

Israel's Wisdom Literatures

5/10	Book of Proverbs
5/17	Book of Ecclesiastes
5/24	Book of Job, Part I
5/31	Book of Job, Part II

Book of Ecclesiastes

A. Book of Ecclesiastes

1. Israel's Tradition
 - i. Reading during Sukkot (Feast of the Tabernacles)
2. Dating and Authorship
 - i. Writer is Qoheleth, meaning Teacher

B. Reflections on Life

1. Recurring motif
 - i. "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity."
 - ii. "Chasing after the wind"
2. Testing the Theories
 - i. Wisdom, Possessions, Pleasure
 - ii. Unfairness of Life
3. Contrary to Conventional Wisdom
 - i. The Righteous Do Not Always Prosper
 - ii. Death is Inevitable

C. So Then What?

1. Response to the Reflections on Life
2. Eat, Drink and Be Merry
 - i. All Else is Vanity