

# ECCLESIASTES

Which dream are you following?

# Wisdom Literature – the way the world works (or at least seems to!)

- Proverbs - personification of Wisdom - rules for good living - some difficult in AD2024
- Job - fascinating discourse on suffering and patience. God's rebuke. Where were you?
- Ecclesiastes.....is it what you thought?
  
- Psalms - many pearls of wisdom
- Song of Songs - romantic love – a prophetic picture.
  
- Apocrypha - Wisdom of Solomon, Wisdom of Sirach
- Dialogue of Pessimism - (Mesopotamian Writings)

## Wisdom Literature - Ecclesiastes

- Traditionally attributed to Solomon who reigned around 950BC
- Contains language from between 450BC and 180BC
- Qoheleth (Ecclesiastes) means teacher or preacher or gatherer - that's how rabbis taught
- Solomon remembered for asking God for wisdom to rule well.

# Wisdom Literature - Ecclesiastes

Father, may scripture be our guide and Holy Spirit our teacher!

Don't let familiarity misguide you

# Wisdom Literature – Ecclesiastes

(Chapter 1)

Meaningless, meaningless, everything is  
meaningless.

Everything is smoke and vapour

# Wisdom Literature – Ecclesiastes

(Chapter 3)

What goes around comes around

Everything has its season \*

3:9 What gain has the worker from his toil? I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

*I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil – this is God's gift to man.* \*



# Wisdom Literature – Ecclesiastes

(Chapter 7)

More proverbs for life

Wisdom is better than folly

The fool has said in his heart “ There is no God”  
(Psalm 14:1)

# Wisdom Literature – Ecclesiastes

(Chapter 8)

8:14 - 8:15 bad things happen to good people and good things happen to bad people

“I commend joy for man has nothing better under the sun but to eat, drink and be joyful, for this will go with him in his toil through the days of his life that god has given him under the sun.

Wisdom is worth having, but even gaining wisdom is not the end of the matter.



# Wisdom Literature - Ecclesiastes



# Wisdom Literature – Ecclesiastes

(Chapters 11 & 12)

Cast your bread upon the waters \* - Be generous

Rejoice in your youth .....remember also your creator.....sombre warnings

The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgement, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

# Wisdom Literature

Proverbs: Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

Proverbs: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Proverbs: When he established... I (wisdom) was there.

Job: Where were you Job?

Job: Surely, I have spoken what I did not understand.

Job: I know that my Redeemer lives.

Ecclesiastes: Everything under the sun is like vapour with no lasting value.

Ecclesiastes: Remember your creator and do good things, they will be judged.

Ecclesiastes: That is the end of the matter.

But then.....



Advent

The embodiment of God's wisdom came into the world of Solomon's experience.

Jesus started to display wisdom from an early age; amazing the teachers in the temple.

“Trust in God trust also in me”

“Seek first the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you”

“Don't store up for yourselves treasure on earth where moth and rust destroy..”

“I am the Way, the Truth and the Life...”

Faith is the substance of things not seen

Fix your eyes on things above....



## I Corinthians 1: 20-25

So where is the wise philosopher who understands? Where is the expert scholar who comprehends? And where is the skilled debater of our time who could win a debate with God? Hasn't God demonstrated that the wisdom of this world system is utter foolishness?

For, in his wisdom, God designed that all the world's wisdom would be insufficient to lead people to the discovery of himself. He took great delight in baffling the wisdom of the world using the simplicity of preaching the story of the cross, in order to save those who believe it. For the Jews constantly demand to see miraculous signs, while those who are not Jews constantly cling to the world's wisdom, but we preach the crucified Messiah. The Jews stumble over him and the rest of the world sees him as foolishness.

But for those who have been chosen to follow him, both Jews and Greeks, he is God's mighty power, God's true wisdom and our Messiah.

For the "foolish" things of God have proven to be wiser than human wisdom...

(TPT)



“Everything under the sun” or “Everything under the Son”

Which dream are you following?