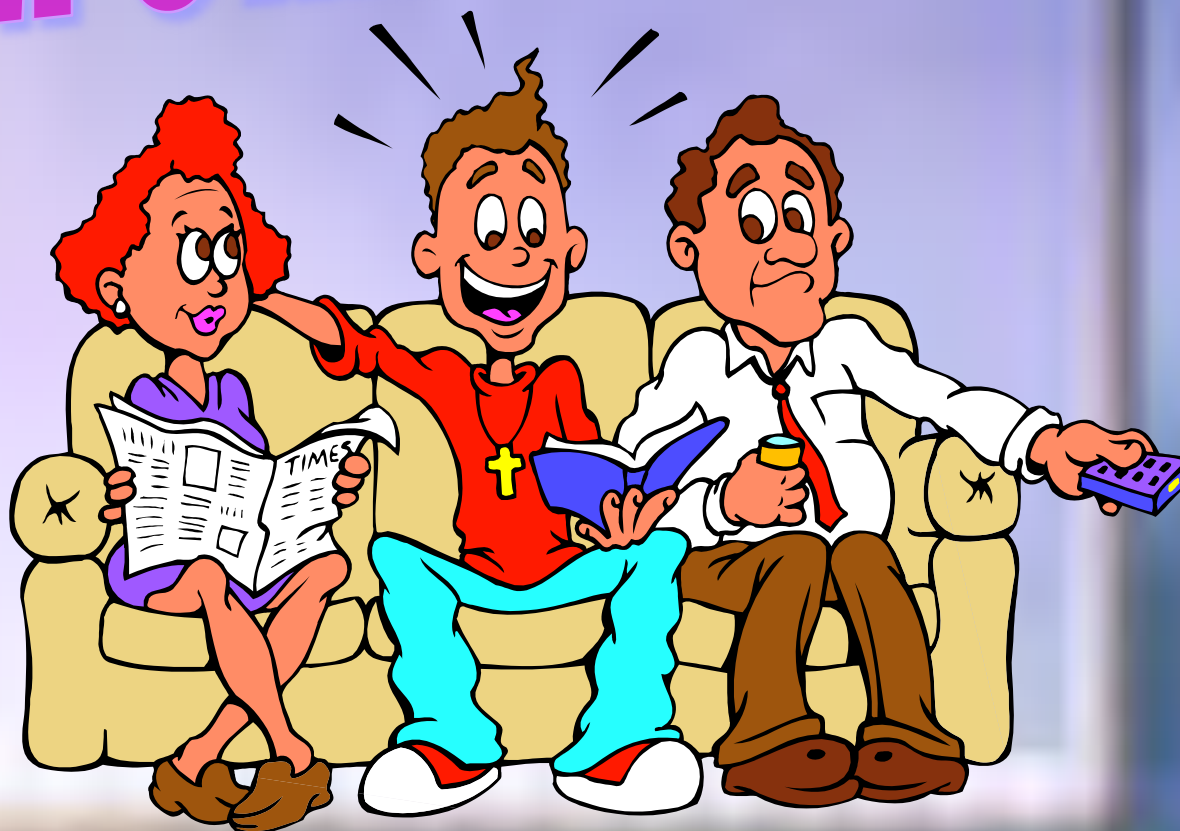


Wisdom & Poetry



WISDOM CHALLENGE



**Who of the following is not
Job's friend?**

A. Eliphaz

B. Bildad

C. Bilphaz

D. Zophar

What is the key word of the book Ecclesiastes?

A. Enjoyment

B. Meaningless

C. Fearfulness

D. Powerless

The following letters form the key
word for the Book of Proverbs.
What is the word?

W I S D O M



**How many OT books are
considered Wisdom Books?**

A. 5

B. 4

C. 3

D. 6

Which of the following books does not belong to the same category?

A. Song of Songs

B. Ecclesiastes

C. Job

D. Proverbs

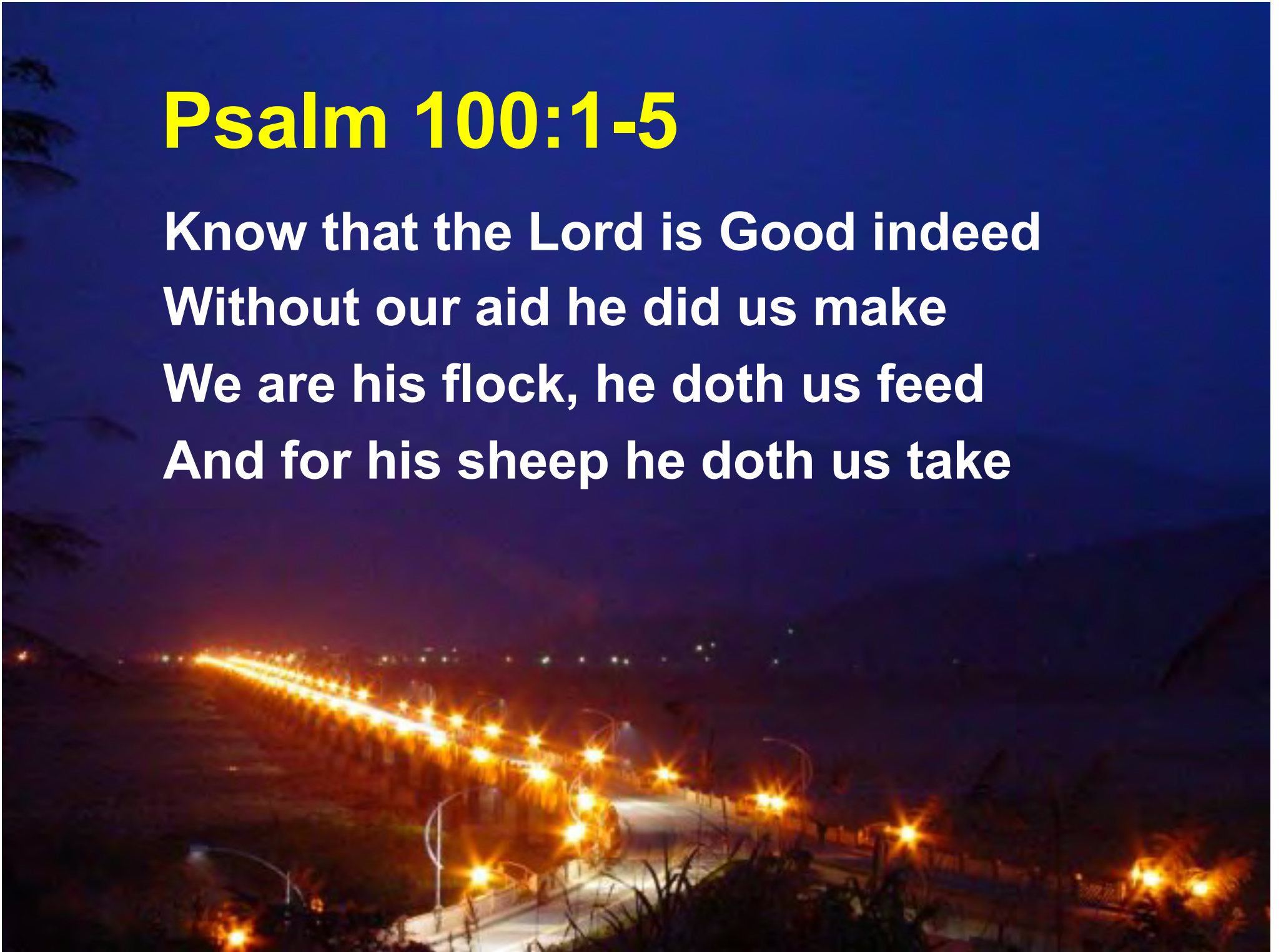
Song of Songs
This book is not a wisdom book.

