

Wisdom

Introduction:

- The material was collected over a long time period
- The material is a mixture of: Narrative (Esther) and poetry (Psalms); Single authors (Job) & anthologies (Ps & Proverbs)
- The material is written by Jewish believers and apparently non-Jews too (Proverbs 22:17, 30:1, 31:1)

General observations

- Wisdom literature tells us about the way the world is (Proverbs)
- Wisdom literature tells us of our inability to understand the whole picture - we need Revelation (Ecclesiastes/Job)
- Wisdom literature complements the rest of the OT (Esther)

Psalms

Introductory observations...

- The Psalms are the longest book in the Bible.
- The Psalms are an '*anthology*' written over a long period of time (800yrs) and by many different writers.
- The Psalms are an '*anthology put together by an editor*'.
- Generally the Psalms move from '*gloomy to glad*'.

- There are some obvious groupings in the Psalms (42-49 The Sons of Korah; 73-83 The Sons of Asaph; 120-134 The Songs of Ascent; 146-150 The Hallelujah Psalms).
- The Psalms are poetic in style (Hyperbolic, Parallelism, Acrostic)
- Superscriptions are part of the Hebrew text (14 are linked to specific incidents in David's life)
- The Psalms are the most quoted book in the NT (110:1 is the most quoted text in the NT, 2 is the most quoted psalm in the NT)

How to read the Psalms:

- Read the Psalms understanding their historical setting (some can be pinpointed from the superscription, the text itself may provide the setting)
- Read the Psalms understanding that they were edited for the after-exile community!
- Read the Psalms knowing they all point to the LJ (Lk 24:44)
- Read the Psalms understanding that they are Scripture to change us!