

Week 8: Introduction to the Poetic Books

1. Scope and Characteristics of the Poetic Books

- 1) Includes Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs.
 - 2) Highlights Hebrew literary beauty with poetic expression, wisdom, suffering, praise, and meditation on life.
 - 3) Focuses on personal relationship with God and godly reflection on life.
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2. Overview of Each Book

1) Job

- (1) Explores suffering and righteousness, asking: “Why do the righteous suffer?”
- (2) Centered on dialogues between Job and his friends, Elihu's speech, and God's response.

2) Psalms

- (1) A collection of 150 songs and prayers.
- (2) Genres include praise, lament, thanksgiving, wisdom, and royal psalms.
- (3) Highlights intimate communion with God, largely written by David.

3) Proverbs

- (1) Themes: wise living, godly choices, God's will in daily life.
- (2) Composed mainly of Solomon's sayings; practical and instructive.
- (3) Wisdom is personified, emphasizing the necessity of a godly life.

4) Ecclesiastes

- (1) Famous for the refrain, “Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.”
- (2) Addresses the meaning of life, human limitations, and calls for the fear of God as the ultimate answer.

5) Song of Songs

- (1) A love story between Solomon and the Shulammite woman.
 - (2) Literally about romantic love; spiritually symbolizes God and His people, Christ and the Church.
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3. Theological Message of the Poetic Books

- 1) Expresses existential struggles and devotion to God.
- 2) Teaches wisdom, godliness, and faith during suffering.
- 3) Richly conveys the emotional and relational aspects of biblical faith.