

Theme : What's it all about? (A study in Ecclesiastes)

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The question of all time!



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Halifax YW 2008

# The journey of life



32 Brook Road



Ollie Morgan, age



32 Brook Road

# Ecclesiastes : A book with a reputation!

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Depressing!

Miserable!

Pessimistic!

Fatalistic!

Poorly  
structured!

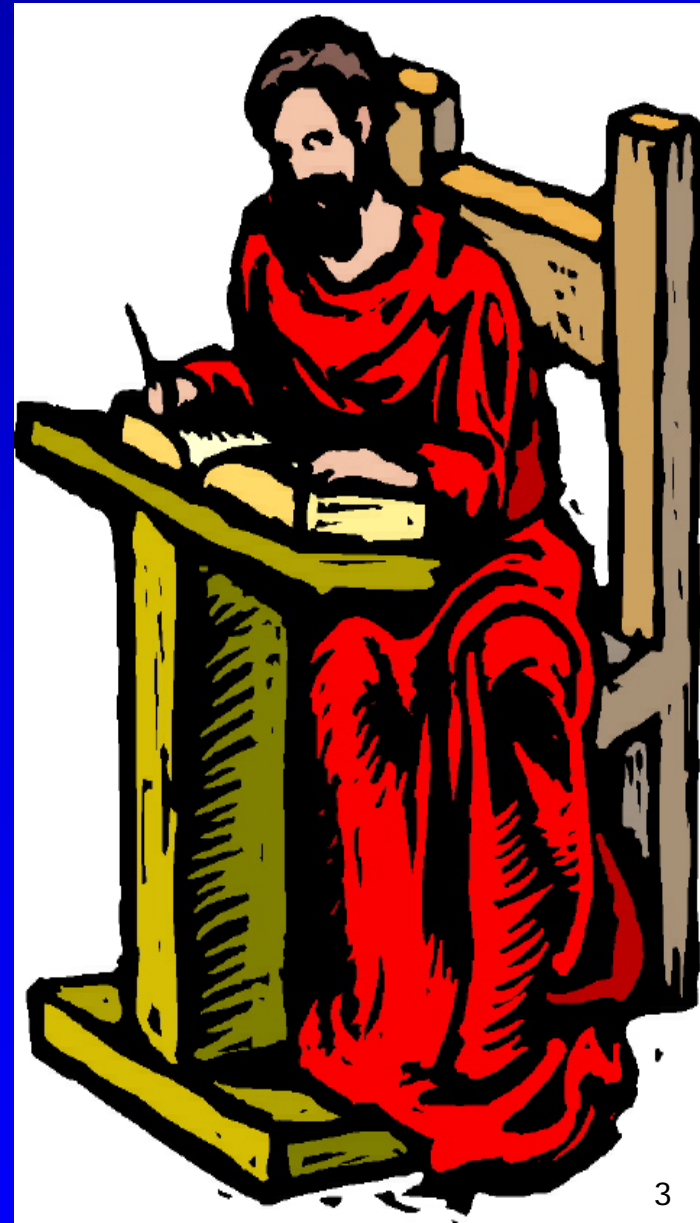
Written by a  
bitter &  
broken man

# Who wrote Ecclesiastes?

## Qoheleth (ST H6953)

- Preacher (AV)
- Teacher (NIV, NRSV)
- Speaker (Moffat)
  
- Professor
- Assembler (of men & ideas)

[Ecc1 1v1, 1v2, 1v12, 7v27, 12v8,  
12v9, 12v10]



# Who wrote Ecclesiastes?

## The case FOR Solomon:

- (1) "The son of David, king in Jerusalem"  
[Ecc1 1v1]
- (2) "All people *gathered* to hear the wisdom of Solomon"  
[1 Kings 4v34] cf [Ecc1 1v1]
- (3) "He was wiser than all men"  
[1 Kings 4v31-32] cf [Ecc1 1v16]
- (4) "I have given thee riches and honour...none like unto thee"  
[1 Kings 3v13] cf [Ecc1 2v8-9]
- (5) "He spake 3000 proverbs"  
[1 Kings 4v32] cf [Ecc1 12v9]

"The preacher...sought out and set in order many proverbs."