Psalm 100:1-5

**All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell;
Come ye before Him and rejoice.**

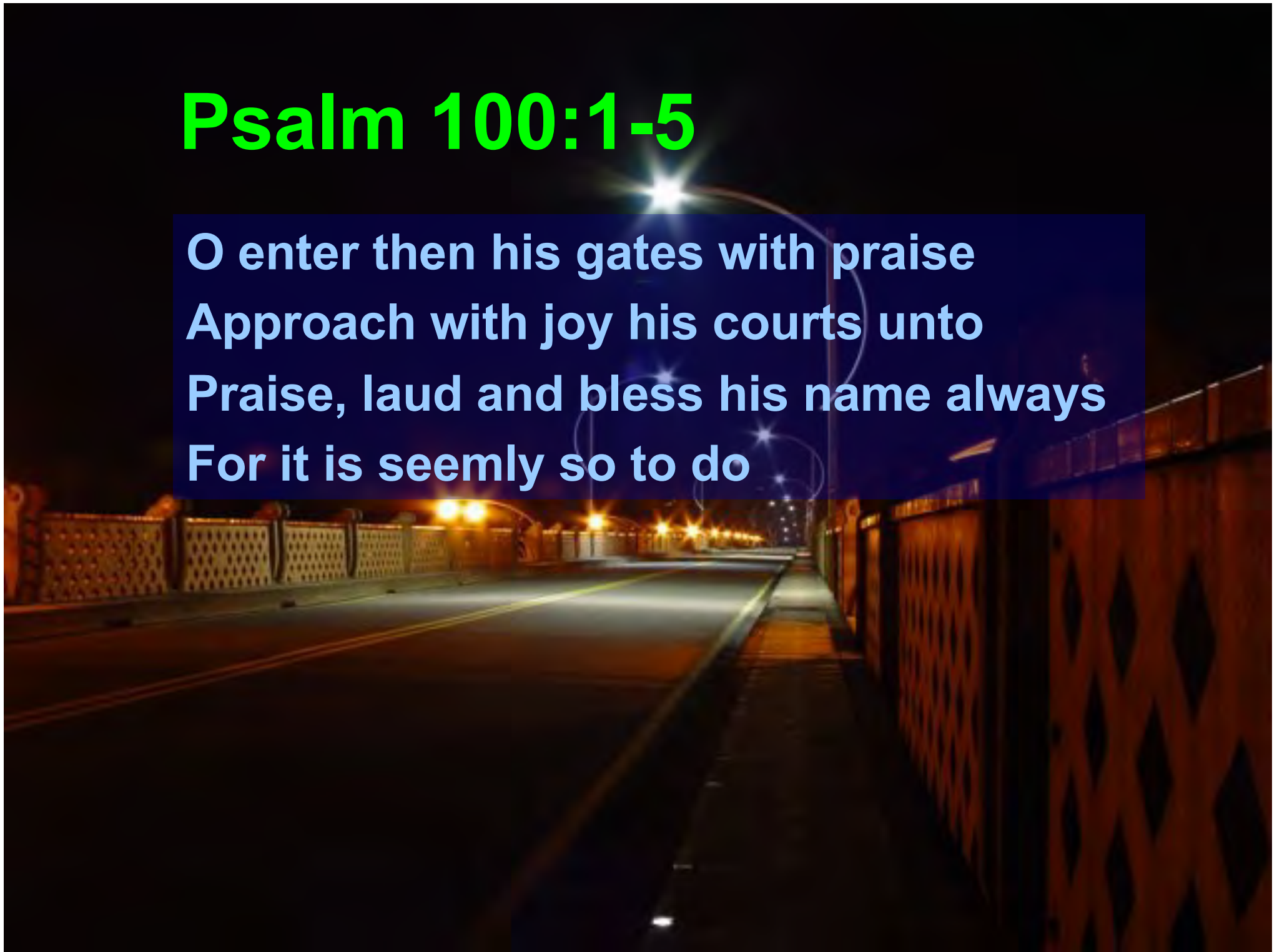
Psalm 100:1-5

Know that the Lord is Good indeed
Without our aid he did us make
We are his flock, he doth us feed
And for his sheep he doth us take



Psalm 100:1-5

O enter then his gates with praise
Approach with joy his courts unto
Praise, laud and bless his name always
For it is seemly so to do



Psalm 100:1-5

**For why the Lord our God is good
His mercy is for ever sure
His truth at all times firmly stood
And shall from age to age endure**

OBJECTIVES

- **Characteristics of Wisdom Books**
- **Overview of each Wisdom Book**
- **Contrasts between Wisdom Books**
- **Applications**

