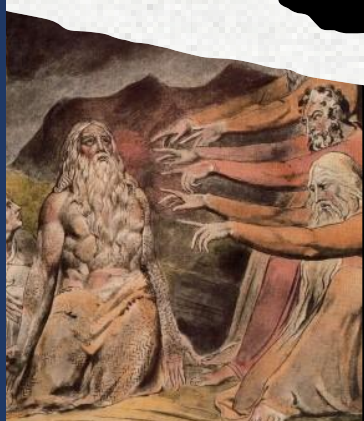


GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH

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THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM

The Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament



The Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament *Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon* **Adult Formation**

Part 1: January 16 – May 8, 2022

Part 2: September – December 2022

The Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament

Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

Winter-Spring 2022 – *Proverbs & Job*

Lesson 1 – Jan 16	Introduction to Wisdom Literature (Purpose & Meaning; Worldview; Facets & Forms; Synopses of Wisdom Books)
Lesson 2 – Jan 23	Proverbs: Background (Authors & Dates; Forms & Functions; Themes & Theology)
Lesson 3 - Jan 30	Proverbs: The Call of Wisdom (Proverbs 1 – 9)
Lesson 4 - Feb 13	Proverbs: Topical Study (The Wise Man & the Fool)
Lesson 5 - Feb 20	Proverbs: Topical Study (Sexuality & Fidelity)
Lesson 6 - Feb 27	Proverbs: Topical Study (Words & Speech)
Lesson 7 - Mar 6	Proverbs: Topical Study (Wealth & Poverty)
Lesson 8 - Mar 13	Job: Background (Author & Date; Forms; Themes & Theology)
Lesson 9 - Mar 20	Job: Righteous Job & Satan's Challenge
Lesson 10 - Mar 27	Job: Job's Complaint
Lesson 11 - Apr 24	Job: The Friends Reply
Lesson 12 - May 1	Job: God Answers Job
Lesson 13 - May 8	Wisdom for Today

Sources

General

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The Purpose of Wisdom Literature

Why Study Wisdom Literature?

The biblical books of wisdom are important because they teach us how to live in the *real* world; the world that God created, and for which he established its material and moral order and purpose.

The wisdom books are primary sources for training in spiritual and moral knowledge, virtue, and practical wisdom—for children as well as adults—guides for “walking by the Spirit” (Gal. 5:16), cultivating the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22 - 23, and resisting being molded by the cultural *zeitgeist* (Rom. 12:1-2).

Notes & Questions:

[illegible]

The Meaning of Wisdom

What is Wisdom?

Biblically, wisdom is knowledge, understanding, and practice that lead toward *shalom* in personal, community, and national life.

Shalom refers to human life before God in holiness, harmony, creativity, and abundant joy; with oneself, with others, and with creation; in accordance with the way God has made the world.

Notes & Questions:

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The Fear of the Lord

The first principle of wisdom:

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." (Pr. 9:10; see Pr. 1:7; Job 28:28; Eccl. 12:13; Ps. 111:10)

The fear of the Lord “means that God is constantly in the centre of our thought and apprehension, and life is characterized by the all-pervasive consciousness of dependence on him and responsibility to him.” (Murray)

Notes & Questions:

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The Worldview of Wisdom Literature

The Worldview of Wisdom Literature

- ❖ There is one God (“Yahweh”; the covenant God of Israel; the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob).
- ❖ God is the sole sovereign creator of the world and humanity.
- ❖ Creation—including humanity—has a material order and a moral order established by God.
- ❖ All human actions receive just recompense from God.
- ❖ Character is destiny.

Notes & Questions:

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- Contemporary Implications

- ### Notes & Questions:

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The Facets of Wisdom



Notes & Questions:

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Literary Forms in Wisdom Literature

Literary Forms in Wisdom Literature

- ❖ **Didactic speech** (Pr. 1– 6)
- ❖ **Drama** (Job)
- ❖ **Stories & Parables** (Pr. 7)
- ❖ **Personal Reflection** (Pr. 4:3-9; Eccl. 9)
- ❖ **Sayings** (Proverbs; Eccl.)
- ❖ **Poetry** (Song of Songs)

Notes & Questions:

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Aspects of Hebrew Poetry

- ❖ Terseness
- ❖ Figurative language
- ❖ Vivid imagery
- ❖ Parallelism

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The Purposes of Hebrew Literary Forms

- ❖ Teaching and memorization
- ❖ Evoking practical, moral, and spiritual imagination and desire
- ❖ Projecting a worldview

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Notes & Questions:

Synopses of Wisdom Books



Proverbs – *wisdom 101: the well-managed life*



Job – *the limits of wisdom*



Ecclesiastes – *the world is never enough*



Song of Solomon
– *true romance*

Notes & Questions:
