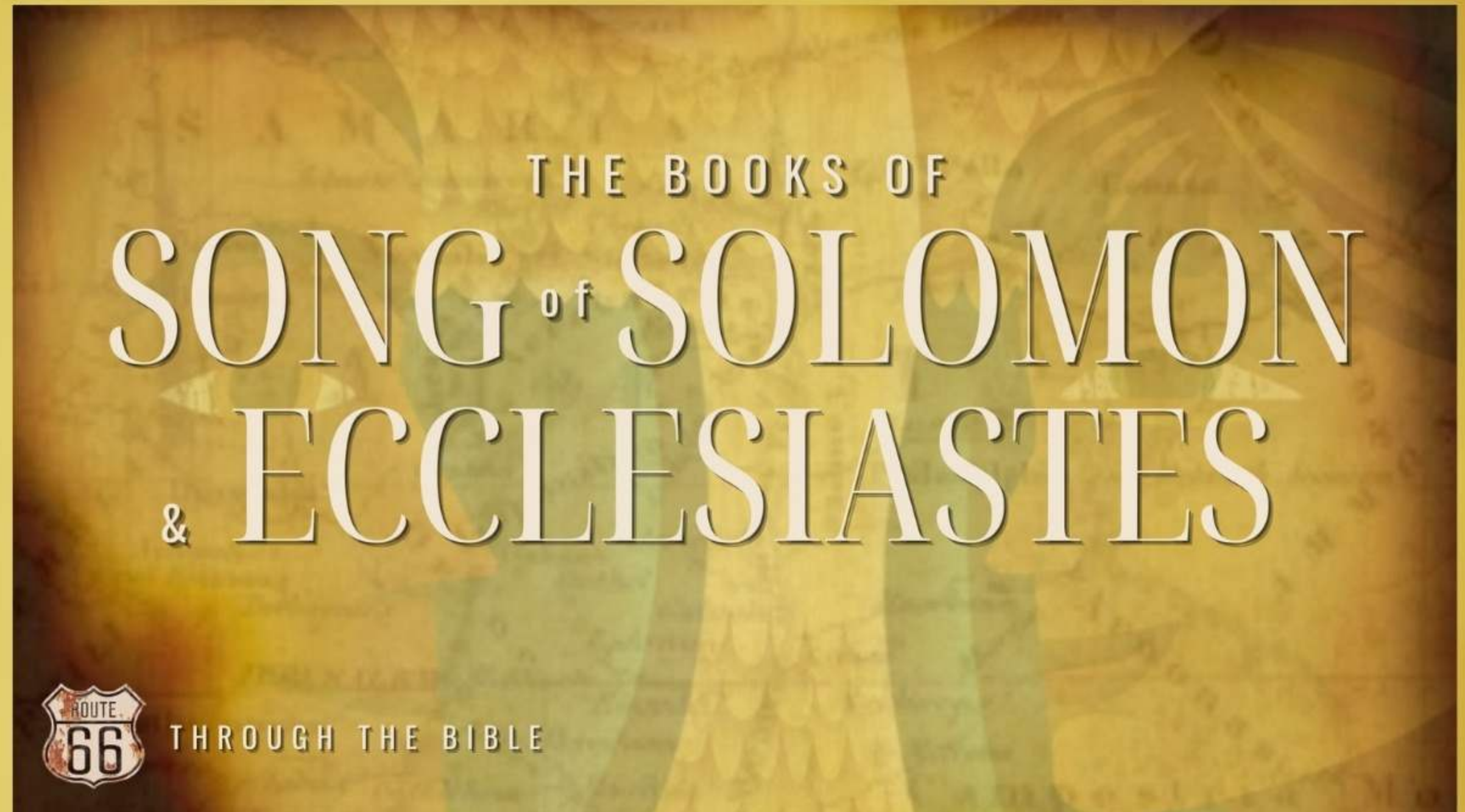
THROUGH THE BIBLE

WRITINGS of SOLOMON:

Both Books Belong to 'The Writings' (Heb. Ketuvim)
Different from the Torah & Prophets

4 CATEGORIES in 'The Writings':

- **POETICAL BOOKS**—*Psalms, Proverbs, & Job...*
- **The 'SCROLLS'** (*Megillot*)—*Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, and Esther...*
- **PROPHECY**—*the Book of Daniel...*
- **HISTORY BOOKS**—*Ezra, Nehemiah, and 1 & 2 Chronicles...*



The SONG of SOLOMON:

Sometimes Called *'Song of Songs,' 'Canticles'* (LTN.)

Sng. 1:1: **"The song of songs, which is Solomon's.**

"If a manuscript of this... book were found—detached from Biblical context and tradition—it [would most likely]... be viewed as secular. [This] book has no obvious religious content."

