

**Pastor Allen Jackson**



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

*A text without a context is a pretext.*

1) Not everything in the wisdom literature is right

John 9:1-3 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup> "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.

2) Wisdom literature is general not particular

3) Wrestles with the perspectives of **time & space**

John 8:56-59 (NIV®)

<sup>56</sup> Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." <sup>57</sup> "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" <sup>58</sup> "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" <sup>59</sup> At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

## Job

Job 1:6-12 (NIV®)

<sup>6</sup> One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. <sup>7</sup> The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it." <sup>8</sup> Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." <sup>9</sup> "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. <sup>10</sup> "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. <sup>11</sup> But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." <sup>12</sup> The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.



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## Psalms

Arranged in 5 Books

Psalms 1-41, Psalms 42-72, Psalms 73-89, Psalms 90-106, Psalms 107-150

Psalms of Ascent (15), Psalm 120-134

Psalms 51:1-14 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup> Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. <sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. <sup>5</sup> Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. <sup>6</sup> Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. <sup>7</sup> Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. <sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. <sup>10</sup> Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. <sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you. <sup>14</sup> Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

Psalms 23:1-6 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, <sup>3</sup> he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

## Proverbs

Proverbs 2:1-6 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> My son, if you **accept my words** and **store up my commands** within you, <sup>2</sup> **turning your ear** to wisdom and **applying your heart** to understanding, <sup>3</sup> and if you **call out** for insight and **cry aloud** for understanding, <sup>4</sup> and if you **look for it as for silver** and **search for it as for hidden treasure**, <sup>5</sup> then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. <sup>6</sup> For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

## Consequences & Outcomes

Proverbs 3:7-8 (NIV®)

<sup>7</sup> Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. <sup>8</sup> This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

Proverbs 22:4 (NIV®)

<sup>4</sup> Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life.

## Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes 1:1-3 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem: <sup>2</sup> "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless." <sup>3</sup> What does man gain from all his labor at which he toils **under the sun?**

Ecclesiastes 2:3-11 (NIV®)

I wanted to see what was worthwhile for men to do under heaven during the few days of their lives. <sup>4</sup> I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. <sup>5</sup> I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. <sup>6</sup> I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. <sup>7</sup> I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. <sup>8</sup> I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired men and women singers, and a harem as well--the delights of the heart of man. <sup>9</sup> I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me. <sup>10</sup> I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor. <sup>11</sup> Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (NIV®)

<sup>13</sup> Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole [duty] of man. <sup>14</sup> For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

## Song of Songs

About relationship —

- Invites us into the emotion of a relationship with God
- Not only is our relationship with the Lord very personal; it is also very public