

Ecclesiastes

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning



The Disinherited Prince Syndrome

Blaise Pascal

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Pursuit of Meaning

*Life is like an onion;
you peel it off one layer at a time,
and sometimes you weep.*

Carl Sandburg

— *Ecclesiastes* —

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

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Ecclesiastes

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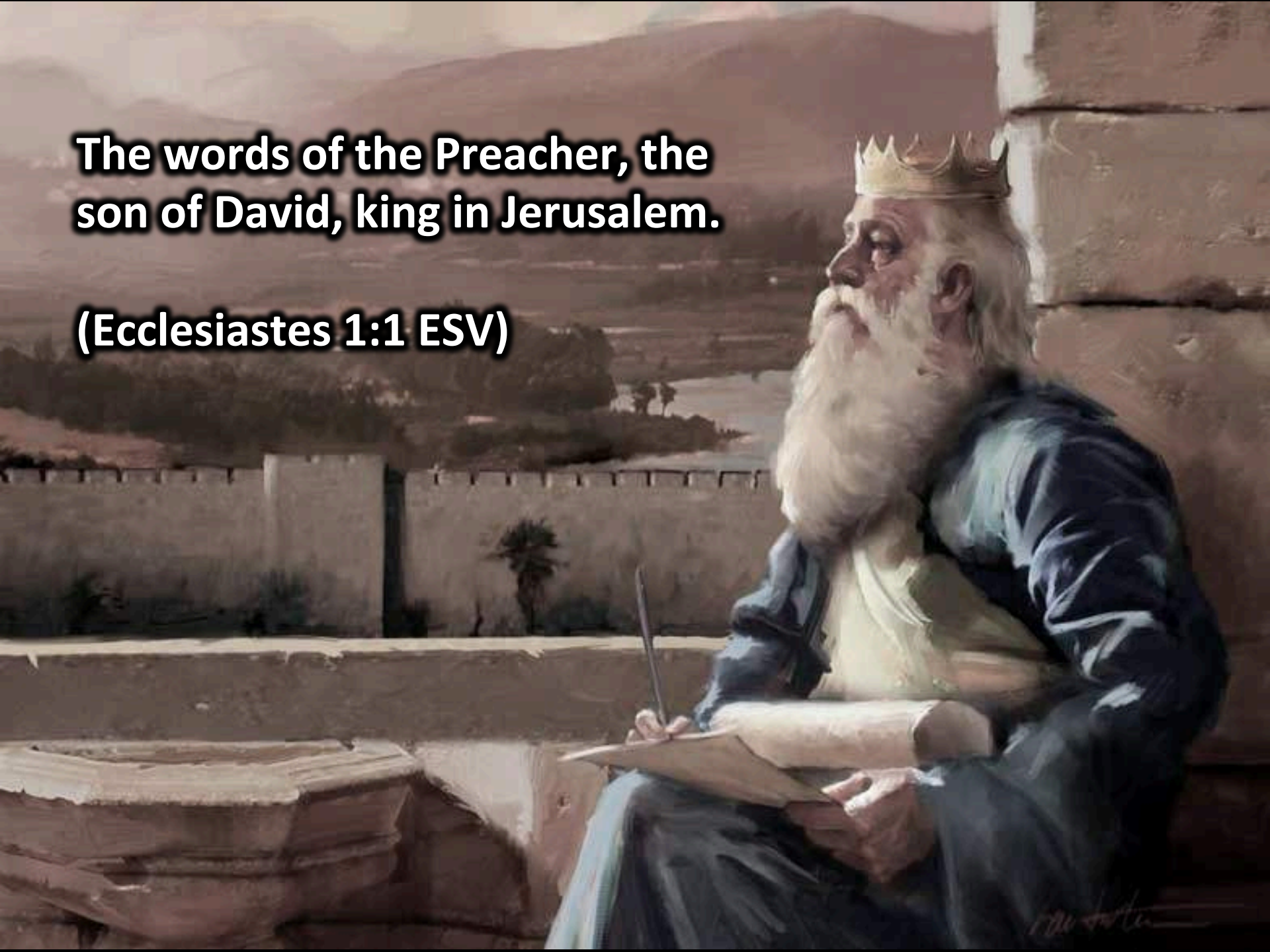
The Pursuit of Meaning





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

(Ecclesiastes 1:1 ESV)



Judah and Israel were as many as the sand by the sea. They ate and drank and were happy. Solomon **ruled** over all the kingdoms from the Euphrates to the land of the Philistines and to the border of Egypt. They brought **tribute and served Solomon** all the days of his life.....

