

# Scripture

## Ecclesiastes 1:1-18 (NLT)

1 These are the words of the Teacher, King David's son, who ruled in Jerusalem.

### Everything Is Meaningless

2 "Everything is meaningless," says the Teacher, "completely meaningless!"  
3 What do people get for all their hard work under the sun? 4 Generations come and generations go, but the earth never changes.

- 5 The sun rises and the sun sets,  
then hurries around to rise again.
- 6 The wind blows south,  
and then turns north.  
Around and around it goes,  
blowing in circles.
- 7 Rivers run into the sea,  
but the sea is never full.  
Then the water returns again to the rivers  
and flows out again to the sea.

8 Everything is wearisome beyond description.

No matter how much we see,  
we are never satisfied.

No matter how much we hear,  
we are not content.

9 History merely repeats itself.

It has all been done before.

Nothing under the sun is truly new.

10 Sometimes people say, “Here is something new!” But actually it is old; nothing is ever truly new.

11 We don’t remember what happened in the past, and in future generations, no one will remember what we are doing now.

## The Teacher Speaks: The Futility of Wisdom

12 I, the Teacher, was king of Israel, and I lived in Jerusalem.

13 I devoted myself to search for understanding and to explore by wisdom everything being done under heaven. I soon discovered that God has dealt a tragic existence to the human race.

14 I observed everything going on under the sun, and really, it is all meaningless—like chasing the wind.

- 15 What is wrong cannot be made right.  
What is missing cannot be recovered.
- 16 I said to myself, “Look, I am wiser than any  
of the kings who ruled in Jerusalem before  
me. I have greater wisdom and knowledge  
than any of them.”
- 17 So I set out to learn everything from  
wisdom to madness and folly. But I learned  
firsthand that pursuing all this is like  
chasing the wind.

18 The greater my wisdom,  
the greater my grief.  
To increase knowledge  
only increases sorrow.