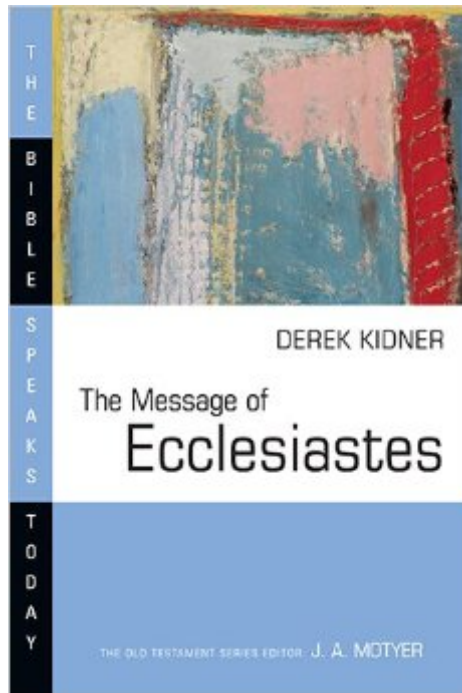


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# The Message Of Ecclesiastes (Bible Speaks Today)



## Synopsis

What is life about? In the end, does it all amount to a wisp of vapor, a puff of wind, a mere breath---nothing you can get your hands on--the nearest thing to zero? So says the Preacher in the book of Ecclesiastes. But is this the whole message of Ecclesiastes? With imagination and clarity, Derek Kidner introduces this Old Testament book which speaks so powerfully to our generation. His love of Hebrew poetry and his understanding of biblical mind shine through in his careful passage-by-passage exposition. The full biblical text is included.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Wisdom literature is where Kidner excels (see his "Wisdom of Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes" as well as his commentary on Proverbs). I have used his commentaries on Psalms and Proverbs for personal reading for 25 years and am still filled and never disappointed. As a previous reviewer has observed, Kidner has a way of capturing the essence of the meaning of a passage and distilling it into a very brief and satisfying statement. A few words from Kidner are usually worth a few pages from some others. This volume on Ecclesiastes shares this same lucid, penetrating and practical style. He adds very useful insight about the flow of thought (often difficult to discern on the surface) which enables one to readily assimilate what Solomon is actually trying to convey. Kidner's introduction is extremely helpful on the themes of Ecclesiastes. I especially like how he points out the "Facts to Face About God" which underly the ultimate worldview and message of Ecclesiastes

and should control our interpretation. One caveat: Kidner does not seem to view Solomon as the actual author (see his comments on 1:1 where he is purposefully, yet disappointingly, vague). However, Kidner is absolutely committed to the inspiration and authority of Ecclesiastes as scripture by whatever process he views it as coming into being. For Kidner, pinning down the human authorship of Ecclesiastes appears to be secondary to understanding God's message. I have over a thousand commentaries on the OT in my personal library - 39 on Ecclesiastes. I consult them extensively for personal reading as well as for preaching and teaching. Kidner remains one of my favorite authors and this volume on Ecclesiastes only confirms this evaluation. Note: A previous reviewer used this forum to complain about unmet expectations and/or bad service (apparently from a used book dealer). I wish folks would realize that there is a place on for expressing these kinds of frustrations (rating a seller). This forum is about rating the quality of a book - usually its content.

Kidner's commentary is like a slim slab of gold. While not a detailed exegetical commentary, Kidner's compact, concise, insightful, arresting style makes this one of the most useful and accessible commentaries on this often misunderstood book. He can say in a single paragraph what it takes most people a page to say. On the joy motif expressed in 2:24-26 he remarks: "In themselves and rightly used, the basic things of life are sweet and good. What spoils them is our hunger to get more out of them than they can give." Kidner's writing is to the commentary literature what poetry is to prose.

This commentary is well written and offers solid insight to the truths contained in Ecclesiastes. There is a problem with the print quality on some pages as some have noted. (It almost looks blurry like when you need a little magnification to bring it into focus... magnification didn't help)

I purchased this for a Canadian friend because he had so many questions as he read through the book of Ecclesiastes. The writer, Derek Kidner, was an outstanding scholar who knew how to write out difficult things and explain them simply and with clarity. My friend was delighted with my purchase.

This was a helpful, if a bit dated, commentary on a very difficult book of the Bible. The highest praise to be given is its simple brevity. However, the greatest criticism would have to be its brevity. This cannot be the only source you consult in studying/teaching Ecclesiastes, but it is a helpful one. Kidner, one of the evangelical giants of OT studies in second half of the 20th century, gives clarity to

an often confusing book and I greatly appreciated his realistic wrestling with the difficulties of interpreting Qoheleth's mysterious sayings. All in all, a helpful commentary.

Well written and very helpful to explain what can be a difficult book. The only problem is the print quality is terrible. Perhaps it is a "get what you pay for" issue, but the publishers should really re-print in a better quality.

Kidner's writing is almost poetic in its beauty. Though short in length, Kidner has an uncanny ability to get to the heart of the matter. If you're preaching or studying Ecclesiastes, this book will be a very helpful companion.

And excellent book for anyone who is interested in a study of Ecclesiastes. The writer gets to the heart of the book in a clear and concise way, making personal application and understanding of the book easier. I would definitely purchase other books from this seller, the transaction time was minimal and the book condition was as expected.

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