

Qohelet

Time in the Book of Ecclesiastes offers a detailed analysis of the theme of time in Ecclesiastes. The book of Ecclesiastes engages at length with this theme and presents a sophisticated exploration of humanity's temporal situation. Ecclesiastes depicts the temporal reality as extremely problematic for human attempts to live meaningfully. This is especially due to the tension which the book's narrator perceives between the cosmic, temporal reality and the human experience of time. Consequently, humanity's cognitive engagement with time becomes a particular focus in his exploration of life under the sun. Time is not only a central theme in Ecclesiastes; it is also a theme which provides this difficult book with a degree of coherence and renders meaningful some of the passages which otherwise seem contradictory. Furthermore, the explicit exploration in Ecclesiastes of the theme of time provides an excellent entry-point into the broader discussion regarding the presence and character of temporal thinking in the Hebrew Bible more generally. Mirroring the interest in Ecclesiastes for both, Dr Mette Bundvad discusses the biblical book's presentation of both the cosmic temporal structures and the framework of the human past, present and future. It offers close readings of a

series of passages in which the theme of time is especially prominent, thus demonstrating how the discussion of time works in Ecclesiastes and how it interacts with other of the book's key-themes.

Ecclesiastes is a text filled with contradictions. In Reanimating Qohelet's Contradictory Voices, Jimyung Kim, drawing on Mikhail Bakhtin's insights, offers a reading that embraces the contradictions as they stand instead of harmonizing them or explaining them away.

A study of the variety of Rabbinic interpretations of the Biblical Book of Qohelet with special attention to the ways in which Rabbinic and medieval Jewish Biblical interpretation had to reinterpret the original text's meaning in order to accommodate it to normative Jewish beliefs.

Studies of Open-Ended Discourse on Wisdom in Ecclesiastes

Symbol and Rhetoric in Ecclesiastes

Studies of Open-ended Discourse on Wisdom in Ecclesiastes

The Arabic Translation and Commentary of Salmon Ben Yeroham on Qohelet (Ecclesiastes). Karaite Texts and Studies

*Reanimating Qohelet's Contradictory Voices
Honor and Shame in the Hebrew Bible and
Qohelet*

The contradictions in Ecclesiastes have generated diverse interpretations or controversies. Whatever

the differing conclusions of scholars, however, contradiction is an indicator of problem that needs to be resolved in order to arrive at an expected conceptual or literary unity. This is distinctly a modernist belief. To overcome the limitations of modern approaches, this study adopts Bakhtin's concept of "dialogized interior monologue" and contends that Qohelet's contradictions are constructed through multiple dialogic voices. That is, the contradictory utterances in Qohelet's wisdom discourse represent dialogues of unmerged multiple voices in Qohelet's monologue. This study tries to reanimate those voices.

"Meaningless, meaningless, everything is meaningless." The word "meaningless" (hebel) appears more than 40 times in the book of Ecclesiastes and raises the question why a book that appears to deny meaning or purpose is included in the Bible. Many questions of interpretation as well as relevance surround the book of Ecclesiastes, including indeed the proper translation and understanding of the word hebel. If, after all, the book does examine the question of the meaning of life, what could be more important? The present volume explores Ecclesiastes/Qohelet on many different levels: linguistic, text-critical, theological, historical, and literary. The contributors, chosen from many of the leading and emerging experts on the book, present both the state of the field and their own assessment of the varied interpretive issues of Ecclesiastes. They include scholars, preachers, and

philosophers. It should be helpful not only to scholars but also to all who want to study this book seriously. The first section of this volume deals with the history of interpretation. The second section is concerned with issues of history, form, and rhetoric. Section three is about key concepts and passages. The fourth section focuses on the language and grammar of Qohelet. The last section engages practical issues of interpretation. The volume is designed to provide exposure to a variety of readers who seek to engage Qohelet in fresh ways in the twenty-first century—from historians of interpretation to biblical exegetes to linguists to theological students.

A study of the making of collective memory within early Judaism in the Book of Ecclesiastes, also known as the Book of Qohelet. It explores the differing literary traditions in the interpretation of this Biblical text.