(Dennis Kinlaw)

*"It is never referred to in the other Old Testament books, nor the New Testament, nor in Philo, nor in Josephus; and the NAME of God—**YAHWEH**—does not appear anywhere in it."*

(Dr. Graham Scroggie)

The SONG of SOLOMON:

Sometimes Called *'Song of Songs,' 'Canticles'* (LTN.)

Sng. 1:1: **"The song of songs, which is Solomon's.**

Charles Spurgeon = **59 SERMONS** *from this Book...*

John Gill = **122 SERMONS** *from this Book...*

Bernard de Clairvaux = **88 SERMONS** *from Chapter 1...*

*"Eternity in its entirety is not as worthy as the day on which
Song of Songs was given to Israel... All the Writings are holy,
but Song of Songs is the Holy of Holies."
(Rabbi Akiva)*

The SONG of SOLOMON:

A 'Controversial' Book???

"Unlike other books in the... Bible, [the Song of Solomon] is erotic poetry... [Here] lovers express passionate desire, exchange compliments, and invite one another to enjoy." – "It narrates an intense, poetic love story between a woman and her lover through a series of sensual dialogues, dreams, metaphors, and warnings to the "daughters of Jerusalem" not to awaken love before its time."

Robert Alter | 'The Art of Biblical Poetry'

"I counsel everyone who is not yet rid of vexations of the flesh... and has not ceased to feel the passions of his bodily nature, to refrain from reading [Song of Solomon] and the things that will be said about it."

(Origen)

The SONG of SOLOMON:

An 'Allegory' for God & His People???

*"Early Jewish rabbis taught that [this] book pictures God's love for Israel. Early Christian writers... replaced Israel with the Church."
(Douglas Estes)*

ISRAEL = God's "Wife" (OT)
CHURCH = "Bride of Christ" (NT)

Ephesians 5:32: **"This is a great mystery (HIDDEN TRUTH), but I speak concerning Christ and the church."**



The SONG of SOLOMON:

An Erotic Love Poem, or an
'Allegory' for God & His People???

YES!

"There are those who treat this Book [only] as a song of human love... There are those who consider its... value [as only] that of mystical suggestiveness. Personally, I believe that both values are here." **G. Campbell Morgan**

"An allegory emerging from history..." – "[Though] It is not possible to [discern exactly] what... the author [had in mind]... that need not interfere with our discerning a value—or values—from this book." **Dr. Graham Scroggie**

The SONG of SOLOMON:

An Erotic Love Poem, or an
'Allegory' for God & His People???

YES!

"The best way to see this book is as a literal description of the romantic... love between a man and a woman... Yet, because God deliberately uses marriage... as an illustration of the relationship He has with His people, we find that [it] illustrates the love, intensity, and beauty of the relationship that should exist between God and the believer. This is clearly a secondary meaning, yet nevertheless valid and important." —
"A purely allegorical approach to Song of Solomon [would be] wrong; yet it cannot be denied that since it presents the height and glory and passion of love in marriage, it powerfully illustrates the relationship that exists between God and His people."

(David Guzik | EnduringWord.com)

The SONG of SOLOMON:

An Erotic Love Poem, or an
'Allegory' for God & His People???

YES!

"The Song of Solomon should be treated first as a simple and... song of human affection. [But] When... understood thusly, [then] reverently the thought may be lifted into the higher value of setting forth the joys of communion between the spirit of man and the Spirit of God, and ultimately between the Church and Christ."

G. Campbell Morgan

**The SEXUAL UNION Between a HUSBAND & WIFE
Reflects the LEVEL of INTIMACY JESUS DESIRES
to Have with His CHURCH!**

The SONG of SOLOMON:

THE STRUCTURE can be CONFUSING
USES SYMBOLIC LANGUAGE
NOT ALWAYS CLEAR Who is SPEAKING



"A collection of 'snapshots'...
with [all] the pictures not
necessarily in order."

"Many modern translations attempt to
add headings of... who is speaking, but
they often end up creating more
confusion than clarity." **Jon Courson**

THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM
We will run after you.^[10]

THE SHULAMITE
The king has brought me into his chambers.

THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM
We will be glad and rejoice in you.^[10]
We will remember your^[10] love more than wine.

THE SHULAMITE
Rightly do they love you.^[10]

I am dark, but lovely,
O daughters of Jerusalem,
Like the tents of Kedar,
Like the curtains of Solomon.

Do not look upon me, because I am dark,
Because the sun has tanned me.
My mother's sons were angry with me;
They made me the keeper of the vineyards,
But my own vineyard I have not kept.

(TO HER BELOVED)
Tell me, O you whom I love,
Where you feed your flock,
Where you make it rest at noon.
For why should I be as one who veils herself^[10]
By the flocks of your companions?

