



# Wisdom Literature

Jan to Feb 2017

# Wisdom Literature

- a. In the Hebrew Bible, they belong to a larger section known as “The Writings.”
- b. Wisdom Literature refers to the 5 books in the Old Testament:
  - *Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs*
- c. However, wisdom “literature” is not limited to the 5 books mentioned.
  - For example, Deut 28, Psalm 1, Isa 5:20,21

# A Distinctive Voice <sup>(1)</sup>

- Wisdom found in the Bible, is much more than information or knowledge.
- From principles to the practical
- The tone of voice from the Law to the Teacher <sup>(2)</sup>

1. Derek Kidner. *An Introduction to Wisdom Literature: The Wisdom of Proverbs, Job & Ecclesiastes*.
2. Notes from Dr. Donald Leggett in *Wisdom Literature*, OTS/Tyndale.

# Biblical Wisdom

- a. The Bible relates wisdom to salvation
  - “salvation makes you wise”
  - Matt 7:24-27 The wise man builds his house
  - Matt 25 parable of the ten virgins
  - 1 Cor. 1:21-25 Christ the wisdom of God

# Biblical Wisdom

“21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.** 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”

1 Corinthians 1:21-25

# Biblical Wisdom

## b. Wisdom is equated with the Word of God

- Col 3:16

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” (ESV)

- Ps 119:99

“I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation.” (ESV)

# Biblical Wisdom

## c. Wisdom Personified

- Prov 8:1-11

“Does not wisdom call?

Does not understanding raise her voice?

2 On the heights beside the way,

at the crossroads she takes her stand;

3 beside the gates in front of the town,

at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud:.” (ESV)

... read more

# Biblical Wisdom

## c. Wisdom Personified

- Prov 8:22-23

“22 The Lord possessed me **at the beginning** of his work, the first of his acts of old. 23 Ages ago I was **set up**, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.” (ESV)

- John 1:1

“**In the beginning** was the Word (Logos) , and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

# Biblical Wisdom

## d. Contrast between True & False Wisdom

- 1 Cor 1:21

“the world through its wisdom ...” (NIV)

- Rom 1:22

“Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools”

- 1 Cor 2:5

“so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.”

# Biblical Wisdom

## e. Who is the wise person? Who is the fool?

- The fool is not someone with low IQ, but ...
  - ✓ Ps 14:1 “The fool says in his heart, ‘there is no God.’”
  - ✓ Prov 21:29 “The wicked (fool) put up a bold front,  
but the upright give thought to their ways.”
  - ✓ Luke 12:20 The fool trusts in money (parable)
  - ✓ Luke 24:25 He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken!”

# Q & A