

The Gospel Concealed: The Old Testament

Week 6: God Guides – Psalms and Wisdom Literature

The new is in the old concealed; the old is in the new revealed. -St. Augustine

Discussion

- What is the best advice you have ever been given by a friend or family member?
- What is one area in your life where you could use wisdom and guidance right now?

The Psalms and Wisdom Literature: Art, Not Science

- Example: “The Art of Biblical Poetry” by The BibleProject
- Example: D.A. Carson and the theology of suffering in *How Long O Lord?*

The Psalms sanctify our **hearts** towards God – all of our affections, emotions, and expressions become oriented towards “true north,” the majestic, righteous, gracious person and work of God.

Psalm 90

A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.

90 Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.

² Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

³ You return man to dust
and say, “Return, O children of man!”

⁴ For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.

⁵ You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a
dream,

like grass that is renewed in the morning;

⁶ in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.

⁷ For we are brought to an end by your anger;
by your wrath we are dismayed.

⁸ You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

⁹ For all our days pass away under your wrath;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰ The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason of strength eighty;
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.

¹¹ Who considers the power of your anger,
and your wrath according to the fear of you?

¹² So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.

¹³ Return, O LORD! How long?
Have pity on your servants!

¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

¹⁵ Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted
us,

and for as many years as we have seen evil.

¹⁶ Let your work be shown to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.

¹⁷ Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!

Discussion:

- What Psalm(s) have ministered greatly to your life and why?

What is wisdom literature?

- Genre: Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs
- Key themes: Fear of the LORD, righteous living, suffering, worship
- “Life in ancient Israel is not three miracles a day and a new holy war each week. Most people live their lives while God does no new thing.” -Graeme Goldsworthy

How do we read the book of Proverbs?

(Virtue)

Whoever walks in integrity walks securely,
but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out. (Proverbs 10:9)

(Relationships)

Oil and perfume make the heart glad,
and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel. (Proverbs 27:9)

(Speech)

If one gives an answer before he hears,
it is his folly and shame. (Proverbs 18:13)

(Emotions)

A hot-tempered man stirs up strife,
but he who is slow to anger quiets contention. (Proverbs 15:18)

(Money)

A slack hand causes poverty,
but the hand of the diligent makes rich. (Proverbs 10:4)

- _____, not promise...
- Wisdom, not _____...

The Gospel Concealed – Case Study # 5

Jesus Christ as Wisdom Incarnate

Matthew 2:7-12: ⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Matthew 7:24-27: ²⁴ “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

1 Corinthians 1:30: ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption