

Blandford and Langton Home Groups  
Meeting for Week Beginning 25 November 2007  
Focus At Home “The Bible - The Big Picture”

## “Wisdom Literature”

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### The Overall Aim of this Study:

- To be aware of the world around us
  - To understand why God's ways are sometimes inexplicable, and why injustice and wickedness are allowed to exist
  - To see what is the purpose of life
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- **Welcome**

What do you like to do when you have time on your hands?

- **Worship**

Read Job 38: 1-18 (or the whole chapter, if you like!) and marvel at God's response to the questions that people have asked about life. Praise him for his wonder and mystery!

If you have a computer that can be seen (and heard) by all of the group, you might like to watch the beautiful 2 minute film at:

[http://www.biblesociety.ca/free\\_scriptures/escriptures/ecclesiastes3/ecclesiastes3.html](http://www.biblesociety.ca/free_scriptures/escriptures/ecclesiastes3/ecclesiastes3.html)

- **Word**

See “*The One Stop Bible Guide*” (TOSBG ) Pages 50-51. It may also help to read Tim's sermon on the topic.

Please read the sheet “The Story So Far”. The majority of the themes we have studied so far talk of our need for Salvation and God's desire for a relationship with people. Little has been talked about the nature of God himself.

- In what ways do we restrict or confine the way we understand God?
- Why do we do that?
- Is it helpful?
- What are the effects of “making God in our own image”?
- On our faith? On the way we present him to the world around us?
- How can we expand our understanding of the nature of God's character?

Read Ecclesiastes 3 - and read the notes on the separate sheet which show the argument which the writer uses in the chapter.

Two important notes:

- ❖ Ideas about Resurrection in the Old Testament are often clouded in uncertainty and so the writer focuses on this life than the life to come.
- ❖ Time is an invention of man, in order to place events into some kind of order. There is no sense of “time” in heaven - it is like one of those days when you are on holiday and the time and date seem irrelevant. God is “eternal”, which means he is “outside of time” - so his view on the world is from start to finish (and all points in between), including the time which is ahead of us. Heavy stuff - but an important thing to grasp if possible!

Discuss some of the following ...

- Do we get a sense of the “appointed” time for things, which the writer describes?
- Give individual examples from the chapter?
- How does it help to have that sense?
- What does the writer see as the question of life (vv 9, cf. 1:3)
- List the four things he has seen? (vv10-11)
- The God-given task with which the sons of man are to be occupied(cf. 1:13)
- God has made everything beautiful in its time
- God has put eternity in man's heart
- No one can find out the work God has done from beginning to end
- What does the writer conclude as the best for people to do? (vv12/13)
- Why? (cf. 2:24-26)
- Why has God made what He does unchangeable? (v14)
- What will God require? (v15)
- What does the writer see in the world around him? (v16)
- What is his view of how God will react? (v17)
- What did he tell himself was the reason God allowed such things?(v18)
- What does man have in common with beasts? (vv19-20)
- What is different between man and beast? (v21)
- So what does the writer perceive as best for man to do? Why? (v22)

- **Works**

Understanding that God has a timed plan for our lives is something which many of us find hard to grasp - especially when it comes to our sense of freedom to choose our own plans. There can be a conflict in us at this point. Share the issues in the lives of the group where God's timing is hard to understand and pray for each other.

- **Next Meeting**

### **Focus at Home next Week**

**Wednesday 5th December - Isaiah and Jeremiah**

**Please note that 12<sup>th</sup> December ...**

**... is Christmas Late Night Shopping in Blandford and we shall be aiming to put on the usual things in and around Church - but we need your help!**

**19<sup>th</sup> December - Social Evening**

**A Christmas Party and an opportunity to invite friends along?**