

**Poetry – Lesson #4: “Ecclesiastes: Life ‘Under the Sun’”
Lesson #5: “Song of Solomon: Love in Marriage”**

“The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. ‘Vanity of vanities,’ says the Preacher, ‘Vanity of vanities! All is vanity.’ “I have seen all the works which have been done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and striving after wind.”

Eccl. 1:1-2, 14

“The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.”

Eccl. 12:13-14

“I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or by the hinds of the field, that you will not arouse or awaken my love until she pleases.”

SofSol. 3:5

**I. Q: What type of Hebrew Poetry is Ecclesiastes? Song of Solomon?
(Hint: Is it mainly teaching, story form or song form?)**

Ecclesiastes:

Song of Solomon:

II. Aspects of Hebrew Poetry:

- **Parallelism** – An idea in one statement is repeated in some form in the next. It can be repetition, contrast or explanation of the original idea.
- **Figures of Speech** – Language that express an idea in comparative terms with another thing.

Give an example of each of the above aspects of Hebrew Poetry in each book.

Ecclesiastes:

Song of Solomon:

III. Summary: Both Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs were likely written by King Solomon.

Ecclesiastes: Wise words from King Solomon who had everything that a man could want in this world. He evaluates life “under the sun” or normal human existence apart from God and finds it to be vanity (Heb. *Hebel* – lit. “empty, ephemeral, meaningless” – think of a soap bubble). In the end he says that ultimate meaning is found in God alone, not the things of this world...and he should know!

Song of Solomon: This is a love poem from King Solomon to his beloved bride. Some take this as an allegory of Christ’s love for his church or as a non-literal story. It is best to accept the literal meaning and make application to the church from that (see Eph. 5:25-33). Basic principles gained from the book are godly love will happen in its time (3:5), marital love is mutual and exclusive (7:10), and romantic love is an extremely strong emotion (8:6). Love in marriage is a wonderful thing!