CHARACTERS of SONG of SOLOMON:

**Solomon is mentioned by name 6 times
(plus 3 references to an unnamed king)**

"The Beloved" = 45 times

"[He] is the universal voice of antiquity..." (Graham Scroggie)

The SHULAMITE—"The girl is usually identified as [being] from Shunem, a small agricultural village in Lower Galilee... Some commentators suggest that she is one of Solomon's many wives, perhaps even "Pharaoh's daughter," mentioned in 1st Kings 3 and 7." (**David Carr**)

"Daughters of Jerusalem" (CHORUS) – Mentioned 14 TIMES

"...there are a few 'minor' characters, including the brothers of the Shulamite and some relatives to the wedding party." (David Guzik)

CHARACTERS of SONG of SOLOMON:

"We take the view that in the song of Solomon there are not two, but three, chief characters, Solomon, the Shulamite, and a Shepherd Lover. The story briefly is this: a beautiful country girl from Shulam (i.e. Shunem) is surprised by the king on one of his journeys to the north (**6:11**), is brought to Jerusalem and placed in the Royal Palace (**1:4,5**), where... the ladies of the harem (the 'daughters of Jerusalem') sing the praises of Solomon. The king himself makes great efforts to win the affection of the Shulamite (**1:9**); but she remains faithful to her Shepherd Lover (**1:7**), who at last appears, and is allowed by the magnanimous monarch to return to his mountain... with his bride (**8:5**)."



SONG of SOLOMON:



A Biblical Marriage Poem

"If we regard the king in the poem as the world, the shepherd lover as Christ, and the Shulamite as the individual soul, we shall not fail to be helped. In the face of all the world's allurements, we are expected by our Lord—the 'Lover of our souls'—to be faithful to Him, and one day He will consummate His love for us in glory."

Dr. Graham Scoggie

"Perfect English Prose"

George Saintsbury (English Critic, Literary Historian)

The BOOK of ECCLESIASTES:

"...one of the most unusual and... difficult to understand [books of the Bible]... [with] a spirit of hopelessness & despair; [and] no peace [nor] praise."

"The sphinx of Hebrew literature, with its unsolved riddles about history and life."



The BOOK of ECCLESIASTES:

1:1 **"The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem."**

'Ecclesiastes' = *ekklesia* (**Gr.** *"the assembly"*)
Ecclesiastes = *"One who addresses an assembly"* (**i.e. Preacher**)

"He does say that he is the son of David, who is the king in Jerusalem, and that he is fantastically rich and wise... has many servants, pleasures, and building projects... In other words, he is claiming to be Solomon without using his name."

WHERE SOLOMON ENDED UP:

“When Solomon was old... his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God... For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and... Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites... Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as did his father David.”

“Solomon built a high place for Chemosh... and for Molech... And he did likewise for all his foreign wives... So the LORD [was] angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel, who... commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the LORD had commanded.”

1 Kings 11:1-10

WHERE SOLOMON ENDED UP:

"When Solomon was old... his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God... For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and... Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites... Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as did his father David."

"Solomon built a high place for other gods... And he did likewise for all his wives... [was] angry with Solomon because he had not followed the LORD God of Israel, who... said in this thing, that he should not... not keep what the LORD


1 Kings 11:1-8

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES


"The rather pessimistic tone that pervades this book would be in keeping with Solomon's spiritual state at that time."

The BOOK of ECCLESIASTES:

CHAPTERS 1-12



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



**"Vanity of
vanities," says
the Preacher,
"All is vanity."
(Eccl. 12:8)**

The BOOK of ECCLESIASTES:

"VANITY"

Heb. *'hevel'* = "like a wisp of smoke. Smoke can appear solid, but when you try to grab it... nothing is there."



"VANITY"

"I can't get no satisfaction

Yes, I try...

and I try...

and I try...

and I try...

I can't GET no!

I can't GET



**THE MESSAGE OF
ECCLESIASTES!**

The BOOK of ECCLESIASTES:

Eccl. 1:3: "What profit has a man from all his labor in which he toils under the sun? One generation passes away, and another generation comes; [and yet] the earth abides forever. The sun also rises, and the sun goes down..."

VS. 7: "All the rivers run into the sea, [but] the sea is not full; To the place from which the rivers come, there they return again."

VS. 8: "All things are full of labor; Man cannot express it. The eye is not satisfied with seeing, Nor the ear filled with hearing. 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."

A WELL-KNOWN PASSAGE:

Ecclesiastes Chapter 3

“To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted; A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up; A time to weep, And a time to laugh...”

“The poetry of this list... IS beautiful. [But] it's [intended to] cast a dark shadow because it reminds us... [of the] monotony of life.” **David Guzik**

A WELL-KNOWN PASSAGE:

Ecclesiastes Chapter 3

“To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted; A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up; A time to weep, And a time to laugh...”

