

OT POETIC AND WISDOM LITERATURE  
—Distance Students COURSE REQUIREMENTS—  
2008-2009

READINGS

1. —C.H. Bullock. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Poetic Books*
2. —A **Commentary on Job** of your choice  
OR Read **10 Essays** in *Sitting with Job* (edited by Zuck) —completed by January 31  
(these essays offer scholarly insights into macro and micro issues)
3. —A **Commentary on Ecclesiastes** OR **Song of Songs** of your choice  
OR **10 Essays** in *Learning from the Sages* (edited by Zuck) —completed by February 28  
(these essays offer scholarly insights into macro and micro issues)
4. Poetic Books of the Bible  
Try reading the Bible in a modern version that emphasizes literary style: e.g., NIV or NKJV
  - a. —Book of Job; by Thanksgiving
  - b. —Book of Psalms; by Christmas
  - c. —Book of Proverbs; by January 15
  - d. —Book of Ecclesiastes; by Presidents Day
  - e. —Book of Song of Songs; by March 15

For a reinforced overview of the course material, you may also substitute Kidner, *The Wisdom of Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes*, for one of the above commentary assignments

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

You will get to do a brief RESEARCH REPORT on each of the five poetic books. This may be an exposition of a passage that has caught your interest, a thematic study, a survey, or a comparative word study focusing mainly on how the word (or phrase) is used within that particular book (or by that author).

Plan on about two pages of material, either in written or outline form. Include a list of works cited. A few topics are suggested below:

- The Date of Job's authorship: survey the arguments for the patriarchal and for the Solomonic era dates
- A survey of the Theology of Job
- Progressive revelation in Job: its relation and contribution to the flow of OT doctrine; e.g., Satan, mediation between God and man, and the resurrection
- The Psalms Titles: their purpose, classifications, and authenticity (viz., are they inspired?)
- Imprecations in the Psalms (and comparative sacred lit.): survey the history of their interpretation, and, on the basis of the analogy of faith, come up with a reasonable

- understanding of their place in the holy writ
- Messianic Psalms: pick one of the following for an exegetical study:  
2,8,[16,89,132],22,40,[45,102],[69,109],72,110; be sure to reference NT usage
  - A Thematic study in the Book of Proverbs; catalog and synthesize a major theme in Proverbs;  
show the teaching's importance in that day and in ours
  - Ecclesiastes and Canonicity; survey the question and its time of discussion that surrounded the  
recognition of this oracle.
  - The History of Interpretation of the Song of Solomon
  - YOU choose a topic; check with instructor

## MEMORIZATION

Get a head start on these memory verses. We will recite them in residence in June.

- Job 19:25,26
- Psalm 100:2,4
- Proverbs 1:7 and 9:10
- Ecclesiastes 12:13,14
- Song 8:7

## EXAMS

There will be three closed-book **EXAMS** over the notes.

Test I covers introductory material through Job. Due 1<sup>st</sup> week of March

Test II covers notes on the book of Psalms. Due 1<sup>st</sup> week of April

Test III covers Proverbs through Song of Songs. Due 1<sup>st</sup> week of May

There will be seven open-book, **QUIZZES** covering each chapter of Bullock.

<u>GRADING</u>	Exams - 55%	Oral Exam - 5%
	Reading - 15%	Memorization - 5%
	Research Reports - 15%	Quizzes - 5%