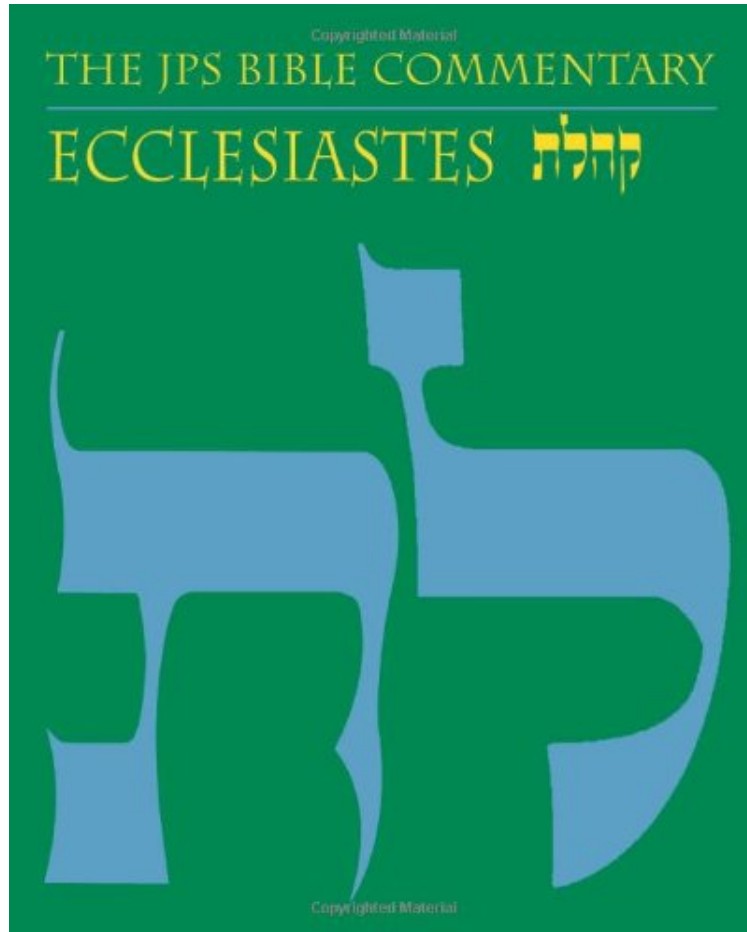


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The JPS Bible Commentary: Ecclesiastes

Michael V. Fox Ph.D.

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Michael V. Fox Ph.D. : The JPS Bible Commentary: Ecclesiastes before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The JPS Bible Commentary: Ecclesiastes:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Not What I Expected By Thankful Given Fox's previous writing on Ecclesiastes, as well as the content of other volumes of the JPS series, I expected a fully detailed scholarly commentary. But this is a very abbreviated analysis of Ecclesiastes. That's not a bad thing, just not what I had anticipated and what I have experienced in this series. The commentary section was well under 100 pages. I'm sure I might have enjoyed Fox, as I usually do, but I returned the book and bought another title. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Ecclesiastes or Koheleth By Linda Bostwick I ordered this book for a course I am taking but I could not put the commentary down. I don't think that I totally agree with the entire analysis, but it certainly aroused my interest and sustained it. It is a very modern translation, but the Hebrew text is right there so that the reader may verify ambiguities. The analyses are interspersed and there is a fine bibliography. 13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. A must have for Ecclesiastes By Speedy West I am currently going through a sermon series on the book

of Ecclesiastes, and for my sermon prep I have found no more helpful book than this one. In the introduction, it lists all of the most important Hebrew words and talks about what they mean in their context. I still use blueletterbible in conjunction with these word studies, but I have found that Fox's comments are usually right on. Warning: This is NOT the kind of commentary that you should buy if you want somebody to do all the application work for you. This book merely focuses on what Qohelet is actually trying to say. If you're looking for "8 great sermon ideas on the book of Ecclesiastes," look elsewhere. If you are looking for something that is simply focused on finding the original meaning of the book, then there is no better commentary out there.

The Book of Ecclesiastes is part of the wisdom literature of the Bible. It concerns itself with universal philosophical questions rather than events in the history of Israel and in the Hebrews covenant with God. Koheleth, the speaker in this book, ruminates on what if anything has lasting value, and how if at all God interacts with humankind. Koheleth expresses bewilderment and frustration at life's absurdities and injustices. He grapples with the inequities that pervade the world and the frailty and limitations of human wisdom and righteousness. His awareness of these discomfiting facts coexists with a firm belief in God's rule and God's fundamental justice, and he looks for ways to define a meaningful life in a world where so much is senseless. Ecclesiastes is traditionally read on the Jewish holiday Sukkot, the harvest festival.

The the JPS Ecclesiastes/Koheleth is a thorough, sensitive and engaging study with much to recommend it. Canadian Jewish News