The Books of the Bible

Old Testament

LAW

GENESIS

EXODUS

LEVITICUS

NUMBERS

DEUTERONOMY

HISTORY

JOSHUA

JUDGES

RUTH

I SAMUEL

II SAMUEL

I KINGS

II KINGS

I CHRONICLES

II CHRONICLES

EZRA

NEHEMIAH

ESTHER

JOB

THE PSALMS

PROVERBS

ECCLESIASTES

THE SONG OF SONGS

MAJORS

PROPHETS

MINORS

ISAIAH

JEREMIAH

LAMENTATIONS

EZEKIEL

DANIEL

HOSEA

JOEL

AMOS

OBADIAH

JONAH

MICAH

NAHUM

HABAKKUK

ZEPHANIAH

HAGGAI

ZECCHARIAH

MALACHI

New Testament

MATTHEW

MARK

LUKE

JOHN

THE ACTS

ROMANS

I CORINTHIANS

II CORINTHIANS

GALATIANS

EPHESIANS

PHILIPPIANS

COLOSSIANS

I THESSALONIANS

II THESSALONIANS

I TIMOTHY

II TIMOTHY

TITUS

PHILEMON

HEBREWS

JAMES

I PETER

II PETER

I JOHN

II JOHN

III JOHN

JUDE

REVELATION

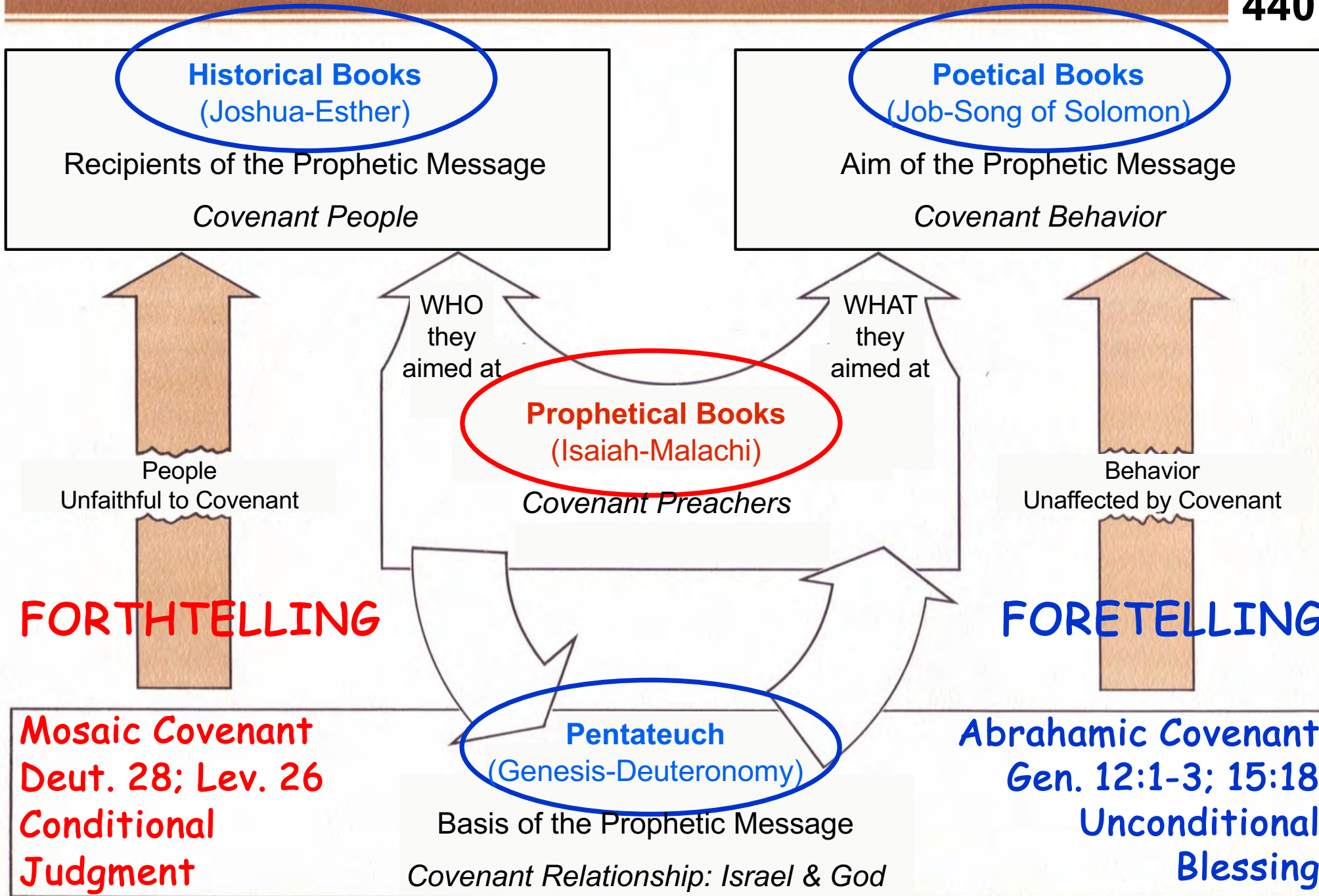
HISTORY

EPISTLES

GEN. EPISTLES

Purpose of the Prophetic Books

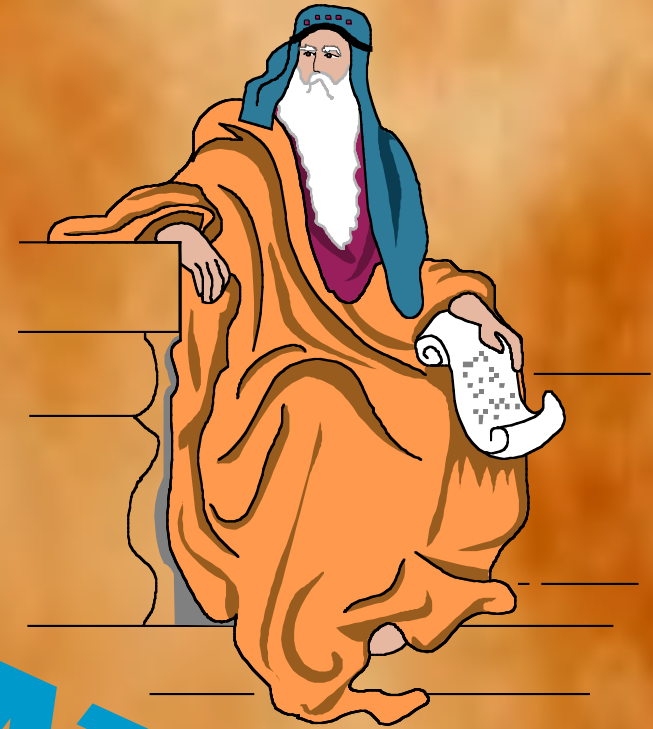
50b
440



CHARACTERISTICS



Differences



What is Poetry?

