



# BETWEEN TWO MOUNTAINS

THE STORY OF ISRAEL AND THE  
BIRTH OF THE CHURCH



# THE THIRD KING

*Solomon*

## What Are the Odds?

- Of you being born exactly you, at this moment in history?  
*~1 in 10 to the 2,685,000th power*
- Of you being conceived?  
*~1 in 400 Trillion*
- Of every single one of your ancestors surviving long enough to reproduce... Of your parents meeting and staying together long enough to have you?  
*Incalculable*



You are a statistical miracle.

Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out;  
you formed me in my mother's womb.

I thank you, High God—

Body and soul, I am (**fearfully and wonderfully**) made!

I worship in adoration—what a creation!

You know me inside and out,

you know every bone in my body;

You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit,

how I was sculpted from nothing into something.

Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth;

all the stages of my life were spread out before you,

The days of my life all prepared

before I'd even lived one day. (Psalm 139:13-16, The Message)

## Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

- Expresses a sense of awe and wonder at the complex, intricate design of human life—recognizing it as a creation of God.
- Suggests that each individual is uniquely crafted with care and intention (i.e., intrinsic worth, unique identity and significance)



## DeYmaz—Have You Ever Wondered?

- Roark (Grandfather, USA) + Owen (Grandmother, USA)  
= Dorothy (my mother)
- Tripoli (GF—Sicily, Italy) + Katz (GM—Kiev, Russia:Jewish)  
*Immigrants*  
= Ned Tripoli, (my biological father)
- Dorothy (USA) + Ned (Italian, Russian Jew)  
= Me:-)

**In 1961, ~5.3% of all births in the US were to unmarried women.**

- Bearing such a child was viewed as immoral, scandalous or shameful
- Birth certificates might be stamped with an "illegitimate" mark
- Some states denied them inheritance rights or parental recognition
- Access to public benefits was minimal, and often restricted by moral criteria—women perceived as "morally unfit" could be denied aid
- Marrying a man—even if not the biological father—was often seen as her only way to financial survival, housing, and social respectability



## DeYmaz—Have You Ever Wondered?

- I was such a child—born out of wedlock in 1961
- Dorothy (my mother) + Jorge Ymaz (my legal father)  
*Hispanic: lived for a time in Mexico City; maybe from Spain (?)*  
= Jorge John Mark Ymaz (on my birth certificate)  
*But from the day I was born, she called me Mark*

## DeYmaz—Have You Ever Wondered?

- Jorge Ymaz (my legal father)
  - Moved to Cali, Columbia just after I was born
  - My mother chose to stay in the USA and raise me here
- So, my mom then changed the spelling of her (our) name—  
Dorothy de Ymaz & Mark de Ymaz—Why?
  - Her husband was Hispanic or of Spanish descent, and she adopted a traditional, cultural naming norm.
  - She was active in Catholic, diplomatic & international social circles, where European naming forms were familiar & respected.

## DeYmaz—Have You Ever Wondered?

- Through college, I spelled it Mark de Ymaz
  - The name was repeatedly butchered, but I got used to it;-)
  - I told people to pronounce it "di—MAHZ", like Joe DiMaggio

But...

- In college, there was a Mark DeMoss AND a Mark DeMos!  
*I observed people didn't have trouble pronouncing their names*

So...



**Mark DeYmaz**

*Pronounced "Deh—MAUZ", the "Y" is silent*



Your origin does not determine your destiny.

## Solomon—Have You Ever Wondered?

- David (his father) + Bathsheba (his mother)
  - When they first became involved, Bathsheba was the wife of Uriah the Hittite (an ethnic Jew, a cultural Hittite)
  - While Uriah was at war on behalf of the king, David committed adultery with Bathsheba
  - David then arranged for Uriah to be placed on the front lines of battle and ordered his troops to withdraw, ensuring Uriah would be killed
  - Their first child died shortly after birth (2 Samuel 12:15–18).



