



## Vanity Of Vanities

Vanity of vanities, says Qoheleth, vanity of vanities! All things are vanity! What profit has a man for all the labor which he toils under the sun? One generation passes and another comes, but the world forever stays.

The sun rises and the sun goes down; then it presses on to the place where it rises. Blowing now toward the south, then toward the north, the wind turns again and again, resuming its rounds.

All rivers go to the sea, yet never does the sea become full. To the place where they go, the rivers keep on going.

All speech is labored; there is nothing man can say. The eye is not satisfied with seeing nor is the ear filled with hearing.

I undertook great works; I built myself houses and planted vineyards; I made gardens and parks, and set out in them fruit trees of all sorts. And I constructed for myself reservoirs to water a flourishing woodland. I acquired male and female slaves, and slaves were born in my house. I also had growing herds of cattle and flocks of sheep, more than all who had been before me in Jerusalem. I amassed for myself silver and gold, and the wealth of kings and provinces. I became great, and I stored up more than all others before me in Jerusalem.

But when I turned to all the works that my hands had wrought, and to the toil at which I had taken such great pains, behold! All was vanity and a chase after the wind, with nothing gained under the sun.

The last word, when all is heard: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is man's all; because God will bring to judgement every work, with all its hidden qualities, whether good or bad. God alone is the source of our life and strength. Meditate on these words day and night. All things will pass away, His Word will ever stay.