

REI 274 THE BIBLE

Announcements:

- TEST on Friday in Sections.
- REVIEW SESSION:
Thursday, 4-5:30 pm HL 107

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Psalms & Wisdom

Book of Psalms

- Song book of Second Temple Judaism
- Types of Psalms
 - Praise (e.g. Ps 8)
 - Laments/Complaints (e.g. Ps 22)
 - Royal Psalms (e.g. Ps. 110)



15th cent manuscript of Psalm 1

Theology of Psalms

- Practical theology
 - not how people SHOULD act, but how they DO act
 - Full range of divine-human relations



Wisdom Literature

- Practical advice, BIG theological issues
 - Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes
 - In search of justice
 - making sense of the world
 - not secular, wisdom grounded in FEAR OF THE LORD
- “The Beginning of Wisdom is Fear of the Lord.” (Prov. 9:10a)



Proverbs

- To provide guidance
- Knowledge about God, world, human life
- Woman Wisdom’s vision of divine justice (e.g. Proverbs 8.32-36)

Job

- A theology of suffering
- The problem of evil/suffering
- The plot
 - The bet (ch. 1-2)
 - The punishments (ch. 2)
 - Job's curses his birth (ch. 3)
 - Exchanges with friends (4-37)
 - God speaks (ch. 38-41)
 - Job submits? (ch.42)
 - Job is vindicated (ch. 42)
- Divine justice?



"Job" by Jan Lievens

Job 42.1-6

Then Job answered the Lord:
I Know that you are capable of all things,
And that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?'
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
Things too wonderful for me which I do not know.
'Listen now, and I will speak,
I will question you and inform me.'
I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
But now my eye sees you.
Therefore I despise myself and repent in ashes and dust.

Ecclesiastes

- A negative/skeptical theology
- Emphasizes a single theme:
- Advice:

Vanity of vanities, says the
Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

Seeing and Hearing

- **Proverbs**
 - The hearing and seeing eye, the Lord has made them both. (20.12)
- **Job**
 - I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you. (42.5)
- **Ecclesiastes**
 - The eye is not satisfied with seeing. Nor is the ear filled with hearing. (1.8)

Conclusions

- **Which vision to choose? Proverbs? Job? Ecclesiastes? Psalms?**
- **The desire to know is sanctified**
- **Live according to the best of one's own knowledge**

BEHOLD THE BIBLE

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