

What is the Meaning of Life? (Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26)

I. Introduction: The Meaning of Life – So Many Opinions

Plato's philosophy – knowledge
Hedonistic philosophy – pleasure
Epicurean philosophy – pleasure with balance
Modern Psychology (Delayed Gratification) –
Qoheleth's philosophy –

II. Who is Qoheleth and what is his unhappy mission? (1:12-14)

III. Experiment I: Searching for the meaning in life by wisdom and knowledge alone (1:15-18)

The more you know the more you wish you didn't know

Education alone does not hold the answer to the meaning of life

IV. Experiment II: Searching for meaning in life in pleasure (2:1-11)

Qoheleth set out to deliberately put hedonism to the test.

comedy, wine, architecture, art, money, music, entertainment, sex

The meaning of life is not found in pleasure alone – if God has given you a gift or vision, do not glory in it

V. Experiment III: Searching for meaning in life in morality (2:12-17)

There is some benefit to living wisely

The wise and the fool both end up in the grave

Nihilism – life has absolutely no meaning – hopelessness

The meaning of life cannot be found in religion or moral living alone

VI. Experiment IV: Searching for meaning by investing in future generations (2:18-23)

Proverbs 13:22 – leaving an inheritance

There is no joy in merely living your life for your children

VII. The Meaning of Life: Carpe diem (2:24-26)