

# The Story of God

Wisdom Literature: Job, Psalms,  
Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of  
Solomon

# Wisdom Literature

- Does not advance God's story in time
- But does contribute to God's story by reinforcing critical elements of it:
- Creation and God's Lordship
- Sin and its consequences
- Redemption and its consequences
- Blessing and Cursing

# Job

- Is believed to be the oldest book in the Bible (after the creation account), because it makes no reference to the patriarchs or the Law
- Has a prologue that emphasizes Job's righteousness before God. 1-2
- Job fits what Solomon will later teach in Proverbs—righteousness before God brings material rewards

- But Job also fits what is taught throughout the Bible: there is an unseen enemy of God, who wages war on God's people. Wise people see this as a reality
- Has an epilogue that emphasizes God's righteousness. 38.1-42.17
- Contains a lengthy dialogue, in which righteousness is questioned.
- Job's friends question his righteousness
- Job questions God's righteousness

- Job—presents a theme that runs throughout human history: God rules the world, but He doesn't behave the way humans expect or like

# Psalms

- Are fairly simple to date: they come primarily from the time of David and Solomon—the glory of the Temple
- They contain both lament and praise
- They are full of human experience—the God who dwells among men is intensely personal in His relationship with them.

- Are divided into 5 books: 1-41; 42-72; 73-89; 90-106; 107-150
- Each of the “books” ends with a doxology, and the best guess is that each “book” of the Psalms correlates to a book in the Pentateuch
- Books 1 & 2 focus on David and his reign
- Book 3 focuses upon the exile

- Books 4 & 5 focus upon the restoration and the future kingdom
- One of the major themes of the Psalms is that God's people are supposed to sing praises to God, regardless of their immediate circumstances



# Proverbs

- Written mostly by Solomon—the wisest man in history, apart from Jesus
- Is a collection of maxims
- Proverbs 1-9 takes the form of longer discourses
- Proverbs 10-24 are short proverbs
- Proverbs 25-29 are Proverbs that Hezekiah's men copied

- Proverbs 30-31 are attributed to Agur and Lemuel.
- Proverbs should never be thought of as simply a practical book of wisdom
- Wisdom, in Solomon, is found only in God. It IS “fearing the Lord”
- The God who dwells intimately with men will give them wisdom, but they do not have to receive it.

# Ecclesiastes

- Also written by Solomon
- Schreiner states that while, “Proverbs focuses on the regularities of life, Ecclesiastes concentrates on the anomalies.”
- Ecclesiastes points out that many of the injustices of life seem to be senseless
- So—submit to 12.13-14

# Song of Solomon

- Written by Solomon
- The book is a collection of love poems
- They are poems written by a king to his future bride
- And by his future bride to him
- In these human poems, we have an OT preview of the love between Christ and His Church