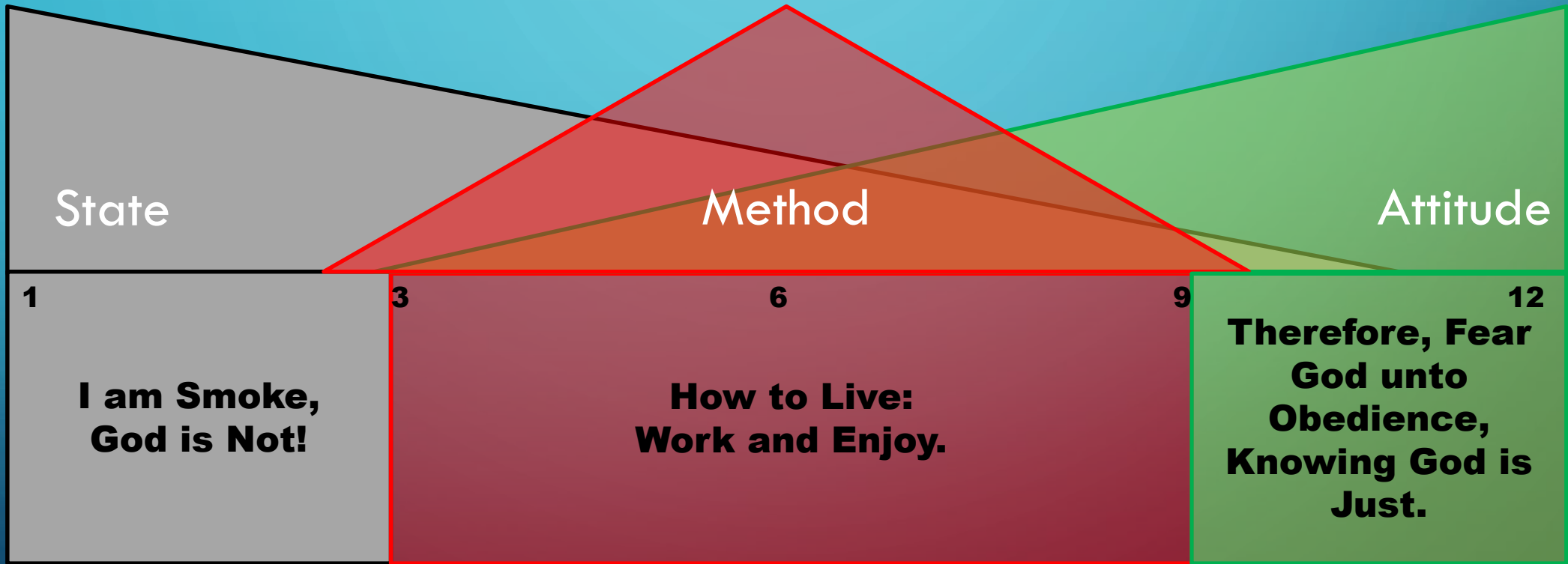




# ECCLESIASTES

WORLDVIEW OF WORK, WISDOM, AND WORSHIP  
AND THE ESSENCE OF TIME

# Three areas of life



# WHO WAS SOLOMON? – THE HIGHLIGHTS

- Wisest man to ever live, before or after
  - Other nations sought his wisdom
- Brought Israel greater splendor than any other king
  - Silver as naught because there was so much gold.
  - Horses and marriage alliances
- Built the temple
- Peace
- Wrote three books of the Bible

# WHO WAS SOLOMON? – THE PROBLEM AREAS

- Way too many foreign wives.
- Engaged in idolatry – divided loyalty
- Disobeyed a twice given, direct command from God
- God directly rebuked him by taking away all but one tribe (after his death)

# WHO WAS SOLOMON? - THE EVIDENCE

- 1 Kings shows his life, sins, condemnation, judgement, and the splitting of the kingdom.
- 2 Chronicles entirely omits his sins. It even identifies Solomon with David (11:17).
- Neither gives the label of “he did what was good/evil in God’s sight” that the kings after him received.

