



Bob Dylan Meets Jesus

“The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. ²Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.” Ecclesiastes 1:1-2 (ESV)

“Hebel” = breath, vapor or breeze. Usually a perspective of life as fleeting, futile or meaningless.

“A generation goes, and a generation comes. ⁵The sun rises, and the sun goes down, ⁶The wind blows to the south and goes around to the north; ⁷All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; ⁸All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. ⁹What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. ¹⁰Is there a thing of which it is said, “See, this is new?”” Ecclesiastes 1:4-10 (ESV)

“For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.” Romans 8:20-21 (ESV)

¹Thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." Isaiah 43:1 (ESV)

³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior." Isaiah 43:3 (ESV)

⁴Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you," Isaiah 43:4 (ESV)

¹¹ I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior." Isaiah 43:11 (ESV)

¹⁹ Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19 (ESV)

Small Group Questions

1. Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-10. Do you now, or have you in the past, related with the sentiments that Solomon is describing? How?
2. Why do such feelings seem contradictory to how a Christian should feel or think? Do you think it's okay for a Christian to have such doubts & questions? Why or why not?
3. Doug talked about how Solomon only used the name for God that conveys him as creator, sovereign, and unknowable (Elohim). He does not use the name Yahweh or Jehovah, which conveys God as present, intimate, and in communion with us. Do you have a tendency to view one side of God over the other? What are the implications in your life?
4. Read Isaiah 43:1-19. As you read it, make notes about what is revealed about God's character. Share those together as a group. How do these realities about God redeem us from a life of meaninglessness?