 Psalm 49 and the book of Qohelet

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Psalm 49 and the Book of Qohelet. Although a number of scholars have criticised Casetti’s analysis of Psalm 49, Zenger and Bossfeld employed his ideas in their recent commentary on the Psalms. According to these scholars the psalm consists of two distinct layers: a basic pessimistic psalm to which a second author later added two further strophes and an introduction. The basic psalm reflects the tone of the Book of Qohelet, but probably originated prior to that book as it does not reflect a hellenistic background. This article argues that the psalm should be read with the aid of Albertz’ description of the social situation in Judaea during the fifth century B.C.E. There is no basis for splitting the psalm into two layers. Rather, Psalm 49 addresses two segments of the Judaean upper class.

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 Peel (תֶלֶהֹק, qōheleṯ) is one of 24 books of the Tanakh or Hebrew Bible, where it is classified as one of the Ketuvim (or "Writings"). Originally written c. 450–200 BCE, it is also among the canonical Wisdom Books in the Old Testament of most denominations of Christianity. Textually, the book is the musings of a King of Jerusalem as he relates his experiences and draws lessons from them, often self-critical. The author, who is not named anywhere in the book, or in the whole of the Bible, introduces a "Kohelet" whom he identifies as the son of David (1:1). The author does not use his own "voice" throughout the book again until the final verses (12:9–14), where he gives his own thoughts and summarises what "the Kohelet" has spoken.