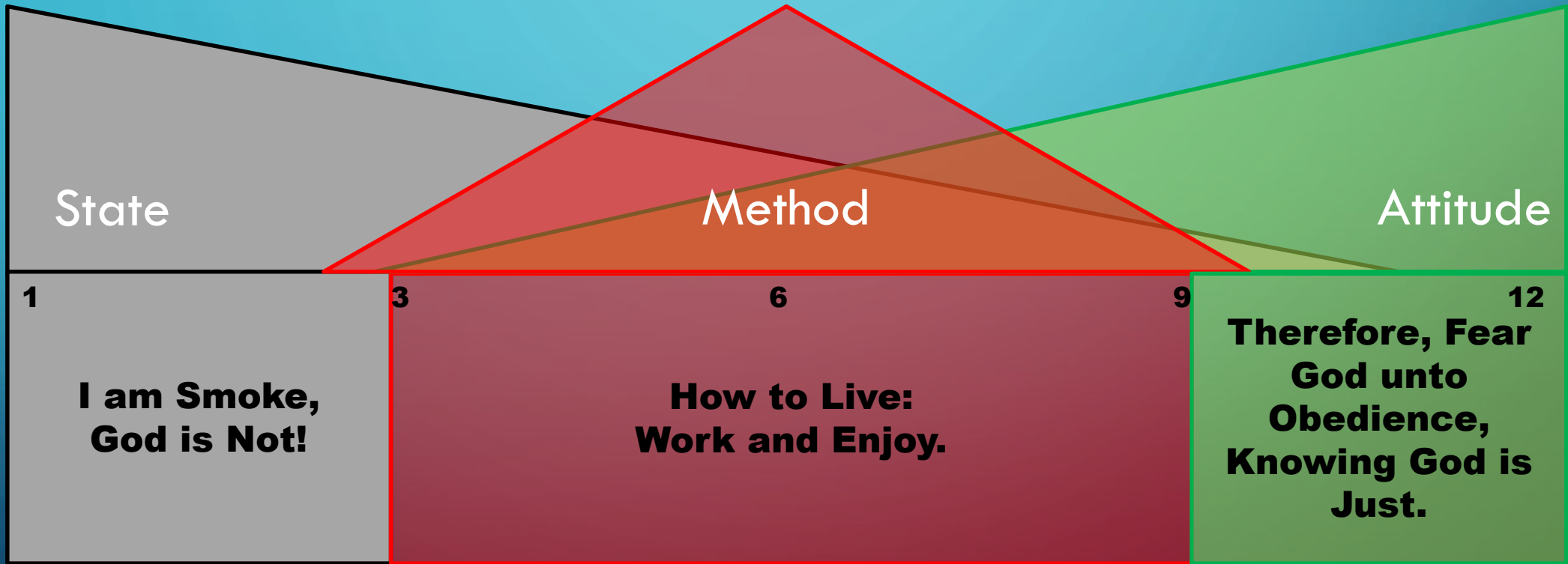
# WHO WAS SOLOMON? - CONCLUSION

- It would be irresponsible to either villainize or heroize this complex character.
- We can only speculate on whether Solomon was of the elect or not. God keeps His own counsel (Eccl 9:1).
- Discounting his book on the basis of how sinful he was, would be villainizing him beyond what the Bible does.
- This is a man we can identify with in his failings and yet be inspired by.

# WHO WAS SOLOMON? - TYPE OF THE MESSIAH

- 2 Samuel 7:11-16
- 1 Chronicles 17:11-14
- Matthew 12:42
- Solomon was an imperfect type of the *Messiah*, specifically as the wise king arrayed in glory, loved by the Father.

