

OT Poets Study Questions

Test #1: Introduction–Job

Identify/Define

1. Poetry
2. Lyric Poetry (with examples)
3. Didactic Poetry (with examples)
4. Synonymous Parallelism (with example)
5. Antithetical Parallelism (with example)
6. Synthetic Parallelism (with example)
7. Chiastic Parallelism (with example)
8. The main element of Hebrew poetry
9. Meaning of Satan
10. Three OT “books of truth”
11. Robert Lowth
12. Examples of NT wisdom literature
13. Natural theology and its relation to wisdom lit.
14. Possible meaning of Job’s name
15. Theodicy
16. Mythopoetic language of Job
17. Architectonic structure of Job

Essay/Listing

1. Why was Hebrew poetry not given attention by Christian scholars until the last two centuries?
2. Define biblical wisdom, with examples of how the word wisdom is used differently in the Bible. Be sure to give the theological meaning from Proverbs.
3. What are the main OT wisdom books and intertestamental wisdom books?
4. Compare/contrast wisdom literature to prophetic and Mosaic literature. Also, be sure to contrast the audiences of each category.
5. List/define several literary forms of wisdom literature.
6. Know the major conservative dates of the writing of Job with supporting arguments
7. In what ways is the shape of Job’s Epilogue/Prologue different from the rest of the book?
8. Summarize the purpose of the book of Job.
9. Detail the “trial within a trial” structure of Job. Show how the trials interconnect and the outcome of each. Give implications of the message of Job coming out of the two trials.
10. Explain how Job is portrayed as a universal representative of suffering.

Test #2: Psalms

Essay

1. Give a reason from tradition why the Psalter is organized into five sub-books. What common element is found at the end of each sub-book?
2. When God is viewed as Redeemer in the Psalms, what is the major event in sacred history that is often rehearsed?
3. How do the imprecations in the Psalms harmonize with NT theology of grace/forgiveness?
4. How can we classify different Messianic Psalms?
5. What is the theology of the Psalms regarding man?
6. What is the eschatology of the Psalms? How does its picture of end times compare to later writings in the prophets and NT?

Identify

1. Tehellim
2. Mizmor
3. Etymology of *Psalmoi*
4. J.W. Thirtle
5. Orphan Psalms
6. Imprecations
7. Psalms of Lament
8. Psalms of Ascent (with various meanings and explanations of the category title)
9. Psalm 151
10. Hallel Psalms
11. “responsive” and “constitutive” praise

Test #3: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

Identify

1. proverb
2. folk proverbs
3. gnomic proverbs
4. numerical collocation
5. Amenemope
6. hypostatization of God
7. Qoheleth
8. wasf

1. What important part of Proverbs is a Bible acrostic? Why are acrostics used in the Bible?
2. How does the form of the proverb fit the purpose of a proverb?
3. Which NT writer most quotes the book of Proverbs?
4. What is the significance of James 4:5,6 for the canonicity of Proverbs?
5. How many proverbs did Solomon know?
6. Hebrew has several terms for “fool.” What do these terms in Proverbs pretty well have in common?
7. What is the major acrostic in Proverbs?
8. Argue the Solomonic authorship of Ecclesiastes.
9. What is the main theme of Ecclesiastes? What are the keys in the book for determining the book’s unified theological purpose?
10. Show parallels between the message of Eccl. and the opening chapters of Genesis.
11. What two NT passages allude to Eccl.?
12. At what festival was Song of Songs read? Suggest why (see Song, chpt. 8).
13. Give indications of Solomonic authorship of Song of Songs.
14. Describe three main interpretations of the Song of Songs.
15. Describe the two character and the three character views of the Song of Songs.
16. What is the wisdom theme of the Song of Songs?