For he had **dominion** over all the region west of the Euphrates from Tiphseh to Gaza, over all the kings west of the Euphrates. And he had **peace** on all sides around him. And Judah and Israel lived in **safety**, from Dan even to Beersheba, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, all the days of Solomon.

(1 Kings 4:20,21,24,25 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

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Now the weight of **gold** that came to Solomon in one year was 666 talents of **gold**, besides that which the explorers and merchants brought. And all the kings of Arabia and the governors of the land brought **gold** and **silver** to Solomon. King Solomon made 200 large shields of beaten **gold**; 600 shekels of beaten **gold** went into each shield. And he made 300 shields of beaten **gold**; 300 shekels of **gold** went into each shield; and the king put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon.....

All King Solomon's drinking vessels were of **gold**, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were of pure **gold**. **Silver** was not considered as anything in the days of Solomon.

(2 Chronicles 9:13-16,20 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

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The Pursuit of Meaning

And God gave Solomon **wisdom** and **understanding** beyond measure, and breadth of **mind** like the sand on the seashore, so that Solomon's **wisdom** surpassed the **wisdom** of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was **wiser** than all other men, **wiser** than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol, and his fame was in all the surrounding nations. He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005. He spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of the wall. He spoke also of beasts, and of birds, and of reptiles, and of fish. And people of all nations came to hear the **wisdom** of Solomon, and from all the kings of the earth, who had heard of his **wisdom**.

(1 Kings 4:29-34 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

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Thus King Solomon **excelled** all the kings of the earth in **riches** and in **wisdom**. And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his **wisdom**, which God had put into his mind. Every one of them brought his present, articles of silver and of gold, garments, myrrh, spices, horses, and mules, so much year by year.

(2 Chronicles 9:22-24 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

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He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines.

(1 Kings 11:3 ESV)