# Three areas of life





## LUKE 12:15-21

- “Cease, Eat, drink, be merry”
- He ignored/despised work by ceasing to work
- He sought pleasure, rewarding himself instead of enjoying it as a gift from God
- He ignored God by resting in himself instead of seeking God and His kingdom (v19)
- An example of smoke – (v20)

# LUKE 12:22-34

- Don't worry
  - Atheists and pagans have good reason to worry about their daily life. Only the Christian has the unearned love of God providing for their daily needs.
  - We have the unique freedom to rest.
- Seek God, not the gifts. Then enjoy the gifts He gives.
  - Those gifts include the basics of food, drink, and clothing.
- Generosity
  - How does Ecclesiastes fit?

# OTHER PEOPLE – A GIFT OF GOD

- “Others” are mentioned in Eccl in terms of being a good gift in your own life.
  - If two lay down together, they stay warm.
  - Best to have a son to inherit than die alone.
- However, even these remain fairly self-centered

# WHAT IS LOVE?

- Love is a self-sacrificing, unconditional, commitment to the wellbeing of another person.
- You won't find this in Ecclesiastes.
- But you do find it all over the New Testament.
- Why?

# A CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT

- When we first teach a child how to behave, it invariably starts with fear of punishment. Fear is the motivator.
- As the child grows, they begin to do good things because of the joy it brings them.
- Ultimately, we do good out of love for someone else.
- The Fear stage is primary in the OT. The Love stage is primary in the NT. Ecclesiastes, from a man wise beyond his time, bridges the gap.