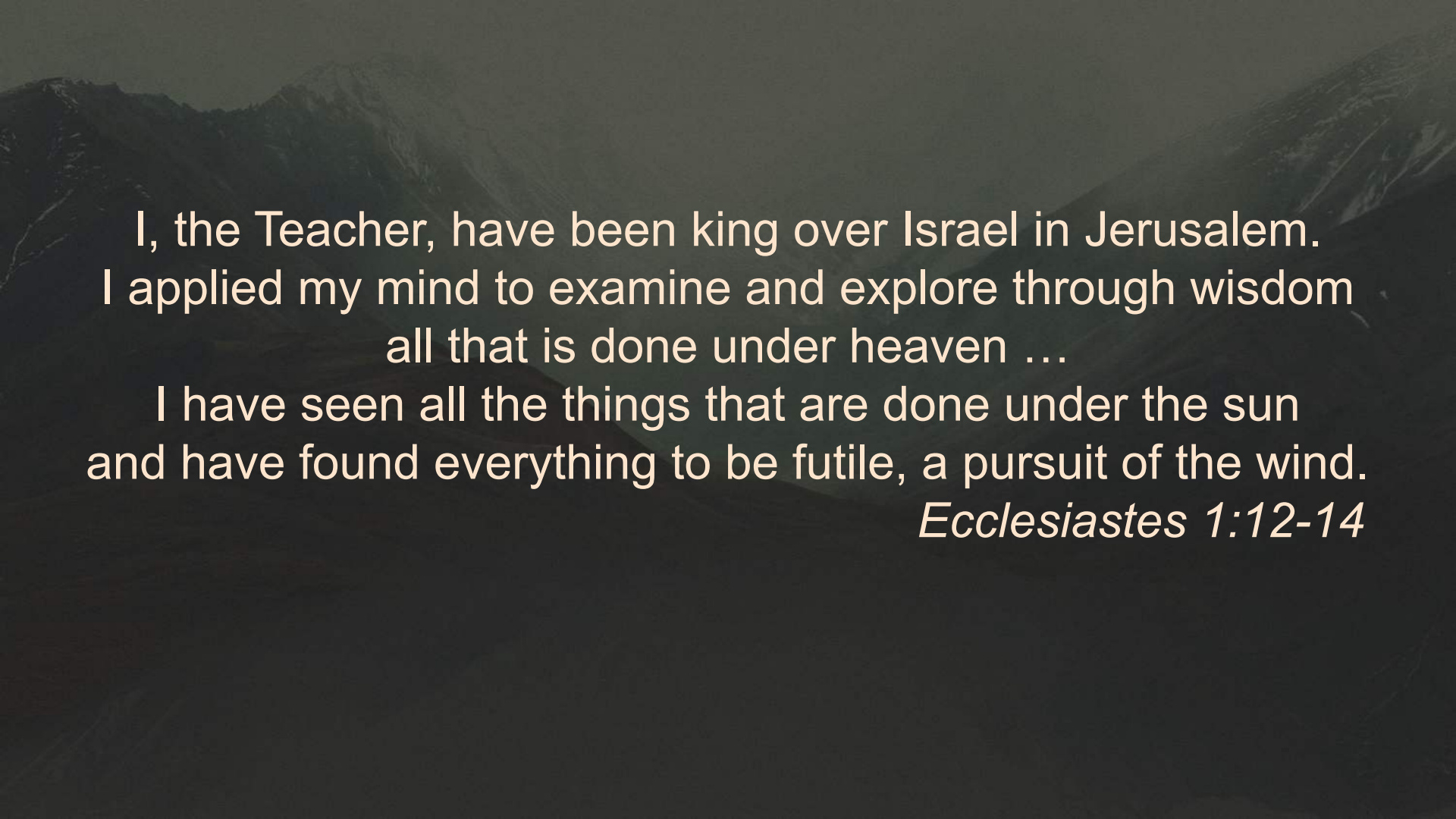
## Solomon—Have You Ever Wondered?

- David (his father) + Bathsheba (his mother)  
= Solomon
  - He was not viewed as illegitimate, though the relationship of his parents was forged in sin
  - God even gave him the name *Jedidiah*—"beloved of the Lord"—through Nathan the prophet (2 Samuel 12:24–25).
  - A powerful biblical example of God's redemptive grace overriding human failure

# Solomon—King of Israel

*The third and final king of the United Kingdom*

- He was made by God the wisest person who has ever lived (I Kings 3:12; II Kings 4:29-31)
- He became the greatest of wealth, fame, and influence of his time (I Kings 10:23, 24)
- He set out to discover the purpose and meaning of life (Ecclesiastes)



I, the Teacher, have been king over Israel in Jerusalem.  
I applied my mind to examine and explore through wisdom  
all that is done under heaven ...

I have seen all the things that are done under the sun  
and have found everything to be futile, a pursuit of the wind.  
*Ecclesiastes 1:12-14*

# The Meaning and Purpose of Life

*Is it found in...*

1. Human Knowledge and Wisdom (1:13-18; 7:23, 24)
2. Pleasure and Entertainment (2:1-3)
3. Work, Success, and Achievement (2:4-11)
4. Wealth and Materialism (2:8; 5:10-17)
5. Status, Power, and Recognition (2:9; 4:13-16)
6. Comparison and Competition (4:4)
7. Injustice and Oppression (4:1-3; 5:8)
8. Lonely Ambition (4:7, 8)
9. Death affects everyone (9:1-6)
10. Time and Aging Can't be Controlled (12:1-7)

## The Meaning and Purpose of Life?

"When all has been heard, the conclusion of the matter is this:  
fear God and keep his commands."

*Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14*

This is the whole duty of humanity, the only path to a life of true meaning, eternal purpose, and lasting peace.



Your origin does not determine your destiny.

If God can use Solomon—if He can use me—  
He can use you because you have been fearfully made.





Be wise, then. Love God. Keep His commandments.



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