

de Lacy, Paul (1998). Thematic and structural affinities: *The Wanderer* and Ecclesiastes. *Neophilologus* 82.1: 125-137.

Abstract

It is argued that the Biblical book Ecclesiastes is the principle influence behind the thematic structure of the Old English poem *The Wanderer*. Specifically, the tonal disjunction at the end of the poem is directly analogous to a similar disjunction in the Judaic work. The recognition of this influence aids in determining the genre of the Old English poem as a sub-part of a Wisdom Literature tradition. Some insight is also gained regarding the number of protagonists in the work and the style of imagery presented.