

Ecclesiastes – Kohelet (The Teacher)

Dr. Michael Kogan

Who is he? He is a professional sage or wise man of the radical wing of the wisdom movement.

When and where did he write? Jerusalem in about 300 BCE.

Structure of the Book:

1:1-2	Title and thesis of the writer
1:3-11	Nothing new under the sun.
1:12-18	Taking on role of king, reflects on the futility of human effort & pain of wisdom
2:1-11	Still in role of king, he reflects on wealth and pleasure
2:12-17	Wise man no better off than the fool
2:18-26	Death robs us of everything
3:1-15	A time for everything
3:16-22, 4:1-3	Injustice in world shows our limitations
4:4-16	Life of work gains nothing
5:8-9	Corruption in high places
5:10-20	Attitudes to wealth
6:1-9	Life's highest good is contentment
6:10-12	Life is fated and beyond our understanding
7:1-14	Seven proverbs
7:15-22	No one is perfect
7:23-29, 8:1	Frustrating search for wisdom
8:2-9	Obey kings
8:10-15	Evil goes unpunished—so eat, drink, and try to be happy in a senseless world
8:16-17, 9:1-12	Death is the fate of all
9:13-18, 10:1	Wisdom is often futile
10:2-20, 11:1-6	Reflections on life
11:7-10, 12: 1-8	Youth and age (a poem of advice to his students)
12:9-12	Another sage comments on Kohelet's life
12:13-14	Orthodox comment by a traditional editor, not Kohelet