# WE TILL THE GROUND; GOD GIVES THE HARVEST

Obey



Fear

Realization  
of Smokiness



Joy

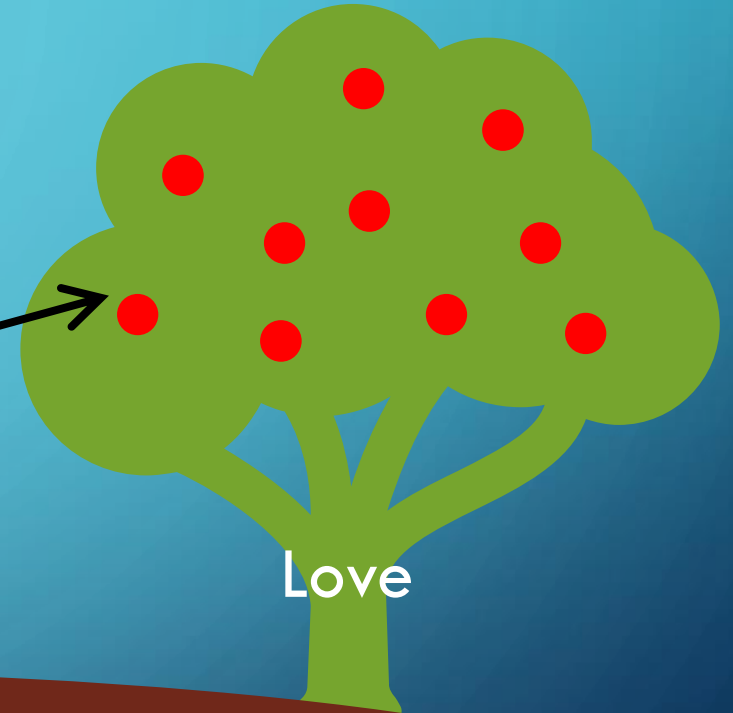


Rest/Peace

Realization of  
God's Sovereignty  
and Good Gifts



Fruits of  
the Spirit



Love

Realization of God's  
Love – John 15:13

# WE TILL THE GROUND; GOD GIVES THE HARVEST

Repent

Obey

Joy

Fruits of  
the Spirit

Judgment

Fear

Rest/Peace

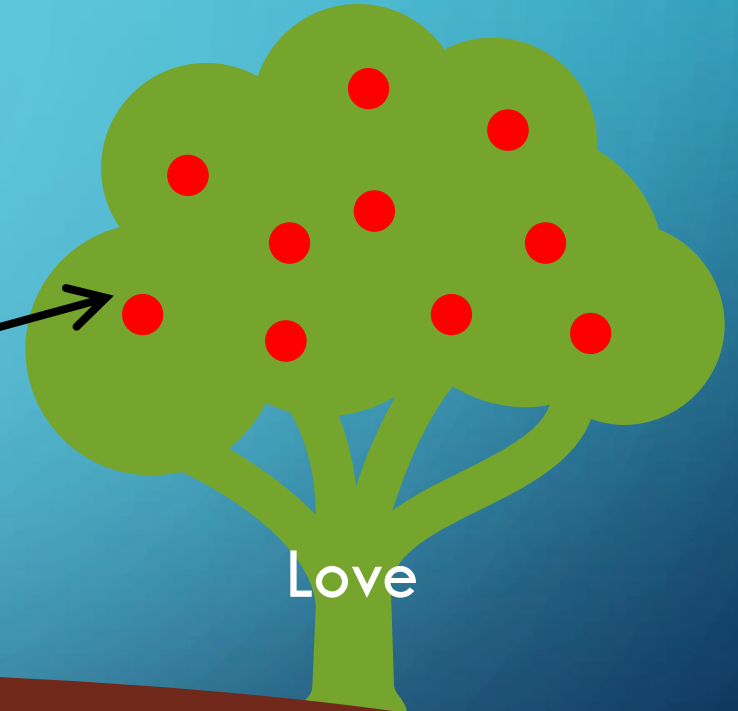
Love

Aware  
of Sin

Realization  
of Smokiness

Realization of  
God's Sovereignty  
and Good Gifts

Realization of God's  
Love – John 15:13



## ECCLESIASTES 11:1-2, 5-6 – DIVERSIFICATION

<sup>1</sup>Cast your bread on the surface of the waters, for you will find it after many days. <sup>2</sup>Divide your portion to seven, or even to eight, for you do not know what misfortune may occur on the earth.

<sup>5</sup>Just as you do not know the path of the wind and how bones *are formed* in the womb of the pregnant woman, so you do not know the activity of God who makes all things. <sup>6</sup>Sow your seed in the morning and do not be idle in the evening, for you do not know whether morning or evening sowing will succeed, or whether both of them alike will be good.



# PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside quiet waters.

He restores my soul;

He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I fear no evil, for You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You have anointed my head with oil;

My cup overflows.

Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,  
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

# PSALM 23 – GOD IS THE ACTOR

The **LORD** is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**He** makes me lie down in green pastures;

**He** leads me beside quiet waters.

**He** restores my soul;

**He** guides me in the paths of righteousness for **His** name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I fear no evil, for **You** are with me;

**Your** rod and **Your** staff, they comfort me.

**You** prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

**You** have anointed my head with oil;

My cup overflows.

Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,

And I will dwell in the house of the **LORD** forever.

# PSALM 23 – GOD GIVES GOOD GIFTS

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall **not want**.

He makes me lie down in **green pastures**; (food)

He leads me beside **quiet waters**. (water)

He **restores my soul**; (peace/rest)

He **guides** me in the **paths of righteousness** for His name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I fear no evil, for You **are with** me; (calamity with comfort)

Your rod and Your staff, they **comfort** me. (discipline)

You prepare **a table** before me in the presence of my enemies; (food and safety)

You have **anointed** my head with oil;

My cup overflows.

Surely **goodness and lovingkindness** will follow me all the days of my life,

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

# PSALM 23 – WHEN: NOW

The LORD **is** my shepherd, I **shall not** want.

He **makes** me lie down in green pastures;

He **leads** me beside quiet waters.

He **restores** my soul;

He **guides** me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Even though I **walk** through the valley of the shadow of death,

I **fear** no evil, for You **are** with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they **comfort** me.

You **prepare** a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You **have anointed** my head with oil; (past tense – informs now)

My cup **overflows**.

Surely goodness and lovingkindness **will follow** me all the days of my life,

And I **will dwell** in the house of the LORD forever. (future tense – rooted in now)

# Three areas of life

