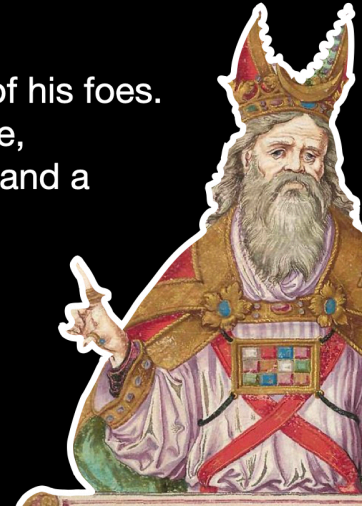


Wisdom of ben Sira — 150 years before Jesus

"There are nine who come to my mind as blessed, a tenth, whom my tongue proclaims:

- Blessed is whoever finds joy in his children,
 - Blessed is whoever lives to see the downfall of his foes.
 - Blessed is whoever dwells with a sensible wife,
 - Blessed is whoever is not plowing with an ox and a donkey combined.
 - Blessed is whoever sins not with his tongue,
 - Blessed is whoever serves not his inferior.
 - Blessed is whoever finds a friend,
 - Blessed is whoever speaks to attentive ears.
- Whoever finds wisdom is great indeed, but not greater than the one who fears the Lord.



Matthew 5

- 1 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them. He said:
- 3 "Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 Blessed are those who **mourn**, for they will be comforted.
- 5 Blessed are the **meek**, for they will inherit the earth.
- 6 Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness**, for they will be filled.
- 7 Blessed are the **merciful**, for they will be shown mercy.
- 8 Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for they will see God.
- 9 Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they will be called children of God.
- 10 Blessed are those who are **persecuted because of righteousness**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 "Blessed are you **when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me**. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.