

Ecclesiastes what insights can we gleam from it?

Post by “Eikadistes” of August 18, 2025 at 12:27 AM

[Quote from Eoghan Gardiner](#)

Should we try to study Ecclesiastes from an Epicurean POV? Has it been done previously?

I'm re-visiting this now.

This question has a lot to do with dating.

The saturation of philosophical ideas *initially* lead me to believe that it should be dated to the Hellenistic period, but that may not be correct. For example, it doesn't contain any Greek loan words, but it *does* contain several Persian loan words, suggesting that it couldn't have been written earlier than the 5th-century BCE. If it were produced in this period, that negates any Greek influence.

At the same time, if the final form of the text were polished in the 2nd-century BCE, then I think it would be more appropriate to view Qoheleth as a sort of philosopher. That being said, though, I read the author to have more in common with the Cynics as opposed to the Epicureans.

Still there are a number of strong analogies to Epicurean Philosophy, most of which you have documented above (and thank you for doing so!)

I'm organizing some data [here](#).