



Definitions are from the *Harper Collins Bible Dictionary* (condensed edition), edited by Mark Allan Powell, 2009.

Ecclesiastes (i-klee´zee-as´teez), the twenty- first book in the OT. One of the more mysterious books of the Bible, Ecclesiastes presents the advice of someone known only as Qohelet (the “Preacher” or “Teacher”). The content of this advice concerns both the pursuit of wisdom (the path of patience and restraint) and the avoidance of folly (hedonism and reckless abandon).
Outline of contents:

Ecclesiastes

- I. Prologue (1:1–11)
- A. Theme (1:1–3)
- B. Cycle of life (1:4–11)
- II. Life experiment (1:12–2:26)
- III. A time for everything (3:1–9)
- IV. Disappointments of life (3:10–4:16)
- V. Counsels of wisdom (5:1–12:8)
- VI. Epilogue (12:9–14)

Ecclesiasticus (i-klee´zee-as´ti-kuhs). **See** Sirach, The Wisdom of Jesus Son of.

Sirach (sí´ ruhk), **the Wisdom of Jesus Son of** (Heb. *Ben Sirach*), also known as Ecclesiasticus, a book of instruction and proverbs written in Hebrew around 180 BCE in Jerusalem by an instructor of wealthy youths. It was translated into Greek by the author’s grandson sometime after 132 BCE. Protestants regard it as part of the Apocrypha, while Catholics classify it as deuterocanonical.