**In the next 30 seconds define poetry to
the person next to you**



POETRY



Ancient Near Eastern Wisdom Literature

**The Nations had Wisdom Teachers:
Wise men of Mesopotamia, Canaan and
Egypt were compared with Solomon.**

Divided into instructional & discourse:

- **Egyptian Instructional Wisdom**
- **Mesopotamian Discursive Wisdom**

History

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

POETRY

Job

Psalms

Proverbs

Ecclesiastes

Song of Solomon



Prophecy

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

Wisdom vs Poetic

351

Contents of Writing → *Style of Writing*

Principles to live by → *Repetition of Thought*

Logic (argument,
intellect, mind) → *Total Being*

Job, Proverbs,
Ecclesiastes → *Job, Proverbs,
Ecclesiastes, Psalms,
Song of Songs*

Smaller Category
(Subset) → *Larger Category*

Ecclesiastes.....Vanity

“Wisdom can
overcome life’s vanities”

Song.....Love in Marriage

“Wisdom can
maintain a godly marriage”

Proverbs 30:31 “Charm is
deceitful and beauty is
vain, but a woman who
fears the LORD will be
praised.”

Proverbs.....Wisdom

“The fear of the LORD
is the beginning of wisdom.”

Proverbs 5:18 “Let
your fountain be
blessed, and rejoice in
the wife of your
youth.”

Psalms 111:10 “The fear of the LORD is the
beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have
all those who do His commandments...”

Psalms.....Worship

“Worship develops the
fear of the LORD”

Job 42:2 “I know that You can do all things, and
that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.”

Job.....Sovereignty

“Seeing God’s Sovereignty
causes us to worship”

**Walk
Thru
the
Poetical
Books**

Source:
Walk Thru the
Bible Ministries

Job: how to suffer
Psalms: how to pray
Proverbs: how to relate
Song: how to love
Ecclesiastes: how to live

A photograph of a dirt path in a forest. The path is made of reddish-brown earth and leads into the distance. On the right side of the path, there is a rustic wooden fence made of horizontal logs. Behind the fence, there are lush green ferns and other forest plants. The background is filled with tall, thin trees and dense foliage, creating a serene and natural setting.

The OT Poetic Books

Contrasts

402b

PROVERBS

ECCLESIASTES

Challenges of life

Meaning of life

Practical advice

Philosophical musings

How to live for God

Why to live for God

Ideals

Reality

Several authors

One man's testimony

Godly wisdom only

Godly and worldly wisdom

Positive

Negative

General

Exceptions

Present orientation

Eternal orientation

Black & white orientation

Gray areas

Wisdom praised

Wisdom doubted

Characteristics of Hebrew Poetry

1. Stress Patterns (not rhymes)
2. Evocative language
3. Acrostic Arrangement
4. Thought Rhyme

The Key: Hebrew Parallelism

390
P 13

"the repetition of
meaning in parallel
expressions"
(Ross, *BKC*, 1:780)

What is
Parallelism?



Synonymous: 2nd line restates the 1st in the same or similar form

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Psalm 2:3

**"Let us break their chains," they say,
"and throw off their fetters."**

Synonymous: 2nd line restates the 1st in the same or similar form

Psalm 2:3

"Let us **break** their chains," they say,
"and **throw off** their fetters."

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Psalm 2:3

"Let us **break** their **chains**," they say,
"and **throw off** their **fetters**."

Psalm 10:1

"Why, O LORD, do you stand far off?
Why do you hide yourself
in times of trouble?"

Synonymous: 2nd line restates the 1st in the same or similar form

Psalm 2:3

"Let us **break** their **chains**," they say,
"and **throw off** their **fetters**."

Psalm 10:1

"Why, O **LORD**, do you stand far off?
Why do **you** hide yourself
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Synonymous: 2nd line restates the 1st in the same or similar form

Psalm 2:3

"Let us **break** their **chains**," they say,
"and **throw off** their **fetters**."

Psalm 10:1

"Why, O **LORD**, do you **stand far off**?
Why do **you** **hide** yourself
in times of trouble?"

