

# Qohelet

## Qoheleth and His Contradictions

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

## The Language of Qohelet in Its Context

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.

## (Per)mutations of Qohelet

(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.

## Seeing What Qohelet Saw

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.



## **Reanimating Qohelet's Contradictory Voices**

Ecclesiastes, also known as Qohelet, is a fascinating text filled with intriguing contradictions, such as wisdom's beneficial consequences, God's justice, and wisdom's superiority over pleasure. Under the paradigm of modernism, the contradictions in the book have been regarded as problems to be harmonized or explained away. In *Reanimating Qohelet's Contradictory Voices*, Jimyung Kim, drawing on Mikhail Bakhtin's insights, offers an alternative reading that embraces the contradictions as they stand. For Kim, Qohelet's or the protagonist's contradictory consciousness is dialogically constructed by his contact with a complex web of discourses. Instead of harmonizing them or explaining them away, Kim identifies various dialogic voices available to Qohelet and demonstrates how those voices constitute Qohelet's contradictory utterances and construct his unfinalizable identity.

## **Polar Structures in the Book of Qohelet**

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.

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

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.

## **The Vitality of Enjoyment in Qohelet's Theological Rhetoric**

This study explores the interplay between the commendation of enjoyment and the injunction to fear God in Ecclesiastes. Previous studies have tended to examine these seemingly antithetical themes in isolation from one another. Seeing enjoyment and fear to be positively correlated, however, enables a fresh articulation of the book's theology. Enjoyment of life lies at the heart of Qohelet's vision of piety, which may be characterized as faithful realism, calling for an authentic engagement with both the tragic and joyous dimensions of human existence. Winner of the 2007 John Templeton Award for Theological Promise

## **The Targums of Job, Proverbs, and Qohelet**

The Targum of Job is regarded as one of the most enigmatic of targums. The translation used is based on the Cambridge University MS Ee. 5.9, widely regarded as the most important of known manuscripts. This manuscript is followed as closely as possible, including the marginal readings and the Variant Targum[s] incorporated in the text. The primary aim of the Proverbs Targum is to provide an English translation, none having yet been published. A secondary aim is to give an account of the relationship of this targum to the Hebrew text and the other ancient versions, especially the Syriac. Targum Qohelet is a blend of literal translation and midrashic paraphrase. The purpose is didactic, seeking to convey the meaning which is implicit in the text. Thus Qohelet becomes a vehicle to emphasize the importance of Torah study, repentance, prayer, and charity.

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

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.

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### **The Words of the Wise Are like Goads**

"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.

### **Experimenting with Qohelet**



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.

## **Rabbinic Views of Qohelet**

In this contribution to The New International Commentary on the Old Testament, Trevor Longman takes a canonical-Christocentric approach to the meaning of the fascinating but puzzling book of Ecclesiastes.

## **Qohelet and His Contradictions**

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## **The Inner World of Qohelet**

This book seeks to establish a basis for coherency in Qohelet’s theological appeal by analyzing a thematic trajectory underpinned by the rhetoric of Qohelet’s emphasis on vanity, joy, and judgment. These emphases follow what have been labeled projectile themes, which aim at particular points of Qohelet’s message, carrying the audience through Qohelet’s flow of thought. These thoughts are deeply correlated and best recognized as the substance forming Qohelet’s framework from which Qohelet’s teaching flows. In other words, Qohelet’s thoughts, revealed by his thematic emphases and endpoint, function as an evangelistic appeal to a theological worldview, whereby the minds and hearts of his audience are directed to a present and future reality in the fear-God concept. This present and future reality follows the premise that humanity enters a fallen world, God sustains humanity amid the fallenness, and God preserves the lives of those who fear him on the day of judgment. What is ultimately discovered is that coherence in the course, followed by the projectile themes of fallenness, sustainment, and judgment, forms a framework guiding a trajectory in Qohelet, aiming at an appeal to righteous living and eschatological hope.

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## **Seeing What Qohelet Saw**



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

## **Die Qohelet-litteratur**

Was God being ironic in commanding Eve not to eat fruit from the tree of wisdom? Carolyn J. Sharp suggests that many stories in the Hebrew Scriptures may be ironically intended. Deftly interweaving literary theory and exegesis, Sharp illuminates the power of the unspoken in a wide variety of texts from the Pentateuch, the Prophets, and the Writings. She argues that reading with irony in mind creates a charged and open rhetorical space in the texts that allows character, narration, and authorial voice to develop in unexpected ways. Main themes explored here include the ironizing of foreign rulers, the prostitute as icon of the ironic gaze, indeterminacy and dramatic irony in prophetic performance, and irony in ancient Israel's wisdom traditions. Sharp devotes special attention to how irony destabilizes dominant ways in which the Bible is read today, especially when it touches on questions of conflict, gender, and the Other.

