

Contentment in the Book of Ecclesiastes: interplay of the themes of death, the role of God, and contentment in Qoheleth's teaching.

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ABSTRACT

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The purpose of this thesis is to study the development of the theme of contentment and the relationship of this theme to the themes of death and the role of God. The thesis aims to read and interpret his teaching on contentment throughout the book of Ecclesiastes and permeates Qoheleth's teaching and sets the stage for his exhortation to embrace death as the natural end of life and to live every moment of life as if the afterlife is uncertain. According to Qoheleth, the presence and absence of humanity brings meaning and fulfillment to life. Even though human life is in the hands of an inscrutable God, they should find contentment and satisfaction in the present. Qoheleth's autobiography plays a significant role in his teaching. Qoheleth conveys his message throughout the book of Ecclesiastes and to connect his teaching on contentment in the face of death. Qoheleth teaches that we should embrace life as a gift from God which may include both good and bad. We should be fully engaged in every living moment in the face of death and the inevitable uncertainties and incongruities. This is why it is essential, Qoheleth admonishes, to devote every person to find satisfaction in work and accept the allotment given by God. We should comprehend God and his actions, and advocate the need to lead a life of meaningful labour, the good life which pleases God.

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