Qohelet and His Contradictions

The Book of Ecclesiastes (Qohelet) and the Path to Joyous Living

The Structure of Ecclesiastes as Alternating Panels of Observation and Wisdom

Reanimating Qohelet's Contradictory Voices

Qohelet

Etude dialectologique de l'aire manding de Côte-d'Ivoire. Fasc. 1.

This research compares and contrasts various existential philosophies pertaining to the human condition and its purpose. It specifically focuses on

the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes. Nicomachean Ethics and The Nature of the Gods regarding virtue, courage, and the necessity of an eternal source were examined as they relate to the subject from a Western worldview. The intended contributions of this research are to disclose that without an objectifiable reference society becomes a cluster of subjective abominations susceptible to a miserable existence, a slow descent into madness, "a chasing after the wind." To escape this vanity something eternal must exist. Nevertheless, humanity must confront the abyss that Nietzsche struggled with in his version of existential philosophy to find meaning in this life. Indeed, when gazing into an abyss the abyss gazes back into humanity, but rather than surrendering one's autonomy to the meaningless void, individuals should determine the inherent value of their life. Otherwise, death, as Qohelet recognized, has a grip on the individual long before they actually die. If the content of Ecclesiastes is not hard enough on its own, the fact that there has been no consensus around the structure adds to its difficulty. With this book, there is a strong argument for a structure which draws various threads together and provides a straightforward way to read Ecclesiastes. This book pays close attention to cues in the text and demonstrates how the verb "to see" helps organize the text into panels of Qohelet's first-person observation, which alternate with panels of his collected wisdom. This book first argues for this

structure, and then shows it in practice, working carefully through the individual units to demonstrate how the structure advocated within the book aids the reader in reading Ecclesiastes.

Where is a good starting point for reading the Bible? Five scrolls constitute the second section of the third major division of the Hebrew bible. These are the Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Qohelet, and Esther. The Song, like the Psalms, is a key to our hearing of instruction. Ruth establishes the Moabite ancestry of David showing we must read about enemies more carefully. The music of the Lamentations moves us with four acrostic poems and a fifth poem of 22 verses of prayer to make new our days as of old. Sing the melody of Qohelet that adorns chapter 3, the time for every delight under the heavens. And party with Esther. These five books are short and represent pieces of the whole story, the Song a key, Ruth, a snippet of history, Lamentations, the tragedy of the destruction, Qohelet, the words of the shrewd, and Esther, ultimate social success (including taxes). They are like the elaborate bow on the whole unfathomable present that is the Hebrew Bible. The Five Scrolls is volume 6 of the series, The Hebrew Bible and Its Music.

Reflections on the Heart, Pleasure, and Death

A Study of the Language of Qoheleth

A Closer Look at Qohelet 7:15-18

Interpreting Qohelet's Contradictions

Ecclesiastes or, The Preacher

Essays in Honour of Prof. A. Schoors on the Occasion of His Seventieth Birthday

This book presents a critical edition and translation of Salmon b. Yeroham's Judaeo-Arabic commentary on Qohelet. The introduction situates the work in the history of Qohelet exegesis and discusses the primary themes: asceticism, eschatology, opposition to philosophy.

This book is a study of the making of collective memory within early Judaism in the book of Ecclesiasties.

Ancient tradition suggests that this world-weary lament is the work of Solomon in old age. Casting its eye over the transient nature of life, the book questions the striving for wisdom and the truth, choosing instead to espouse the value of living for the moment. The text is introduced by Doris Lessing.

Philosophy of Qohelet

The Preacher Sought to Find Pleasing Words

Qohelet's Ironic Moderation

Polar Structures in the Book of Qohelet

Qoheleth and His Contradictions

The Place of Hebel in Qohelet's Work

This is the first full-length study of Ecclesiastes using methods of philosophical exegesis, specifically those of the modern French philosophers Levinas and Blanchot. T. A. Perry opens up new horizons in the philosophical understanding of the Hebrew Bible, offering a series of meditations on its general spiritual outlook. Perry breaks down Ecclesiastes's motto "all is vanity" and returns "vanity" to its original concrete meaning of "breath," the breath of life. This central and forgotten teaching of Ecclesiastes leads to new areas of breath research related both to environmentalism and breath control.

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The book of Qohelet (Ecclesiastes) has been the subject of steadily increasing attention over the last two decades. This volume contains the text of the main papers, the seminar papers and almost all short papers read at the Colloquium Biblicum Lovaniense 1997, in total 30 contributions written in English (18), German (8), and French (4) by authors from 13 different countries, partly acknowledged authorities on Qohelet,

partly promising young scholars who have demonstrated their competence in Qohelet studies. They deal with the literary structure of Qohelet, with its central theme, its theological and philosophical teachings, its connections with Greek philosophy and its Ancient Near Eastern background, its position in the biblical canon. Also an analysis of Qohelet in terms of current linguistic and philosophical tendencies, such as deconstruction, receives attention. A number of key pericopes are put to a more thorough analysis.

Seeing What Qohelet Saw

The Story of Israel in the Book of Qohelet

A Critical Analysis of Existentialism

Ecclesiastes as Cultural Memory

Context, Text, Themes

The act of reading and writing on Qohelet (Ecclesiastes) is not only the process that created this thesis, but also its subject. The book's epilogue warns against excessive study and writing, but is itself an example of writing without end. As a supplement, it is undecidable whether the epilogue supports or supplants the body of the book. The second chapter focusses on Qohelet's uncanny heart, which has a double nature and reveals a split self. The heart contains the desire to understand everything that happens in the world, the impetus for Qohelet's quest. The last chapter deals with structure in 7:1-6 and 11:7-12:1. The passages are linked by

the themes of pleasure and death. The first passage attempts to define what is good, but the seemingly solid advice ends in uncertainty. The second displays a paradoxical relationship in which death is present in life, and pleasure in death.

Qoheleth and His Contradictions
A&C Black
This volume contains thirteen articles on the book of Qohelet, which were read on an international symposium on the occasion of the seventieth birthday of Professor Antoon Schoors, one of the leading scholars of this intriguing book. The studies, written by international experts in the field, cover both grammatical and semantic aspects of the language of Qohelet, but also deal with exegetical problems in the book and with the position of the book and its language in its wider context. In this respect, the volume forms a fitting tribute to this Qohelet-scholar to whom the scholarly world owes much. It will be a welcome source to all those interested in the fascinating book of Qohelet and in Israel's wisdom literature in general.

Approaching Qohelet

Asceticism, Eschatology, Opposition to Philosophy

The Five Scrolls

(Per)mutations of Qohelet

Time in the Book of Ecclesiastes

Fate in Qohelet

A literary and philosophical inquiry into the enigmatic Ecclesiastes of the Hebrew Bible

This work defends a new thesis for the word hebel in Ecclesiastes, demonstrating how Qohelet employs a single, multivalent vapor-symbol to represent human experience in a life filled with limitations and complications. Paperback edition is available from the Society of Biblical Literature (www.sbl-site.org)

In Ecclesiastes, the authorial voice of Qohelet presents an identity that has challenged readers for centuries. This book offers a reception history of the different ways readers have constructed Qohelet as an author. Previous reception histories of Ecclesiastes group readings into "premodern" and "critical," or separate Jewish from Christian readings. In deliberate contrast, this analysis arranges readings thematically according to the interpretive potential inherent in the text, a method of biblical reception history articulated by Brennan Breed. Doing so erases the artificial distinctions between so-called scholarly and confessional readings and highlights the fact that many modern academic readings of the authorship of Ecclesiastes travel in well-worn interpretive paths that long predate the rise of critical scholarship. Thus this book offers a reminder that, while critical biblical scholarship is an essential part of the interpretive task, academic readings are themselves indebted to the Bible's reception history and a part of it.

