

The Wisdom Literature

(Psalm 1:1-3)

Our 2019 Bible reading will consist of the five books that make up the Wisdom Literature. These books include Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job, and the Song of Solomon.

I. Proverbs

- A. We will read this book throughout the first three quarters of the year.
 - 1. The book of Proverbs contains practical wisdom (Proverbs 1:1-4; 2 Timothy 3:16).
 - 2. While Solomon penned the words, let us remember that this book is inspired by God!
- B. The warnings in this book include...
 - 1. The dangers of **debt** (Proverbs 22:7).
 - 2. The dangers of **alcohol** (Proverbs 20:1).
 - 3. The dangers of not **listening** to **parents** (Proverbs 6:20).
 - 4. The dangers of not disciplining children (Proverbs 22:15).

II. Psalms

- A. This is the largest book in the Bible. Many of the Psalms (songs) were written by David.
 - 1. It contains the shortest chapter in the Bible (Psalms 117).
 - 2. It also contains the longest chapter in the Bible (Psalm 119). This chapter is devoted to praising and exalting the word of God.
- B. Reading the Psalms can help us in our relationship with God.
 - 1. They tell us **who God is** (Psalms 19:1-2; 40:10; 99:9; 145:15-16; 139:7-12; 135:6; 147:6).
 - 2. They tell us how **God feels about us** (Psalms 8).
 - 3. They tell us how to **properly respond to God** (Psalms 18:1-3; 33:6-9; 113:1-4).

III. Ecclesiastes

- A. This book is about Solomon's quest to find purpose and meaning in life.
 - 1. He tries to find it in **wealth** (Ecclesiastes 2:4-10, 18-23).
 - 2. He tries to find it in **wisdom** and **understanding** (Ecclesiastes 1:16-17).
 - 3. He tries to find it in having a **great name** (Ecclesiastes 2:9).
- B. He discovers that a life without God is **worthless** (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

IV. Job

- A. This book answers one of the great questions of life.
 - 1. **"Why do bad things happen to good people?"**
 - 2. Eliphaz believes he has the answer (Job 4:7-9). He was wrong!
- B. This book will help to properly shape our thinking about the causes of suffering.

V. Song of Solomon

- A. This book is probably the most neglected of the five.
 - 1. It is written in the language of poetry. There are several characters and a lot of dialogue.
 - 2. While it can be a difficult read, remember 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
- B. This book can help revive a **marriage** and make it as strong as God intends.

Conclusion: When we listen to the **wisdom** of God, our lives will be so much better.