

BIOT301 OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS OF POETRY

INTRODUCTION

The poetic books of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon are covered in detail. Historical Background information and theological themes of each book are outlined.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the student should:

- understand the basic nature and expression of Hebrew poetry in its setting;
- have an understanding of the basic message of Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Lamentations, and the key Psalms studied;
- acquire a basic knowledge of the figures of speech employed in the poetic books;
- have an understanding of the historical background for each book;
- gain an appreciation of the richness of the theology and practicality contained in the Poetic Books.

BOOKS OF POETRY

God inspired a few writers to compose for Scripture, poems, songs, and dialogues reflecting the meditations and questions of their hearts and minds. These five books comprise the "poetical books," Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes are classified as wisdom literature because their message represents the wise observations and interpretations of everyday life. Hebrew wisdom literature tells us that the *"fear of God is the beginning of wisdom."*

The poetic books are charged with feeling. These books appeal especially to the human emotions and will. Because of this fact, they are very persuasive in exhorting and reproof. The poetical writings deal with problems and experiences common to all mankind.

In studying the books of poetry, it is helpful to become acquainted with the various aspects of poetic literature so the language and style of these 5 books will be more intelligible.

A. Three Main Types of Hebrew Poetry

1. Lyric

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This type was originally accompanied by music on the lyre. It expresses the poets' emotions as they are stirred and directed by God. Most of the Psalms are lyrical.

2. Didactic

The main purpose is to share observations and evaluations of, not so much to communicate feelings. Proverbs and Ecclesiastes are of this type.

3. Dramatic

These are mainly dialogue to get across thoughts and ideas. Job and Solomon are this type.

Learn more by purchasing the entire course that covers the following topics:

Lesson 1 - Introduction

Lesson 2 - Job

Lesson 3 - Psalms

Lesson 4 - Proverbs

Lesson 5 - Ecclesiastes

Lesson 6 - Song of Solomon