[Ecc1 12v9]



# Who wrote Ecclesiastes?

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## The case AGAINST Solomon:

(1) "And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned away from the LORD God of Israel"

[1 Kings 11v9] cf [Ecc1 12v9]

(2) "The Song of Songs which is Solomon's"

"The Proverbs of Solomon" [Prov 1v1]

"A Psalm of Solomon" [Psalm 72]

[S of Sol 1v1] cf [Ecc1 1v1]

(3) "I the Preacher was king over Israel in Jerusalem"

[Ecc1 1v12]

(4) "More wisdom than all that have been before me in Jerusalem"

[Ecc1 1v16]



# Who wrote Ecclesiastes?

<u>The case AGAINST Solomon:</u>	<u>The Solution?</u>
<p>(1) "And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned away from the LORD God of Israel"            [1 Kings 11v9] cf [Ecc1 12v9]</p>	<p>"My mercy shall not depart away from him as I took it from Saul"            [2 Samuel 7v15]</p>
<p>(2) "The Song of Songs which is Solomon's"            "The Proverbs of Solomon" [Prov 1v1]            "A Psalm of Solomon" [Psalm 72]            [S of Sol 1v1] cf [Ecc1 1v1]</p>	<p>"Whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke."            [1 Kings 12v11]</p>
<p>(3) "I the Preacher <u>was</u> king over Israel in Jerusalem"            [Ecc1 1v12]</p>	<p>"I the Preacher <i>have been</i> king over Israel            [Ecc1 1v12 lit]</p>
<p>(4) "More wisdom than <u>all that have been before me in Jerusalem</u>"            [Ecc1 1v16]</p>	<p>Melchizedek [Gen 14v8]            Adonizedek [Joshua 10v1]            Araunah [2 Samuel 24v23]</p>
<p>(5) The original Hebrew text</p>	

# A matter of Question & Qualifications

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Ecclesiastes 1v3:

“What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?”

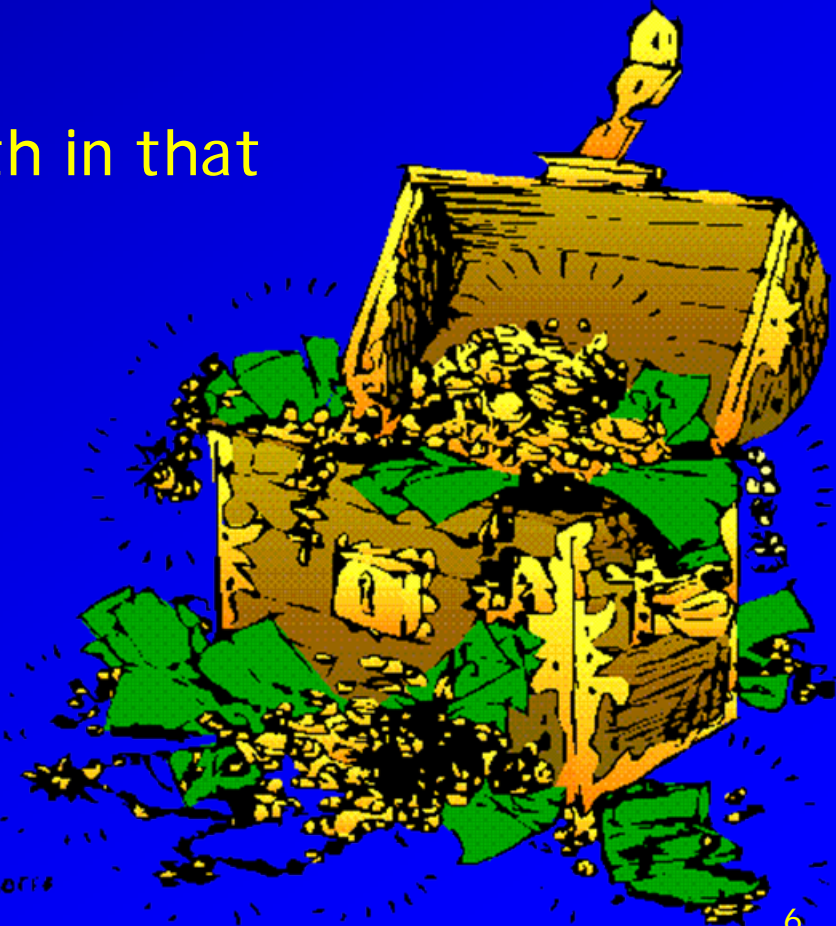
Ecclesiastes 3v9:

“What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?”

Ecclesiastes 5v16:

“What profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind?”

Profit = YITHRON  
[ST H3504]  
- the language of business!



# A matter of Question & Qualifications

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"Lo, I have gotten me great wisdom above all that were before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge."

[Ecclesiastes 1v16]



"So I was great and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem...and whatsoever mine eyes denied I kept not from them: I withheld not my heart from any joy."

