

Outline of Old Testament Wisdom Literature:

<b>Job</b>	<b>Wisdom for Those in Pain</b>
<b>Psalms</b>	<b>Wisdom for the Worship of God</b>
Proverbs	
Ecclesiastes	
Song of Solomon	

New Testament Considerations of Job (Ch. 14):

- V.4 “Who can bring what is pure from the impure?”  
(Heb. 10:14-17)
- V. 10 “When man dies, where is he?”  
(Mat. 25:32-41; 2 Cor. 5:8)
- V. 14 “If a man dies, will he live again?”  
(1 Cor. 15:54-55)

Human Wisdom Confronted by Job:

- “God will not put more on you than you can bear.”  
(Ref. 1 Cor. 10:13)
- “Good things happen to good people.”  
(Cf. Mat. 5:44-45; Rom. 3:9-12)
- “Life is random and meaningless.”  
(Cf. Rom. 8:28)

Defining Worship:

Psalms: The Prayer Book of the Bible

Collection of 5 Books

“Shachah” (To prostrate oneself)

Worship is a Verb

Elements of Worship:

- Humility (Submission)
- Focus on the Divine
- Proclaiming God’s Worthiness (Power, Glory, Honor)
- Remembering God’s Faithfulness (Thanksgiving)
- Participation in Blessing (Praise)
- Reflecting Love to God

Understanding Hebrew Poetry:

- Rhyming Happens with Ideas, Not Sounds
  - o No Phonetic or Rhythmic Patterns
- Used in Prophetic Sermons, Psalms, Proverbs, Lamentations, Metaphorical Expression
- Usually Formed in Couplets
  - o Basic Statement -> Development
    - Completion: Finishes a Thought (1:3)
    - Synonymous Parallelism: Simple Restatement (15:1)
    - Synthetic Parallelism: Deepening the Thought (19:8-9)
    - Antithetic Parallelism: Contrast or Opposing Ideas & Images (37:9)
- Terms & Function of the Psalms
  - o Sela: "Pause and Consider"
  - o Meditation: Exploration of Thoughts, Feelings, & Truths
  - o Prayer: "Coach" the Reader to Discovering Ways to Give Voice to Feelings or Experiences
  - o Sing: Lifting Voices Together in Harmony (Adoration, Praise, & Thanksgiving)
  - o Untranslated Hebrew: Unknown Musical Instructions

The Compositional Techniques of Hebrew Poetry:

- Refrain: Key Lines Repeated Multiple Times  
A-B-C-A-D-E-F-A
- Inclusio: Opening & Closing with the Same Line  
A-B-C-D-E-F-G-A
- Chiasm: Repetition of Lines in Reverse Order  
A-B-C-B-A
- Forward Symmetry: Repetition of Multiple Lines  
A-B-C-A-B-C-A-B-C

The Book of Psalms:

"Tehillim" (Heb: Praises)  
"Psalmoi" (Grk: Poem to be sung)  
Compiler: Unknown Date: Circa 400 BC (Exile Period)  
Occasion: Devotional & theologically rich poetry intended for worship, reflection, and prophetic insight.

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Outline:

Prologue:		Ch. 1-2
Book 1:	(Genesis: Humanity)	3-41
Book 2:	(Exodus: Deliverance)	42-72
Book 3:	(Leviticus: Temple)	73-89
Book 4:	(Numbers: Wandering)	90-106
Book 5:	(Deuteronomy: God’s Instruction)	107-145
Epilogue:		146-150

Note: Topical grouping (Parentheses) is subject to conjecture. Based on a VERY broad overview. Each book ends with a repeat of 41:13.

Authorship

King David:	73
Anonymous:	48
Asaph (Chief Musician)	12
Sons of Korah (Levites)	12
King Solomon:	2
Heman the Ezrahite	1
Ethan the Ezrahite	1
Moses	<u>1</u>
Total:	150

Genres:

General Hymns of Praise

Penitential Psalms:	Asking for Forgiveness
Hallelujah Psalms:	Commands for Praise (Praise Yah!)
Enthronement Psalms:	Celebrating God as King
Songs of Zion:	Focus on Jerusalem & the Temple
Psalms of Lament:	Prayers for Mercy & Deliverance
Imprecatory Psalms:	Calling for God’s Judgement
Hymns of Trust:	Celebrating God’s Faithfulness
Hymns of Thanksgiving:	Celebrating God’s Providence
Royal Psalms:	Coronations & Weddings
Acrostic Psalms:	Composed via Hebrew Alphabet
Psalms of Ascent:	Pilgrim Psalms to Jerusalem

Constant Themes (Ch. 1-2):

- 1: Blessed is the one who meditates on Torah. (1:1-2)  
(Psalms Reflects Torah with Prayer as the Goal)
- 2: Conversation Reflecting 2 Sam. 7 (Messianic Kingdom)  
Blessed are all who take refuge in Him (2:12ff)

Book 1 (Ch. 3-41):

- Call to Covenant Faithfulness (15)
- David as Example of Faithfulness (16-18)
- Praise to God for Torah (19)
- Coming Messiah will be Faithful (20-23)
- Call to Covenant Faithfulness (24)

Note: Chiastic (X-Shaped) Structure  
A Poem of Poems

Book 2 (Ch. 42-72):

- Faith in a Return to Jerusalem (42-43)
- Messianic Reign in Jerusalem (72)  
(Cf. Isaiah 11, 45, 60; Zech. 9)

Note: Completion (Return-Fulfillment)

Book 3 (Ch. 73-89):

- Downfall of Davidic Kingdom (74)
- Promise of the Messianic Kingdom (89)
  - Remember Your Promise

Note: Antithetic (Contrasting) Parallelism

Book 4 (Ch. 90-106):

- Have Mercy Upon Israel (90)
  - Psalm of Moses (Ref. Golden Calf)
- The Lord Reigns Over All Creation (93-99)
  - Sin Will End & Justice will be Realized

Note: Completion (Repentance – Restoration)

Book 5 (Ch. 107-145):

- Evil Will Be Defeated (107-110)
- The Hallel Psalms (113-118)
  - Coming Messianic King
- Psalm 119 (Acrostic Praise for Torah)
- Psalms of Ascent (120-136)
  - Coming Messianic Kingdom

Note: Chiastic (X-Shaped) Structure

Epilogue: “Psalms of Victory” (146-150):

- “God has raised up a horn for his people.” 148:14

Note: Synonymous Parallelism

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