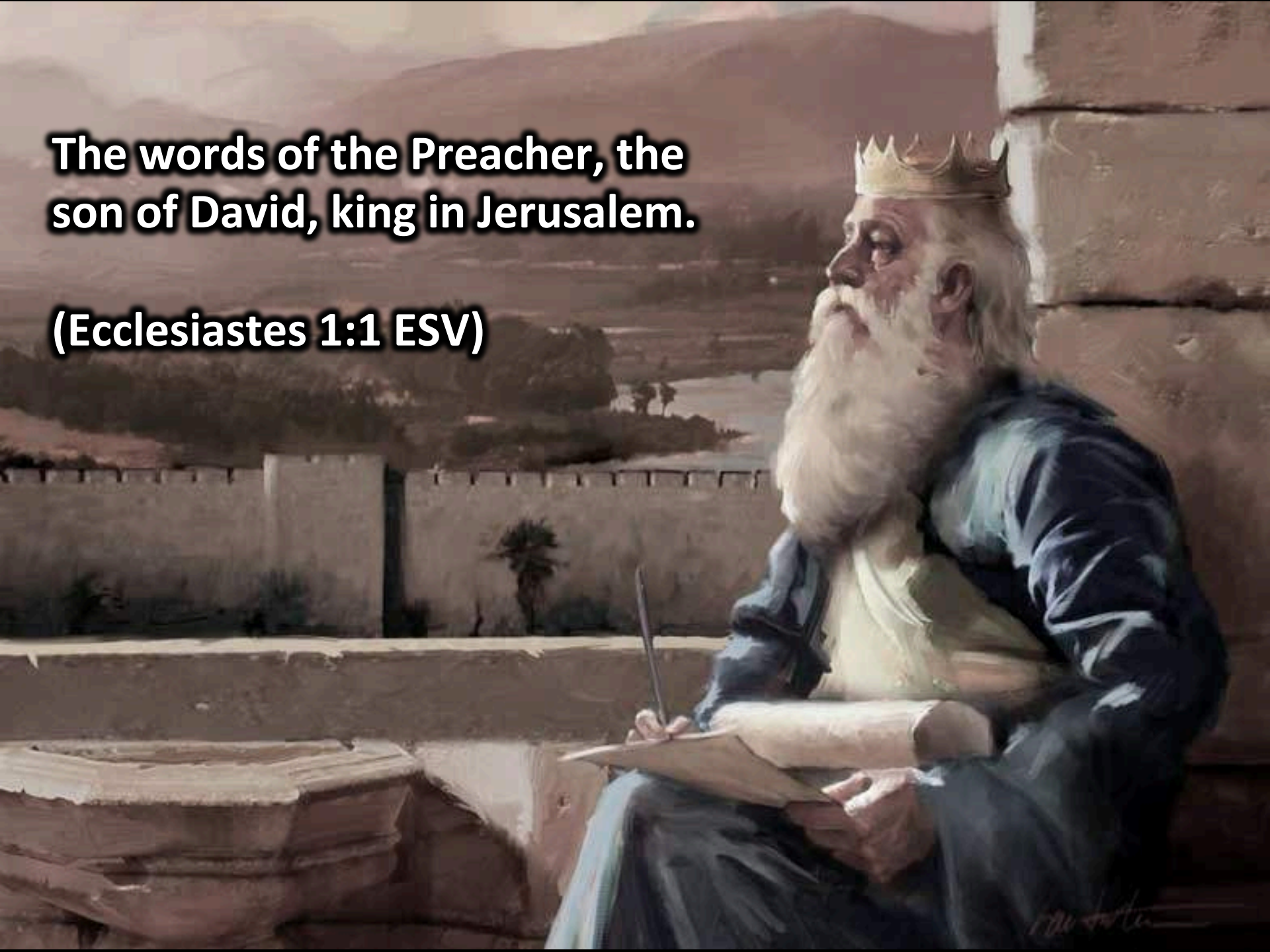
— *Ecclesiastes* —

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The Pursuit of Meaning

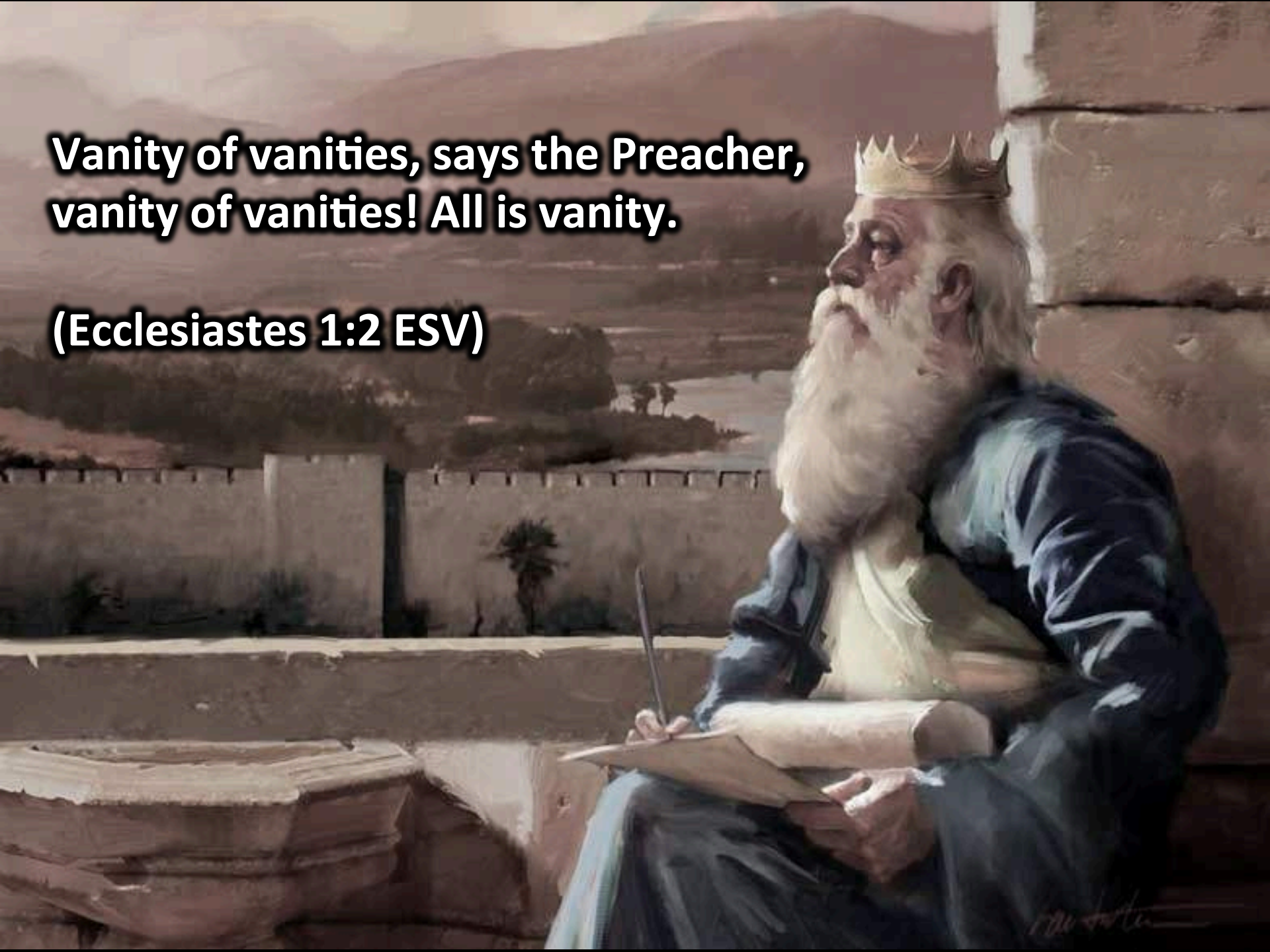
**The words of the Preacher, the
son of David, king in Jerusalem.**

(Ecclesiastes 1:1 ESV)



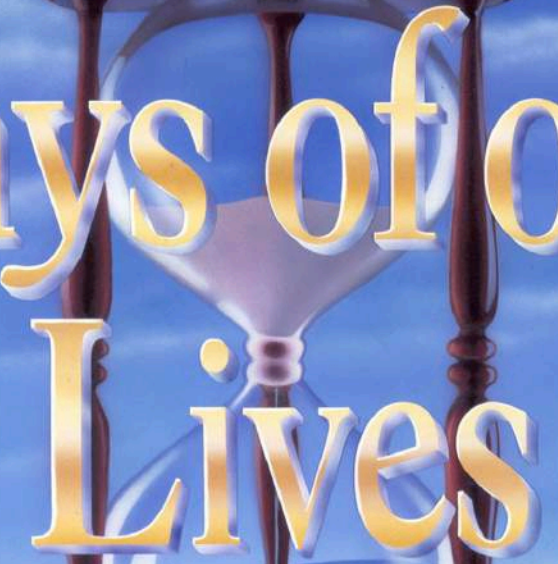
**Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.**

(Ecclesiastes 1:2 ESV)



An aerial night view of Taipei, Taiwan, featuring the Taipei 101 skyscraper in the background. The city lights are visible, and the title '夜市人生' is overlaid in large, stylized red characters with a white outline.

