

## Lenten Bible Study Pt 2 Wisdom Books

- The Wisdom or “Sapiential” Books *at least* include Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. In the Hebrew Bible, the Wisdom Books are Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs (or Song of Solomon), the Book of Wisdom and Sirach (or Ecclesiasticus). The Book of Wisdom and Sirach are apocryphal in Protestantism, or books that are not “canonical” (weren’t agreed on by most theologians as authoritative), although apocryphal books are still a part of many Protestant lectionaries because they have godly wisdom.
- The “Ketuvim” (Hebrew “writings”) is the third and last section of the Hebrew Bible (or “Tanakh”). In this grouping, the books of Ruth and Esther, as well as Lamentations, also appear with the wisdom books. Additionally, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah and Chronicles are a subset of the Ketuvim.
- The Greek noun for wisdom is “Sophia”. Some theologians, especially Eastern Orthodox mystics, have argued that Sophia is the “essence” of the Trinity, or that which binds the Trinity together.

### Questions:

1. In the book of Job (Job 42: 7-17), Job’s counselors, Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar, are rebuked by God. How might their rebuke affect how we pastor or mentor others in times of suffering?
2. There are 150 Psalms. The book of Psalm is also called the Psalter. What makes the Psalter unique?
3. Several theologians view Sophia as the “fourth person of the Trinity”. What do you think of this? How would this change our conception of God?
4. Why would the books of Ruth and Esther be grouped in the Hebrew Bible among the wisdom books? Do you agree with this grouping, or do you see them as different than the “main” wisdom books: Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes?
5. Do Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes offer conflicting, or complimentary, definitions of wisdom?