*The Role of Hbl and the Narrative Frame in Understanding Ecclesiastes
Ecclesiastes and the Riddle of Authorship*

The Inner World of Qohelet
Rabbinic Views of Qohelet
Qohelet and Romans 8:18-39
the book of Ecclesiastes

Die Arbeit überprüft das Zusammenspiel vom Lob des Genusses und der Ermahnung zur Gottesfurcht in Qohelet. Sieht man, anders als bisher, Genuss und Gottesfurcht in einem positiven Wechselverhältnis, eröffnen sich neue Aspekte der Theologie Qohelets: Lebensgenuss bildet den Kern seiner Spiritualität, die als glaubender Realismus bezeichnet werden kann und zu einem authentischen Erleben der tragischen wie freudigen Dimensionen des Lebens aufruft. Ausgezeichnet mit dem "John Templeton Award for Theological Promise" (2007).

This is the first full-length study of Ecclesiastes using methods of philosophical exegesis, specifically those of the modern French philosophers Levinas and Blanchot. T. A. Perry opens up new horizons in the philosophical understanding of the Hebrew Bible, offering a series of meditations on its general spiritual outlook. Perry breaks down Ecclesiastes' motto 'all is vanity' and returns 'vanity' to its original concrete meaning of 'breath', the breath of life. This central and forgotten teaching of Ecclesiastes leads to new areas of breath research related both to environmentalism and breath control.

Fox takes as his starting point the issues that Quoheleth's interpreters have faced in their efforts to render the book faithfully, and in so doing, provides a new analysis of Quoheleth's reasoning, logic, and means of expression. Fox reaches three key conclusions about the work: Quoheleth is primarily concerned with the rationality of existence; Quoheleth is not against wisdom or the wise, and finally: Quoheleth supports the grasping of inner experience as the one domain of human freedom. These conclusions are

supported by a thorough look at other analyses of Qoheleth.

Reading the Body in the Book

An Inquiry Concerning Qohelet

Reading and Writing Qohelet

The Vitality of Enjoyment in Qohelet's Theological Rhetoric

Engaging Qohelet in the 21st Century

The Language of Qohelet in Its Context

(Per)mutations of Qohelet explores the question, Who is Qohelet? Rather than peering behind or through the text to answer this question in terms of authorship, Koosed analyzes the identity that is created through the words on the page. The text is not a transparent medium connecting reader with author; instead, it is an opaque body - it has weight, substance, skin. Koosed begins with an analysis of the ways in which words construct identities and the reasons why words can affect us so profoundly, relying primarily on the work of Judith Butler and Elaine Scarry. She then explores autobiography and how the genre of autobiography - as reconfigured by Roland Barthes and Jacques Derrida - relates to Qohelet. These two chapters then set the framework for what follows: an analysis of the various

bodily organs and sensations contained within the book of Qohelet. The body is embedded in the text through the naming of body parts (eye, hand, heart). And this same body is encoded in form, structure, and syntax, so that the text becomes a body with organs, systems, and even a life of its own. The book is a body and the book speaks of bodies. It speaks of the body's organs and senses; it concerns itself with the pleasures and pains of the body, the gendered body, the dying body. Finally, the ritual body is highlighted in the final passage of this enigmatic book. Qohelet (the Book of Ecclesiastes) speaks from the standpoint of Solomonic wisdom. It reflects on the meaning of life itself in light of the fleeting nature of life every one faces. Qohelet provides a unique contribution to the wholeness of biblical faith, providing deep thought on the part of believers as to what life really is, giving advice to them on how to joyfully live a life to the full. Qohelet looked upon the world and all of life from the vantage point of a genuine Old Testament believer who well understood

the reality of a world marred by sin, and man's mortal life under the sun. Romans 8 completes Qohelet in the sense of the thematic motif of suffering and in the explanation of the content of hope, providing the way to respond through sufferings. Qohelet is an integral part of the Hebrew Christian Scriptures. The view of life of Qohelet is compatible with biblical revelation. Enthält: Part 1: Grammar.

Suffering and Enjoyment/hope in the Progress of Revelation

The Words of the Wise Are like Goads
Experimenting with Qohelet

Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations,
Qohelet, Esther

A Text-linguistic Approach to Reading
Qohelet as Discourse

The series Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft (BZAW) covers all areas of research into the Old Testament, focusing on the Hebrew Bible, its early and later forms in Ancient Judaism, as well as its branching into many neighboring cultures of the Ancient Near East and the Greco-Roman world.