“[Solomon’s] ceaseless reiteration of the words, ‘*A time... a time... a time*,’ are intended to indicate... the monotony of all things, [not] their variety.” **G. Campbell Morgan**

“The repetition of ‘*a time..., and a time...*’ [is meant] to be oppressive.” **Derek Kidner**

THE MESSAGE of ECCLESIASTES:

Eccl. 1:13: "I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; this burdensome task God has given to the sons of man..."
VS. 14: "I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind."

VS. 16: "I communed with my heart, saying, "Look, I have attained greatness, and have gained more wisdom than all who were before me in Jerusalem. My heart has understood great wisdom and knowledge... I set my heart to know wisdom and...madness and folly. I perceived that this also is grasping for the wind."

THE MESSAGE of ECCLESIASTES:

Eccl. 2:1-3: "I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with mirth; therefore enjoy pleasure"; but surely, this also was vanity. I said of laughter—"Madness!"; and of mirth, "What does it accomplish?" I searched in my heart how to gratify my flesh with wine, while guiding my heart with wisdom, and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the sons of men to do under heaven all the days of their lives."

VS. 4-7: "I made my works great, I built myself houses, and planted myself vineyards. I made myself gardens and orchards, and I planted all kinds of fruit trees... I made myself water pools from which to water the... trees of the grove. I acquired male and female servants... I had greater possessions of herds and flocks than all who were in Jerusalem before me."

THE MESSAGE of ECCLESIASTES:

Eccl. 3:8-9: "I gathered for myself silver and gold and the special treasures of kings and of the provinces. I acquired male and female singers, the delights of the sons of men, and musical instruments of all kinds. I became great, and excelled more than all who were before me in Jerusalem."

VS. 10: "Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, For my heart rejoiced in all my labor; And this was my reward from all my labor."

VS. 11: "Then, I looked on all the works that my hands had done And on the labor in which I had toiled; And indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun."

"I can't get no satisfaction

Yes, I try...

and I try...

and I try...

and I try...

I can't GET no!

I can't GET



**THE MESSAGE OF
ECCLESIASTES!**

ECCLESIASTES REMINDS ME of...



THE MESSAGE of ECCLESIASTES:

SOLOMON HAS:

**WEALTH
WISDOM
WOMEN
INFLUENCE
POWER
FAME**



THE MESSAGE of ECCLESIASTES:

"But, I still haven't
found what I'm
looking for..."



WOMEN
INFLUENCE
POWER
FAMILY



THE MESSAGE of ECCLESIASTES:



**PLEASURE
FRIENDSHIP
HARD WORK
POPULARITY
HONOR**

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

"Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher, "All is vanity." (Eccl. 12:8)

THE CONCLUSION of the MATTER:

Eccl. 12:1: "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them."

Eccl. 12:13-14: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil."

THE CONCLUSION of the MATTER:

Prov. 1:7: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge..."

THIS MAKES SENSE

Ecccl. 12:13-14: "...the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments..."



THE CONCLUSION of the MATTER:

SOLOMON HAD MORE:

**WEALTH
WISDOM
WOMEN
INFLUENCE
POWER
FAME**

THAN ANYONE!



**"Fear God and keep His
commandments,
for this is man's ALL."**

THE CONCLUSION of the MATTER:



**"Fear God and keep His
commandments,
for this is man's ALL."**

**DID
SOLOMON
'COME BACK'
TO THE
LORD???**

THE MESSAGE of ECCLESIASTES:



**"VANITY OF
VANITIES!
ALL IS
VANITY!"**

THE MESSAGE of ECCLESIASTES:

“Ecclesiastes says that if your whole focus is about working and achieving in order to bring meaning to your life, you need to stop and consider the march of time. For all the human effort that takes place in the world, nothing really changes. We develop technology and nations rise and fall, but go climb a mountain and see if it cares. That thing was there long before any of us, and it will remain there after we’re gone. 100 years from now, no one will remember you or me or anything that we did, but that mountain will still be there, and the ocean will still be breaking on the beach, and the sun will still rise and set...

THE MESSAGE of ECCLESIASTES:

Time will eventually erase you, me, and all we care about. Death is the great equalizer. It renders meaningless most of our daily activities. No matter who [we] are, or what [we've] done, good or bad, everyone eventually dies. So, what's the way forward in the midst of all this vanity? Paradoxically, the teacher learns that the key to truly enjoying life is accepting... that everything in your life is totally [beyond] your control. Nothing is guaranteed, and, strangely, that's the beauty of it. **When [we] adopt a posture of complete trust in God, it frees-us-up to enjoy life as we actually experience it... and not as [we] think it ought to be."**