

notebook to keep a proper list of them. Try to establish a relationship between the various passages which touch on the same theme. How do each of the aspects of life discussed relate to the introduction (1:2-11) and the conclusion (12:9-14)? Remember that Ecclesiastes is mostly poetry (some prose) and must be read remembering the distinctives of poetry.

For furtherreading try Derek Kidner, A TIME TO MOURN, A TIME TO DANCE (IVP).

b. For additional study in Ecclesiastes, you will want to pay attention to the following:

- the force of death (chapter 2)
- the poem of time (3)
- the poem of old age (12)
- the advice on investment (11)
- the force of life (9)
- the data on vows (5)
- the really important things in life (6)

You will find much proverbial or aphoristic material in this book...all given in the "fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" motif.

I should note, in passing, that while it is good to read all the biblical books in several translations, this is particularly helpful in poetic books such as Ecclesiastes. It is hard to translate much of the text into meaningful English without equivalence, added words, etc., and since no two editors see alike it is important to see the variety of views that occur in their ranks. And there is much more literature on Ecclesiastes today that is healthful and directive than was true twenty years ago. So it is a good time to study this meaningful and helpful text.

### 3. A Survey Study of the Song of Solomon ("God's Intention")

(Woe is me...I have treated Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon in the wrong order...but if you think at this time in the syllabus I am going to retype three pages just to hold an idealistic scheme...you may not have been in the course long enough. You must remember that, as on page 88, Song of Solomon is first, Ecclesiastes is second. Tradition told us that the Song was written when he was young and his heart was fully tuned to God while Ecclesiastes was written when he was old and trying to make amends for the defection of his later years.)

#### a. An overview

X The "Song of Songs" has been traditionally associated with the authorial work of Solomon although many modern critics deny this. But if, as some say, the title of Song of Songs means "to" or "for" Solomon rather than "belonging to Solomon" who wrote this book? Some of its problems are the same as those given for Ecclesiastes: lack of historical background, obscure language, apparent loan words from later times, and the mention of Solomon in the third person in 1:5; 3:9 and 11 and in the second person in 8:12. The problem with rejecting Solomonic authorship is that the title (1:1) certainly means to say that Solomon wrote it--if he did not, would a