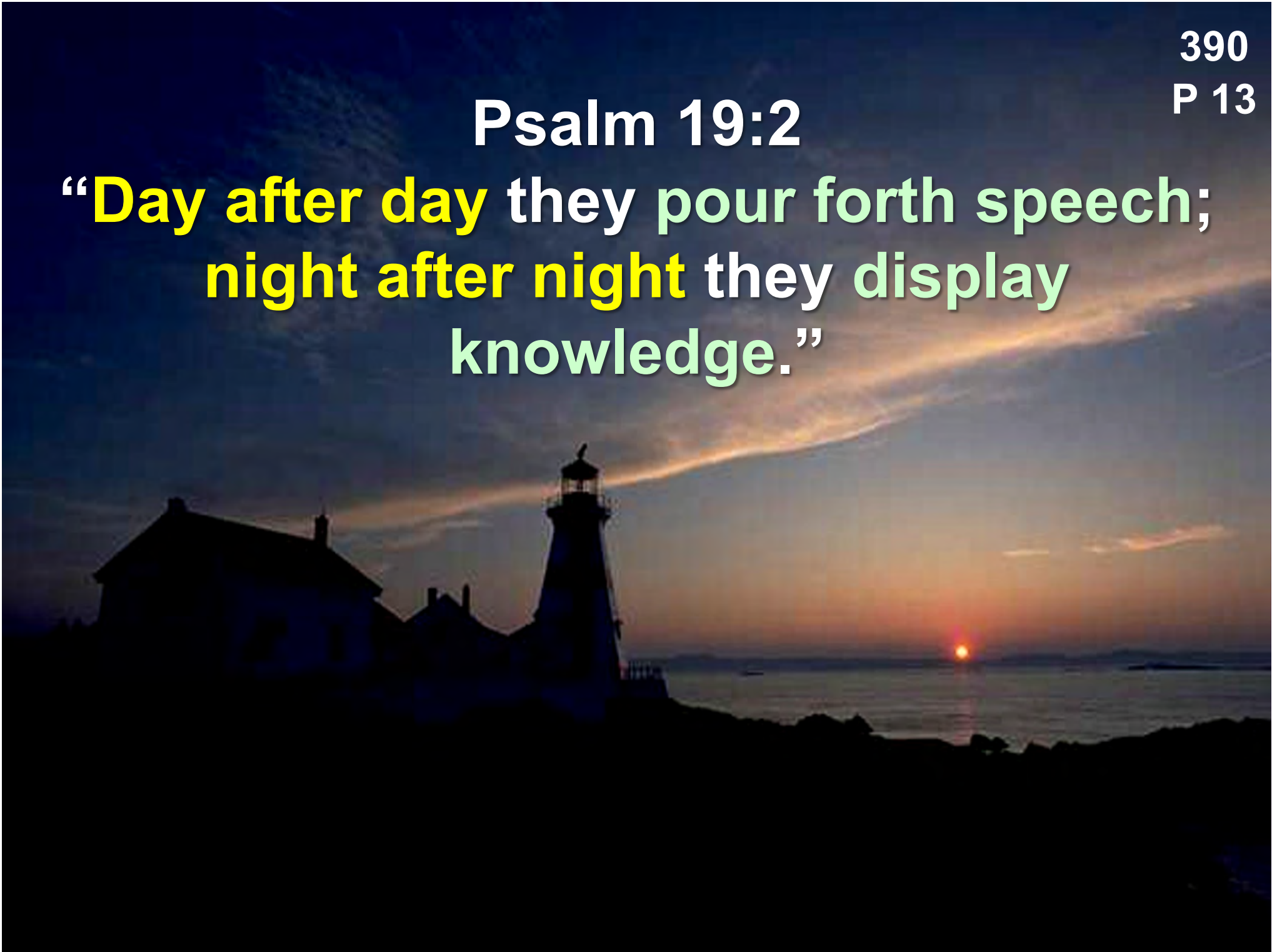
Psalm 19:2

**“Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they display
knowledge.”**



Psalm 19:2

**“Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they display
knowledge.”**



Psalm 27:1

**“The LORD is my light and my
salvation—whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid?”**

Psalm 27:1

“**The LORD** is my light and my
salvation—whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life
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Psalm 27:1

“**The LORD** is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

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Psalm 27:1

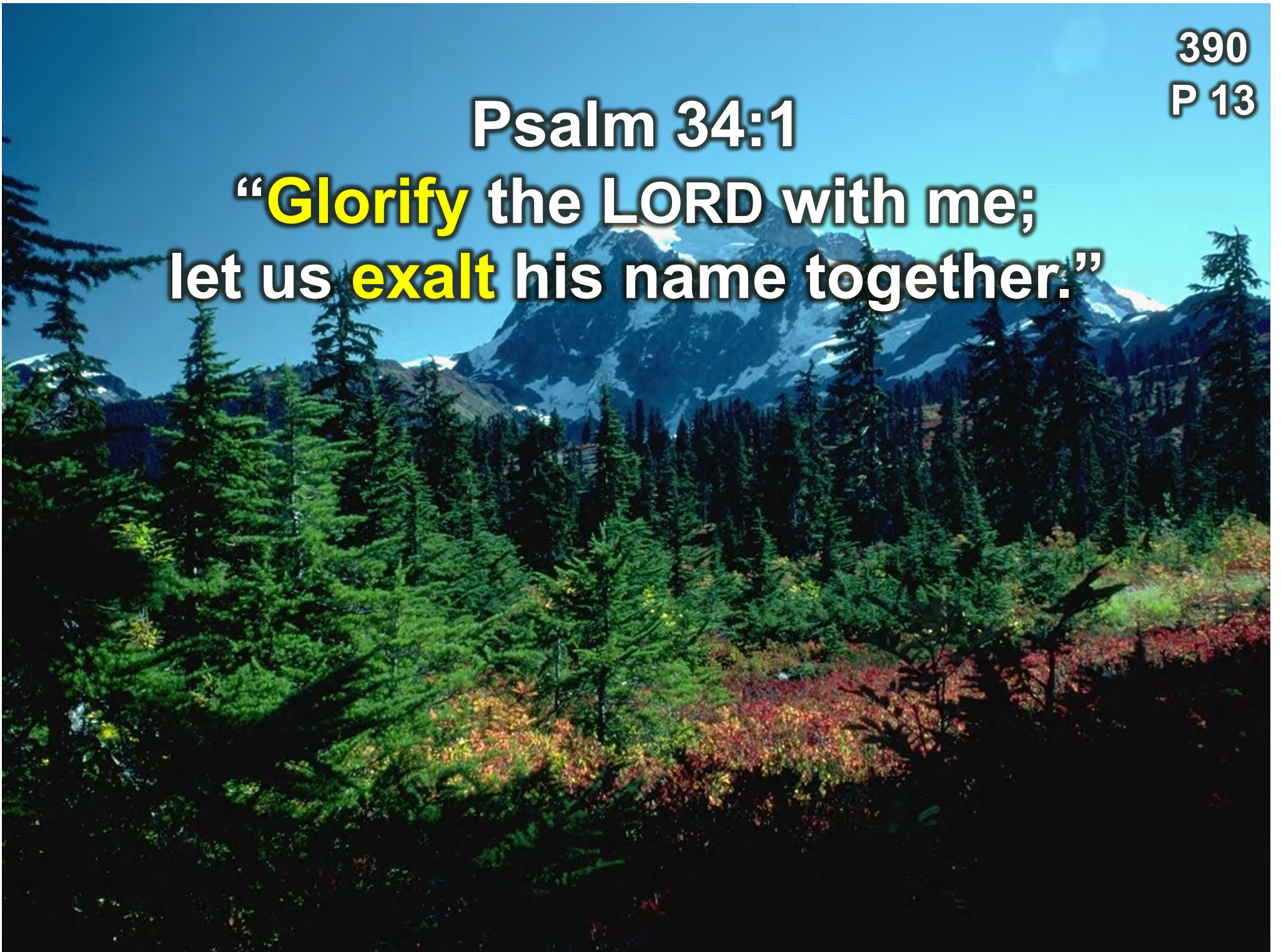
“**The LORD** is my light and my
salvation—whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life
—of whom shall I be afraid?”