[Ecclesiastes 2v9&10]



# Solomon's financial standing

## Finance Fact File:

Name : J K Rowling

Net Worth : £500 million

Age : 41

Occupation : Author

Fortune : Self-made

Citizenship : UK, Scotland, Edinburgh

Marital Status : Married, 3 children



# Solomon's financial standing

## Finance Fact File:

Name : Roman Abramovich

Net Worth : £9.4 billion

Age : 40

Occupation : Business man – Oil & Gas

Fortune : Self-made

Citizenship : UK, London

Marital Status : Married, 5 children



# Solomon's financial standing

## Finance Fact File:

Name : William Gates 111

Net Worth : £28 billion

Age : 51

Occupation : Business man – Microsoft

Fortune : Self-made

Citizenship : USA, Medina, Washington

Marital Status : Married, 3 children



# Solomon's financial standing

## Finance Fact File:

Name : Serg Brin  
Larry Page

Net Worth : £9.3 billion each

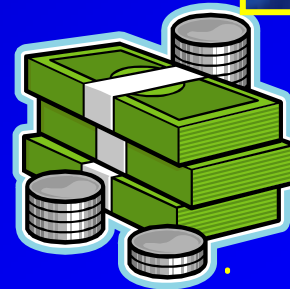
Age : 34

Occupation : Business men – Google

Fortune : Self-made

Citizenship : USA

Marital Status : -



# Solomon's financial standing

## Finance Fact File:

Name : Solomon

Net Income : £205 billion

Personal fortune : £14.5 billion

Age : reign from 40 to 80 yrs

Occupation : King

Fortune : Self-made

Citizenship : Israel

Marital Status : -Very!!!

(# children unknown)



# Testing, Testing, Testing – Pleasure (Eccl 2v1-3)

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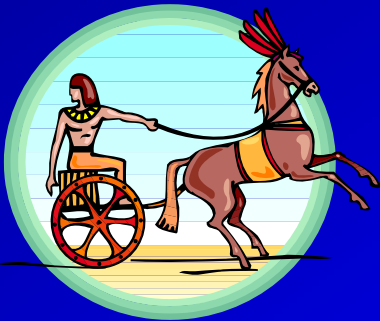
"Judah and Israel were many, as the sand which is by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking and making merry."

[1 Kings 4v20]



"And Solomon's provision for one day was 30 measures of fine flour, and three score measures of meal, ten fat oxen and twenty oxen out of the pastures, and an hundred sheep, besides harts and roebucks and fallow deer and fatted fowl."

[1 Kings 4v22-23]



"And Solomon had 1400 chariots and 12000 horsemen which he bestowed in the cities..."

[1 Kings 10v26]

HEDONISM, "pleasure is the highest good & mans proper aim"

# Testing, Testing, Testing – Creativity (Eccl 2v4-8)

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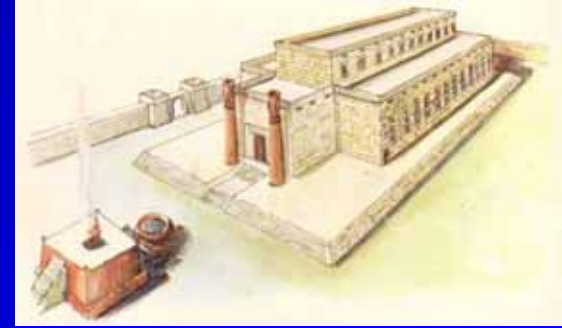
V4 I made me great works, I builded me houses(\*)  
; I planted me vineyards:

V5 I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted  
trees in them of all kinds of fruits.

V6 I made me pools(\*) of water, to water  
therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees.

V7 I got me servants and maidens, and had  
servants born in my house; also I had great  
possessions of great and small cattle above all  
that were in Jerusalem before me.

V8 I gathered me also silver and gold(\*), and the  
peculiar treasures of kings and of the  
provinces: I gat me men singers and women  
singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as  
musical instruments and that of all sorts"



# Testing, Testing, Testing

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"I sought in my heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom..."

[Ecc1 2v3]

"So I was great and increased more than all that before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me."

[Ecc1 2v9]

# Language Qoheleth!

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## Linguistic problems in Ecclesiastes:

- No hebrew vowels are used
- 28 Phoenician sayings
- No reference to Israel's history
- No reference to the Law
- No reference to "YAHWEH"

*"If the book of Ecclesiastes were of old Solomonic origin then there is no history in the Hebrew language!"*

*Franz Delitzsch*



# An audience with Solomon

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"And there came all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth which had heard of his wisdom."

[1 Kings 4v34]

"For the king had at sea a navy of Tarshish and the navy of Hiram: bringing gold and silver, ivory and apes and peacocks."

[1 Kings 10v22]

"And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD she came to prove him with hard questions...and she communed with him of all that was in her heart"

[1 Kings 10v1&2]