

## Worksheet 3: Exilic Books & Job

- What did Yahweh-followers mean when they spoke about “wisdom” and being “wise”? Some clues may be found in Proverbs 1.2-5 by reflecting on the synonyms that are used to express the concept of wisdom.

As you read Hebrew wisdom literature—Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes—is there any evidence that the authors believed there is a degree of wisdom available to all of humanity by means of common grace in human experience? And is there any evidence that these authors believed that there is a degree of wisdom available only by means of a special grace of revelation by God’s Spirit?

As you read wisdom lit., take note of the different literary forms of wisdom lit. (e.g., compare and contrast the form of Proverbs 2.1-22 with that of Proverbs 22)

- Read *IOT* on Ezra/Nehemiah, Esther & Job
- Read *IHB* on Ezra/Nehemiah, Esther & Job
- Using the Historical Synopsis and *IHB* pp. 134-137, write an article (500-word or less) describing the socio-political setting of Ezra/Nehemiah & Esther.
- Read Ezra/Nehemiah, Esther, each at one sitting and write up your reflections and insights
- Read Job at one sitting and write up your reflections and insights.
- Shepherd-Leadership

Discuss the five most significant things you learned regarding the shepherd metaphor as used in the Hebrew Bible in its ANE setting. (SAMOH chs 1-3)

Write a brief (less than 500 words) article reflecting on Yahweh as Shepherd-Leader in the Torah (cp. SAMOH, pp. 77-87) as foundational to the theology of the Disciple’s Prayer (Matt 6:9-13; Lk 11:2-4).

When the first audience hears Mark describe Jesus’ compassion for the multitudes “because they were like sheep without a shepherd” (Mk 6:34), to what episode in the Torah narrative does their mind go? (Num 27:17) And in that episode in the Torah, what is the one leadership quality that is highlighted? (the Spirit of God is in him)

Taking 1 Samuel 17 as a case study in Shepherd-leadership, how is this real-life shepherd (v. 15) characterized as a leader? Discuss the qualities/characteristics/characterizations that the narrator includes in the story which impact David’s leadership. (humility (v.15, 37), availability (v. 15, 17-18), responsibility (34), seeking the lost (v. 35), protective (v. 34-35), courage (v. 22, 34-36), faith (v. 37, 45-46)) And in what ways does the narrator highlight God and His role in the story? (sovereign power, glory among the peoples, honor of God’s name)