## **Qohelet und die nach-aristotelische Philosophie**

The key to a balanced and accurate understanding of the book of Ecclesiastes lies in the inter-dependent relationships between the prominent motifs within the book. An Analysis of the Inter-Dependency of the Prominent Motifs Within the Book of Qohelet explores this dynamic. The final outcome of such an approach is a wisdom-based paradigm for living «under the sun», a wise man's approach to living in a fallen world. Qohelet's conclusions are two-fold and balanced. First, in light of the fact that life is fleeting, death is inevitable, and one's future lies outside of the realm of human control, the wise will enjoy life as a gift from God, recognizing that joy is ultimately a responsibility and a mandate placed upon them. Second, in light of the fact that life is fleeting, death is inevitable, and God's enigmatic ways on earth are sure to be followed by an equitable future judgment, the wise will fear God and keep his commandments. Therefore, the wise man or woman will enjoy life but not enjoy sin, living each day to its fullest but in sobriety, knowing that for all our actions there is a coming judgment. This is the wisdom of Ecclesiastes.

## **Fallenness, Sustainment, and Judgment**

Hebrew Bible is an informative and affordable extension of Abingdon's Dictionary of Biblical Interpretation. It focuses on the history of the interpretation of individual books (for example, Genesis, Exodus, and Proverbs) and major genre categories (for example, law, prophets, history, and poetry) found in the Hebrew Bible, from the beginnings of critical study to the present. This volume is an important textbook for college and seminary classes on Old Testament exegesis or interpreting the Hebrew Bible. It is a helpful reference work for those wanting to learn more about the differing opinions and interpretations of key biblical writings and how both Jews and Christians viewed and valued the Hebrew Bible through the centuries.

## **Qohelet, oder, Salomonischer Prediger**

Includes various reports of the Association.

## **Fallenness, Sustainment, and Judgment**

Qoheleth presents a special challenge not only for professional commentators but also for 'normal' readers of the Hebrew text (or a modern translation). . . . Most people in modern Western industrial societies . . . can relate without great difficulty to the reflections of the book of Qoheleth on work and rest or on behavior vis--vis those in power, and they can understand these reflections in terms of their own experiences. Nonetheless, the way in which these and other themes are handled in Qoheleth is a little puzzling. The fact that the book . . . reveals no clear organization and no overall progression of ideas may be accepted as a literary peculiarity and perhaps even strike one as interesting. Yet when one finds on various themes many statements that are



highly contradictory in both the broad and the narrow context, one begins to ask what could be the point of this book and what is the purpose expressed in it. The present commentary seeks to help answer these questions.

## **The Story of Israel in the Book of Qohelet**

No detailed description available for "\"Transcendancy and Symbols in the Old Testament\"".

## **Irony and Meaning in the Hebrew Bible**

A uniquely comprehensive volume of queer theology that covers every book of both testaments. It introduces students to a range of hermeneutical principles and strategies employed in queer interpretations of biblical texts.

## **The Inner World of Qohelet**

During his career Klaas Veenhof has worked on numerous aspects of Mesopotamian society. This volume containing forty-four articles contributed by his colleagues pays tribute to his broadness. The subjects of the articles cover a period of more than two millennia, and deal with Ancient Mesopotamia, Anatolia and Israel.

## **An Analysis of the Inter-dependency of the Prominent Motifs Within the Book of Qohelet**

Esegesi biblica in corso. Volume a cura di J.N. Aletti e J.-L. Ska nel centesimo anniversario della fondazione del Biblico. Gli articoli raccolti in questo volume testimoniano, con la grande varietà di metodi e approcci che li contraddistinguono, i progressi compiuti dal nostro Istituto nel campo della ricerca biblica e mostrano alcuni dei cambiamenti radicali avvenuti tra il 1909 e il 2009. Biblical Exegesis in Progress, the title of this volume celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Biblicum, was chosen for one main reason that has to do with the word progress. We would like to show how much exegesis has changed in our Institute since its foundation on the 7th of May, 1909. The first purpose of the Pontifical Biblical Institute was, in the mind of its founders, to defend Christian faith against the attacks of rationalist exegesis. The atmosphere was that of a citadel beleaguered on all sides by enemies who wanted to undermine the biblical foundation of faith and religion. But some of the sentinels very soon discovered that not all alleged enemies were real enemies. Many were, by and large, persons of good will sincerely trying to understand better the so-called Great Code of our culture (Northrop Frye). The encyclical Divino Afflante Spiritu (1943) certainly allowed people to let down drawbridges, and to open some doors and some windows. But the major change occurred with the Second Vatican Council and the discussions that surrounded the redaction of what was to be the constitution Dei Verbum. A couple of years later, in 1968, the Congress of the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament (IOSOT) was held in Rome, and this is one of the many signs that the old citadel had been transformed into a place of lively dialogue and fruitful exchange. The professors at the Biblicum had realized that truth is not a bastion to be defended, but rather a country to be explored and discovered anew every day. The articles collected in this volume testify, each in its own way, with a great variety of methods and approaches, to the progress made by our Institute in biblical research and to some of the radical changes that had occurred between 1909 and 2009.

## **Hebrew Union College Annual**

Hebrew Bible

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