Psalm 34:1
**“Glorify the LORD with me;
let us exalt his name together.”**



Psalm 34:1

“Glorify the LORD with me;
let us **exalt** his name together.”



Psalm 34:1
“**Glorify** the **LORD** with me;
let us **exalt** his **name** together.”



Psalm 34:1

“Glorify the **LORD** with me;
let us **exalt** his **name** together.”



Antithetic: 2nd line offers a contrast of thought to the 1st

Psalm 1:6

**“For the LORD watches over the way
of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.”**

**Antithetic: 2nd line offers a contrast
of thought to the 1st**

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Psalm 1:6

“For the LORD **watches over the way of the righteous,
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**Antithetic: 2nd line offers a
contrast of thought to the 1st**

Psalm 37:9

**“For evil men will be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD
will inherit the land.”**



**Antithetic: 2nd line offers a
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**Antithetic: 2nd line offers a
contrast of thought to the 1st**

Psalm 37:9

**“For evil men will be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD
will inherit the land.”**

Emblematic: 2nd line reproduces the 1st line by metaphorical comparison

Psalm 1:4

**“Not so the wicked!
They are like chaff
that the wind blows away.”**

Synthetic (Incomplete with Compensation): 2nd line develops the thought of the 1st line

Psalm 95:3

**“For the LORD is the great God,
the great King above all gods.”**

**Synthetic Climatic: 2nd line repeats
the first, but omits the last term**

Psalm 29:1-2

**“Ascribe to the LORD, O mighty ones,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.**

**Ascribe to the LORD the glory
due his name;
worship the LORD in the splendor
of his holiness.”**

Synthetic (Incomplete without Compensation): lines of different length with only some terms parallel

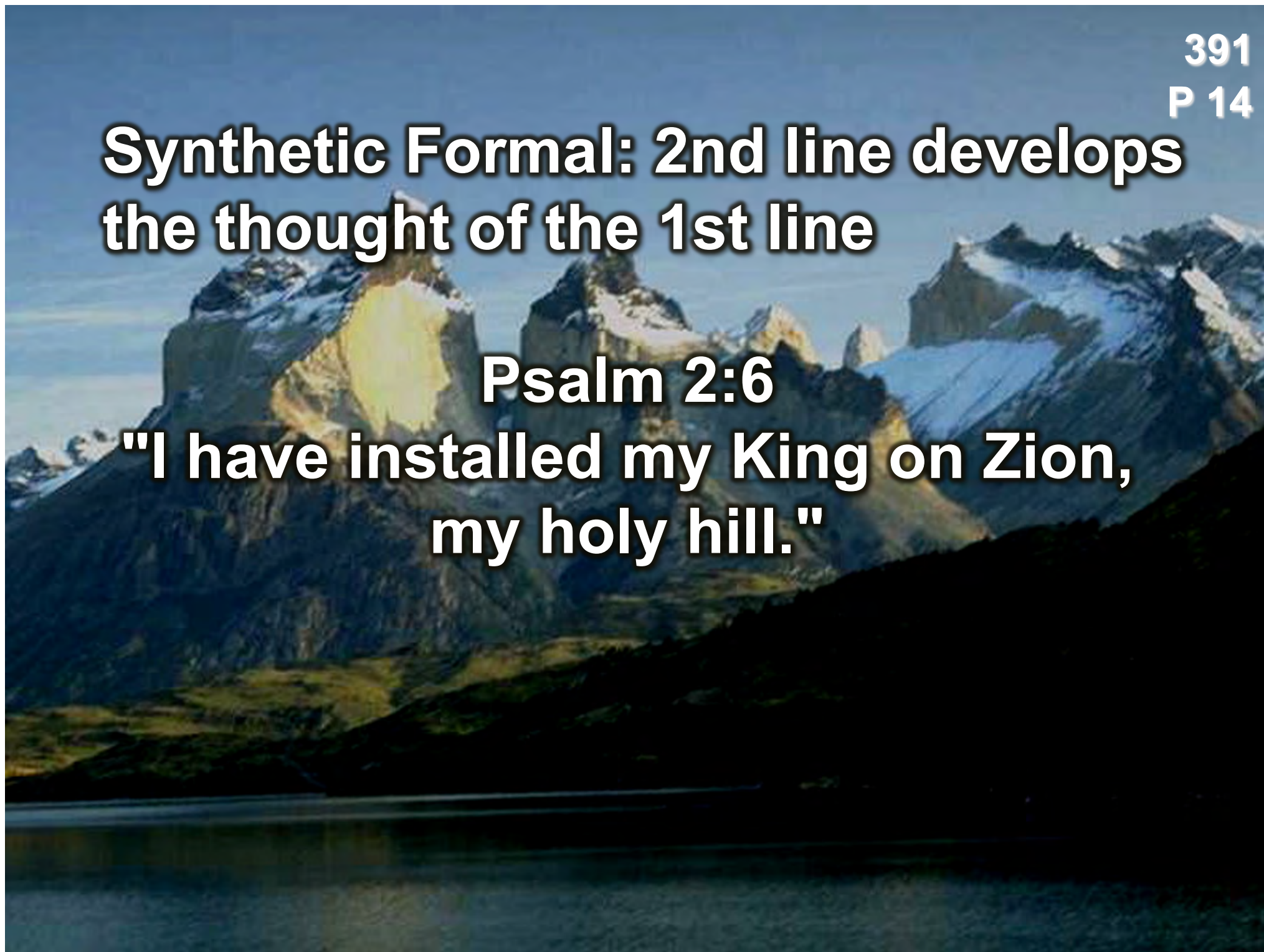
Psalm 6:1

**"O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your
anger
or discipline me in Your wrath."**

**Synthetic Formal: 2nd line develops
the thought of the 1st line**

Psalm 2:6

**"I have installed my King on Zion,
my holy hill."**



PARALLELISM

“Then He rebukes them in his anger
And in his wrath he terrifies them.”

