

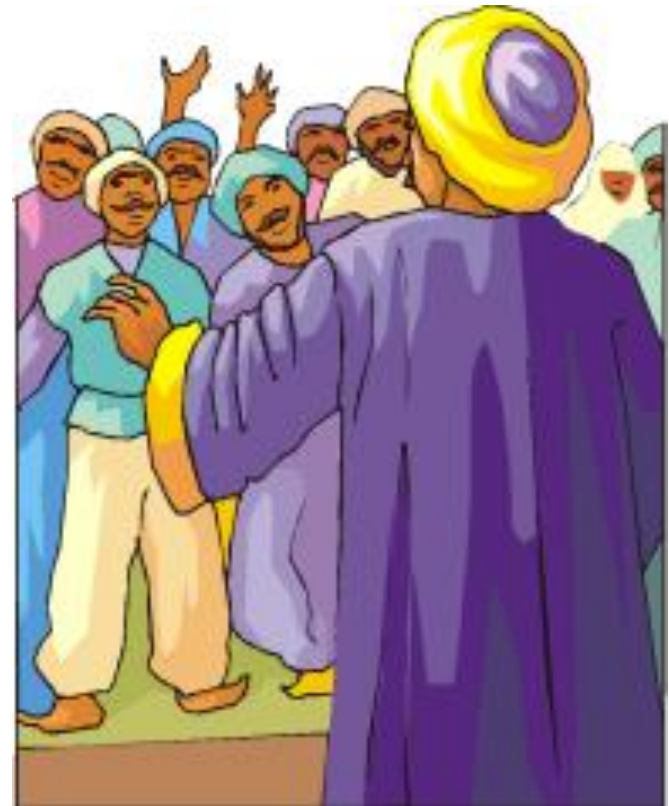


# Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs

Variations on Wisdom

# Ecclesiastes

- Qohelet – “collect”, or “gather”



# Debatable Aspects

- Entry into the Canon
- Authorship



# Central Themes

- *Hevel*

- *All is meaningless?*
- *All is brief?*

- *Enjoy life*

*Time is short*



- *Meaning of Life*

*Not via wealth*

*Present contentment*

*Obedience to God*

# Approximate Structure

- Author 1:1

- Theme: Effort meaningless apart from God 1:2

- “Stuff” does not bring happiness 1:3-11

- Enjoy life as a gift from God

- 1:12-11:16

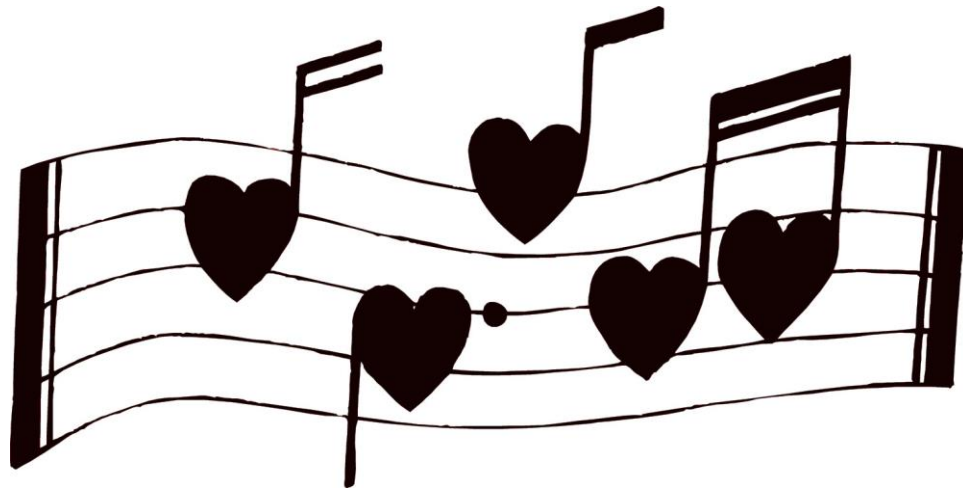
- Begin enjoying life whilst you are young 11:17 – 12:8

- Epilogue: Reverently trust and obey God 12:9-14

# Gilgamesh Epic



- ☐ Thou, Gilgamesh, let full be thy belly, make thou merry by day and by night. Of each day make thou a feast of rejoicing. Let thy **garments be sparkling fresh, thy head be washed**; bath thou in water. Pay heed to the little one that holds on to thy hand, **let thy spouse delight in thy bosom!** For **this is the task of [mankind]**.
- ☐ **Eccl. 9:7** Go, **eat your bread with joy**, and drink your wine with a **merry heart**, for God has already approved what you do. **Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head. Enjoy life with the wife whom you love**, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is **your portion in life** and in your toil at which you toil under the sun.



Song of songs



Solomon

Authorship

Title

Greatest Song

Latin: Canticles



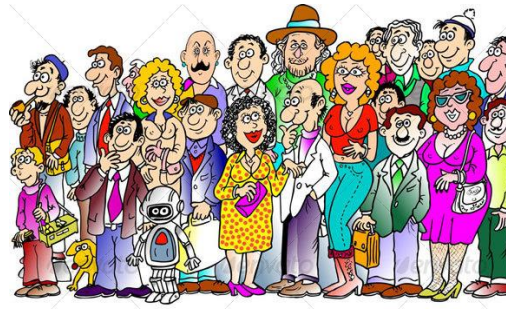
Interpretation

Jewish (allegorical)  
God and Israel

Textual  
Celebration of human  
love and sexuality

Christian (Allegorical)  
Christ and the Church

# Structure



- First meeting 1:1-2:7
- Second meeting 2:8-3:5
- Third meeting 3:6-5:1
- Fourth meeting 5:2-6:5
- Fifth meeting 6:6-8:4
- Conclusion 8:5-14



- Sensual love is OK (in the right confines)
- Love is a dangerous power
  - 2:7, 3:5, 8:4
  - I adjure you, O maidens of Jerusalem, by gazelles or by hinds of the field: Do not wake or rouse Love until it please! (2:7, TNK)

The End