

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE



RECAP

- ▶ Remember, the Old Testament is called the “TaNaK” in Hebrew. This is a type of acronym that was used to remember the different sections
 - ▶ “Ta” stands for the Torah >> **Law**
 - ▶ “Na” stands for the Nevi'im >> **Prophets**
 - ▶ “K” stands for the Ketuvim >> **Writings**
- ▶ The Writings are made up of Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Esther, Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah, & Chronicles.
- ▶ It is intentional that the Wisdom Literature is at the **heart** of the OT, both in position & attitude.
- ▶ While the individual books of the Wisdom Literature convey individual messages, the wisdom literature as a whole convey a message as well.

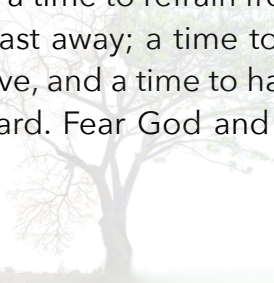
THE ROLE OF WISDOM IN GOD'S WORLD

- ▶ In the Wisdom Literature, wisdom is the **natural** Law by which all things are held together & the way life is meant to be lived.
 - ▶ Proverbs 3:19 | The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens
 - ▶ Job 38:1 | Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind...
 - ▶ The **“Word”** in the New Testament is the fulfillment of the personified Old Testament “Wisdom”
 - ▶ John 1:1-3 | In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.
 - ▶ Colossians 1:16-17 | For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
 - ▶ Hebrews 1:3 | He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.
- ▶ So, God has fixed wisdom as the guiding **principle** upon which the universe has been created.
 - ▶ Just as there are fixed laws that govern the **physical** world (i.e., gravity), there are also spiritual Laws that govern the spiritual world >> i.e., the Law of the Harvest

- While some laws of wisdom are inescapable, there is wisdom that God has made available to all people by God's **common grace** (think life lessons, lessons learned in the school of hard knocks, or morals to a story) >> Ecclesiastes 12:11
- But there is another kind of wisdom, specifically the kind of wisdom that comes from being in a personal relationship with the Giver of wisdom called **particular grace** >> Ephesians 1:16-18; 1 Corinthians 1:30

THE MESSAGE OF THE WISDOM LITERATURE

- In this section we are asking, "What does the wisdom literature teach us about life?" There is a wholistic message that we receive from summarizing the main message of each book & its perspective.
 - **Psalms** >> The most defining **relationship** of your life is not your kids & its not your spouse...it's with God. Life is about existing & abiding in communion with Him, which happens as we worship Him in every season of life. That is why there are psalms for every mood.
 - **Song of Songs** >> While your relationship with God is most important, He has provided other relationships to add **joy** & extend wisdom. Specifically, the marriage covenant with which God has blessed humanity is the only secure context for romance, sexual intimacy, & spiritual oneness. By seeking God's wisdom in these relationships, God further defines us & helps us find our purpose.
 - **Proverbs** >> Wisdom is not **seasonal**, rather it is timeless. Heeding wisdom (called teachableness or fearing the Lord) is the primary lesson parents should impart to their children & grandchildren. Solomon collected wisdom to state it simply so that the simple could be made wise, because wisdom applies to every area of life.
 - **Ecclesiastes** >> Caution! The **world** is not as it should be. When looking at the broken state of the world without the infinite knowledge of God, human beings will be left confused & perplexed. But one thing is necessary: living with humility before God & gratitude towards the people God has put in your life.
 - **Job** >> **Suffering** comes in life, even to those who are seeking to life with humility & gratitude. So when suffering comes into your life, remind yourself that God's purposes are always good & ultimately He guides those who walk in wisdom. Abide in Christ during your suffering & He will give you clarity in His presence.
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; 12:13 | For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace... The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.



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