(Psalm 2:5)

Semantic parallelism:

rebukes and terrifies

anger and wrath are *parallel in meaning*

Grammatical parallelism:

Verb -- direct object -- prepositional phrase

Prepositional phrase -- verb -- direct object

Tips for Interpreting the Psalms

391
P 14

- A. Pay attention to structure**
- B. Summarize the psalm in a sentence (p. 387)**
- C. Consider titles and background information in their superscriptions**
- D. Classify the psalm using Lindsey's p. 386**
- E. Interpret the psalm's incomplete theology in light of NT revelation (e.g., Ps. 51:11)**
- F. Reword figures of speech and parallelisms**
- G. Use NT allusions and/or quotations but don't read back into the text what the OT author would not have understood (e.g., Ps. 16:10 expanded in Acts 2:25-31)**

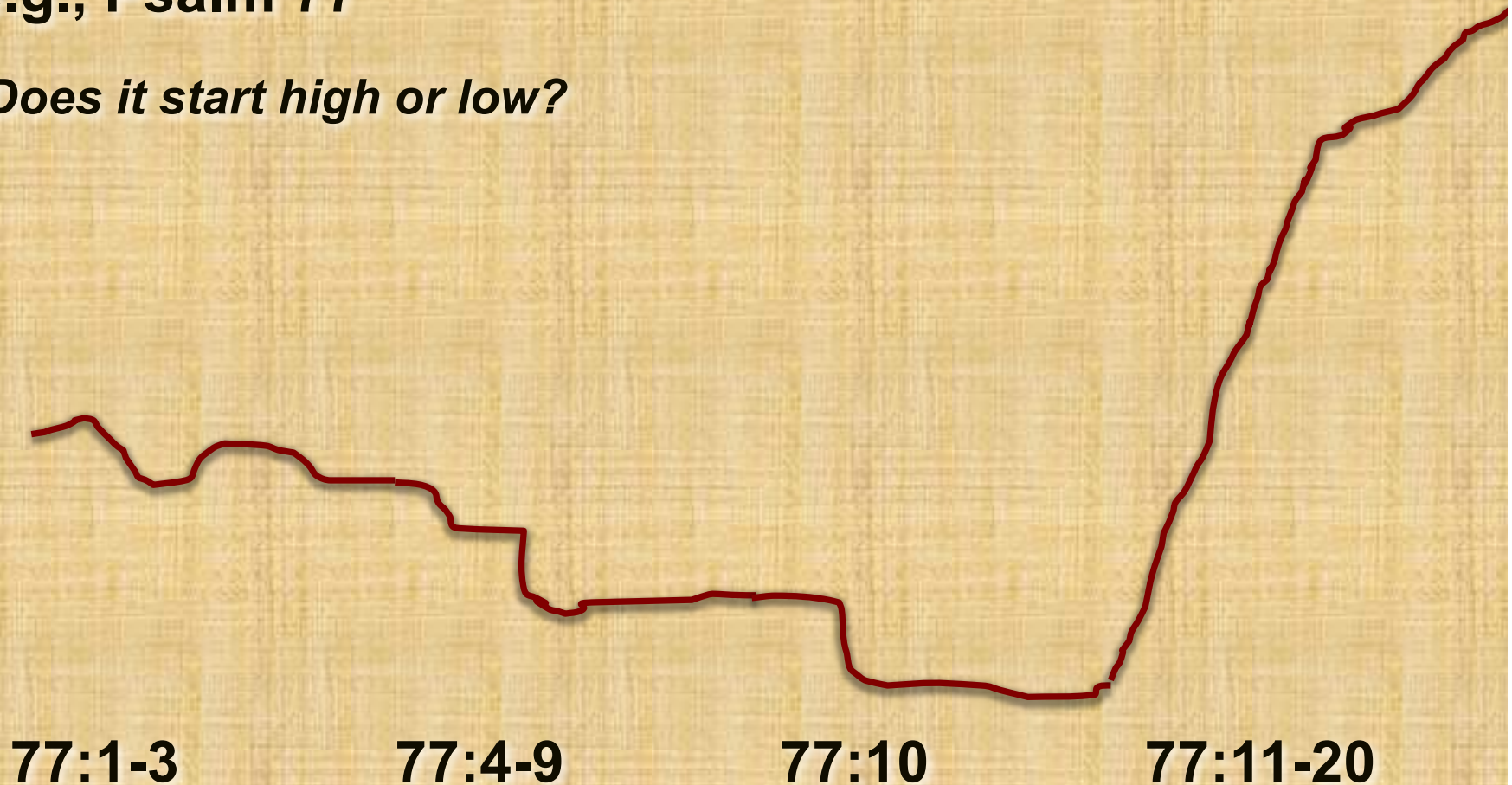
Tips for Interpreting the Psalms

391
P 14

- H. Read psalms slowly (in our speed-reading day).
- I. Graph the emotional outline of the psalm.

e.g., Psalm 77

Does it start high or low?



Unlocking Figures of Speech...

A close-up photograph of a keyhole in a heavily rusted, brown metal door. The keyhole is shaped like a traditional keyhole, with a circular top and a narrow, tapered bottom. Through the keyhole, a blurred view of a green landscape with a blue sky is visible. The text "Unlocking Figures of Speech..." is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.



Simile

392
P 15

Formal comparison between two different objects where one is likened to another.

Psalm 42:1

“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God.”

Metaphor

392
P 15

A figure of speech containing an implied comparison between two different objects.

Psalm 27:1

“The LORD is my light and my salvation—The LORD is the stronghold of my life.”