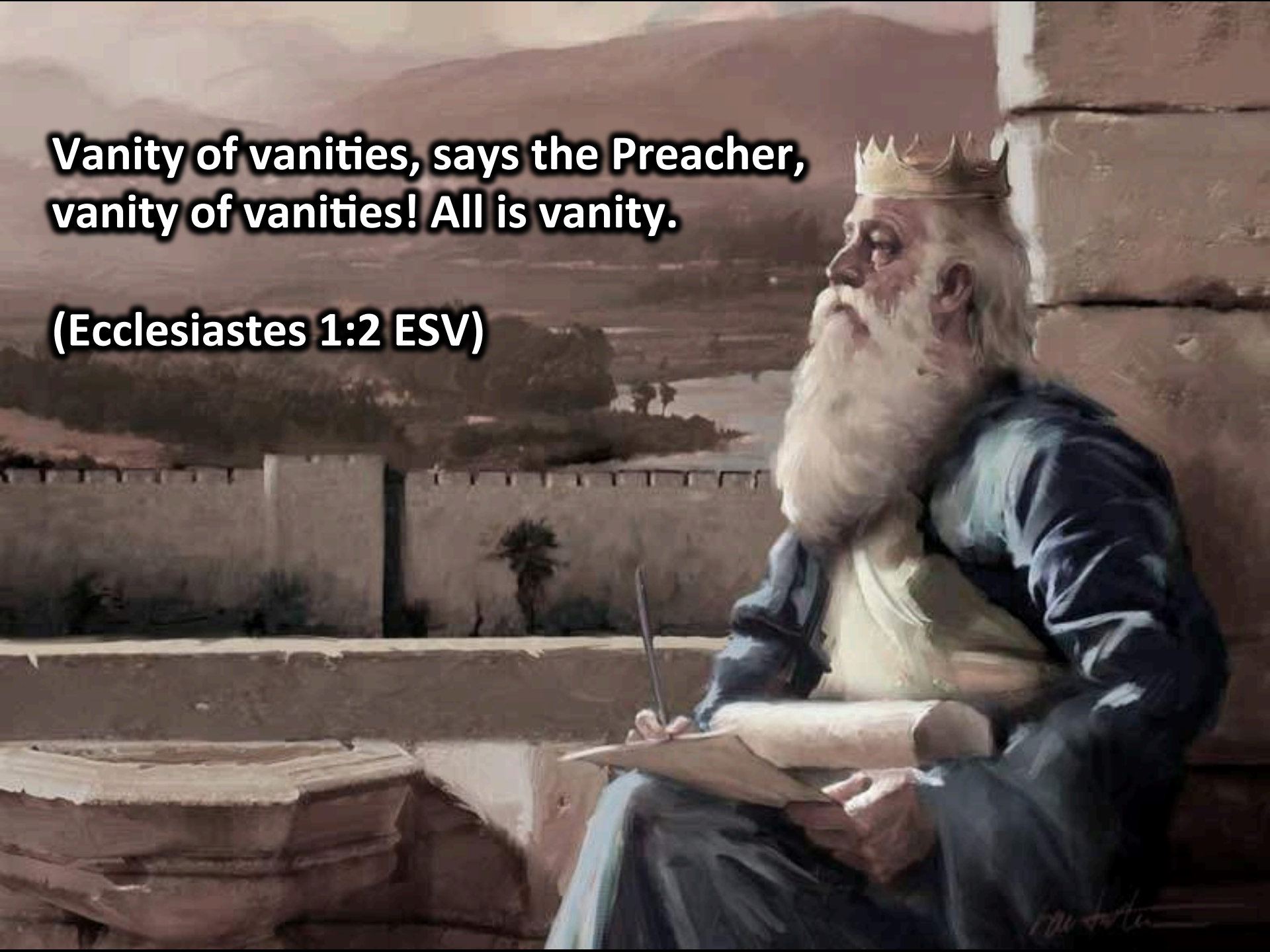
夜市人生



Days of our
Lives

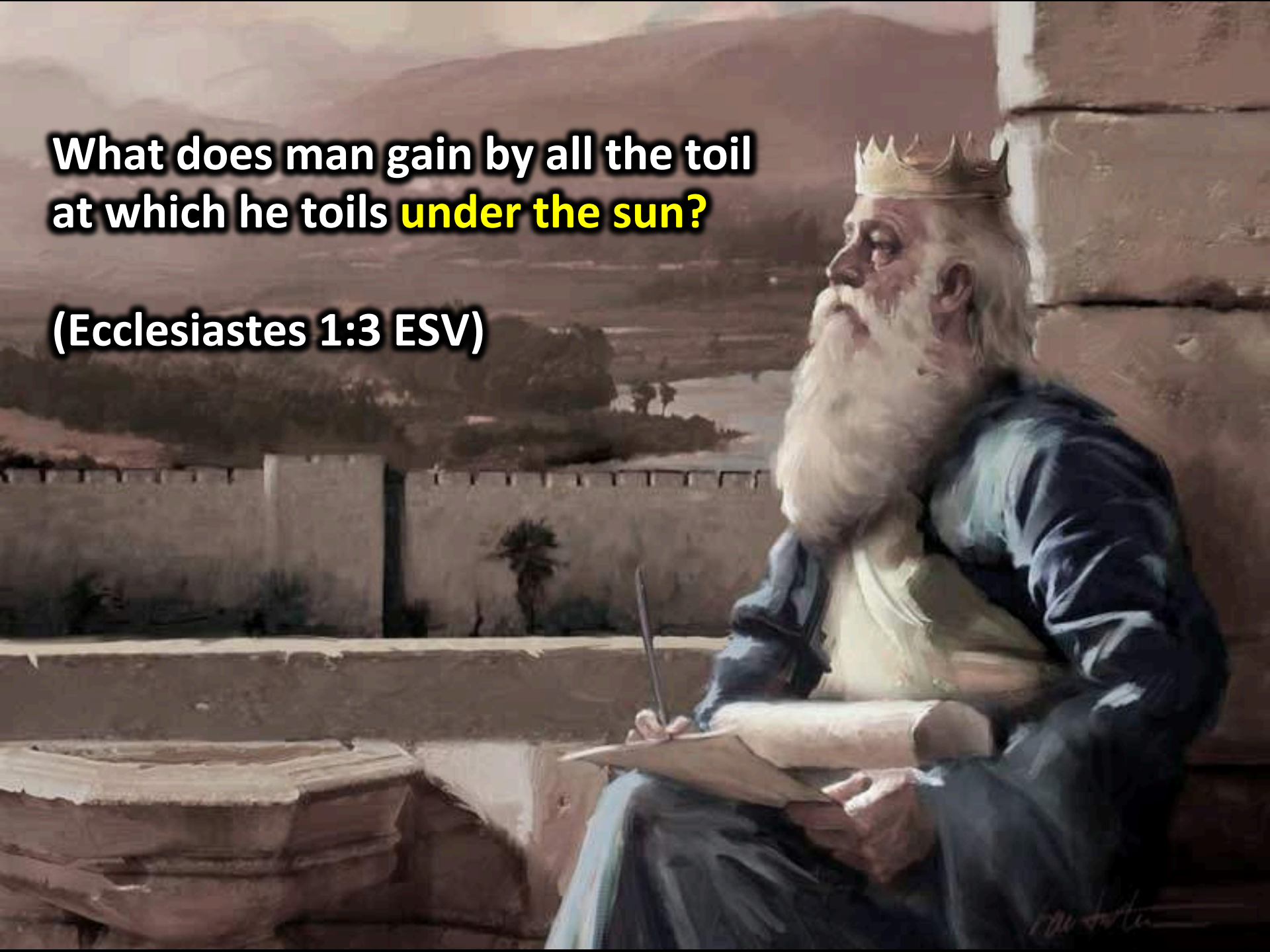
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(Ecclesiastes 1:2 ESV)



**What does man gain by all the toil
at which he toils **under the sun?****

(Ecclesiastes 1:3 ESV)



He spent forty years on the roof of history,
having ascended all the Everests of life –
wealth, fame, love, respect, wisdom.

And yet at every apex—
and in the breath-taking descents that followed each—
Solomon realized: Not only is it desolate at the top,
but at the bottom and everywhere in-between.

— *Ecclesiastes* —

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*“I would rather die a meaningful death
than to live a meaningless life”*

— *Ecclesiastes* —

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You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

(Psalm 16:11 ESV)

— *Ecclesiastes* —

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“All human problems are ultimately symptoms,
and our separation from God is the cause.”

Timothy Keller

— *Ecclesiastes* —

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If I find myself a desire
which no experience in this world can satisfy,
the only explanation is that
I was made for another world.

C.S. Lewis

— *Ecclesiastes* —

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Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life;
whoever comes to me shall not hunger,
and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. (John 6:35)







Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (John 4:13-14 ESV)

