

Ecclesiastes 1:1-18 (NIV. Used with permission.)

1 The words of the Teacher, son of David, king of Jerusalem:

2 “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher.
“Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”

3 What do people gain from all their labours
at which they toil under the sun?

4 Generations come and generations go,
but the earth remains forever.

5 The sun rises and the sun sets,
and hurries back to where it rises.

6 The wind blows to the south and turns to the north;
round and round it goes, ever returning on its course.

7 All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full.
To the place the streams come from, there they return again.

8 All things are wearisome, more than one can say.
The eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing.

9 What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again;
there is nothing new under the sun.

10 Is there anything of which one can say,
“Look! This is something new”?
It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time.

11 No one remembers the former generations, and even yet to come
will not be remembered by those who follow them.

12 I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. 13 I applied my mind to
study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a
heavy burden God has laid on mankind! 14 I have seen all the things that
are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the
wind.

15 What is crooked cannot be straightened;
what is lacking cannot be counted.

16 I said to myself, ‘Look, I have increased in wisdom more than anyone
who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of
wisdom and knowledge.’ 17 Then I applied myself to the understanding of
wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a
chasing after the wind.

18 For with much wisdom comes much sorrow;
the more knowledge, the more grief.

The Search for Meaning

Just do it!
Eat fresh
Think big
Make believe
Think different
Broadcast yourself
Safety fast

Yes
Say it with flowers
Think small
Impossible is nothing
Buy it. Sell it. Love it.

Meaningless, meaningless. Utterly meaningless. Everything is meaningless!

Groundhog day

Ecclesiastes

- The Teacher (1, 12-13, 16)
- His summary (2)
- His guiding question (3)
- His observations (4-8)
- His conclusion, again (9-11)

This feels wrong!