Hyperbole

392
P 15

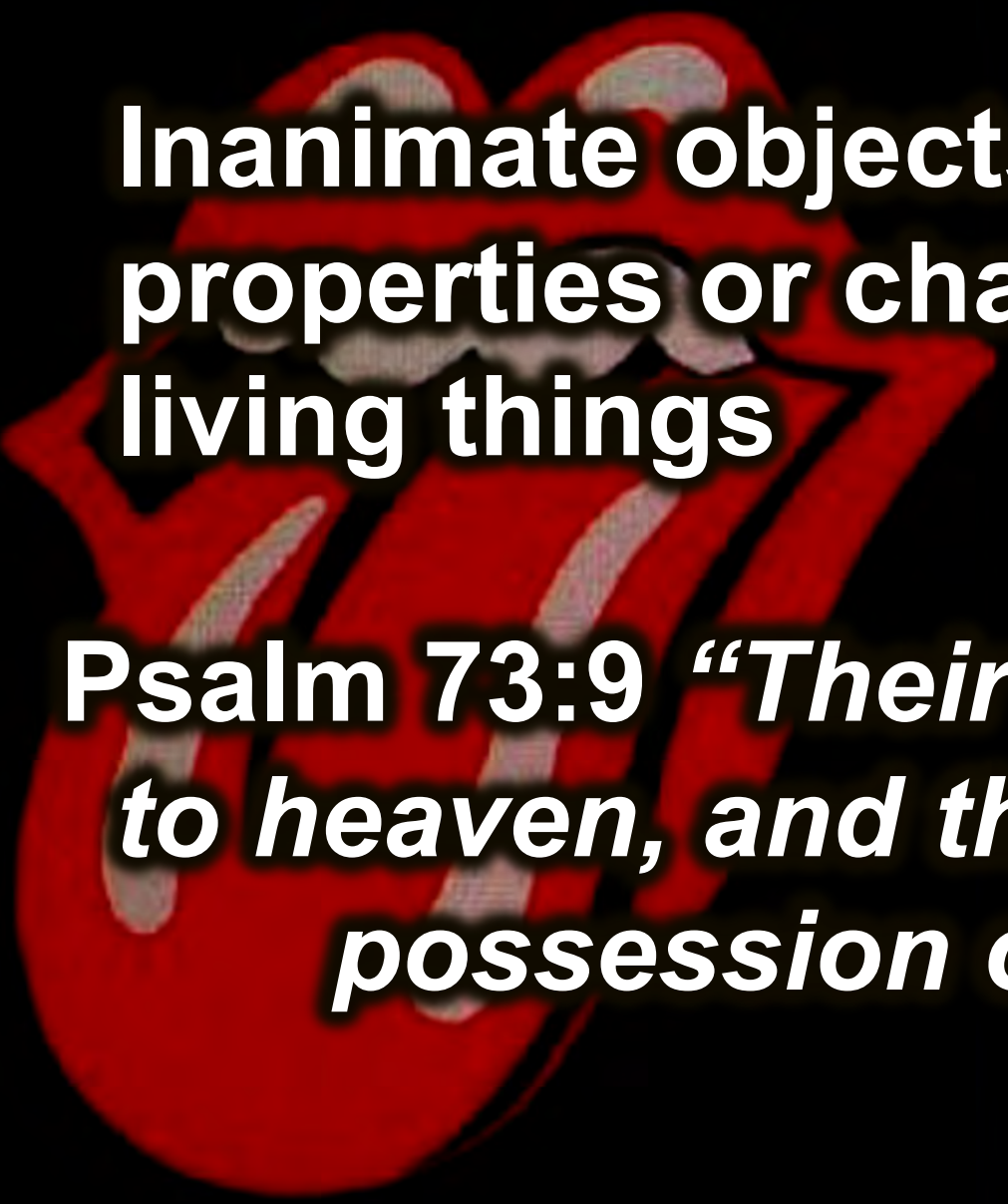
**When more is said than is
literally meant; exaggeration.**

Psalm 6:6

***“I am worn out from groaning;
all night long I flood my bed with
weeping and drench my couch with
tears.”***

Personification

392
P 15



Inanimate objects are given
properties or characteristics of
living things

Psalm 73:9 *“Their mouths lay claim
to heaven, and their tongues take
possession of the earth.”*

Personification

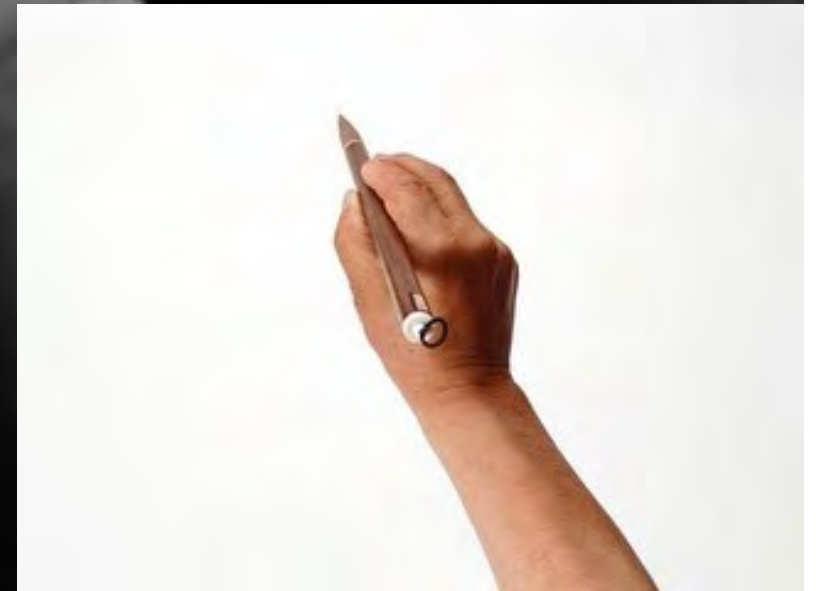
392

P 15

**Inanimate objects given
properties or characteristics
of living things**

Psalm 137:5

***“If I forget you,
O Jerusalem,
may my right hand
forget its skill.”***



IMAGERY

**“The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.”**

(Ps. 23:1)

**Imagery accomplishes the word
pictures by means of a comparison**

JOB



KEY WORD:



INCOMPREHENSIBILITY

KEY VERSE:

“The Almighty is beyond our reach and exalted in power; in his justice and great righteousness, he does not oppress. Therefore, men revere him, for does he not have regard for all the wise in heart?”

Job 37:23-24



AUTHOR:

UNKNOWN

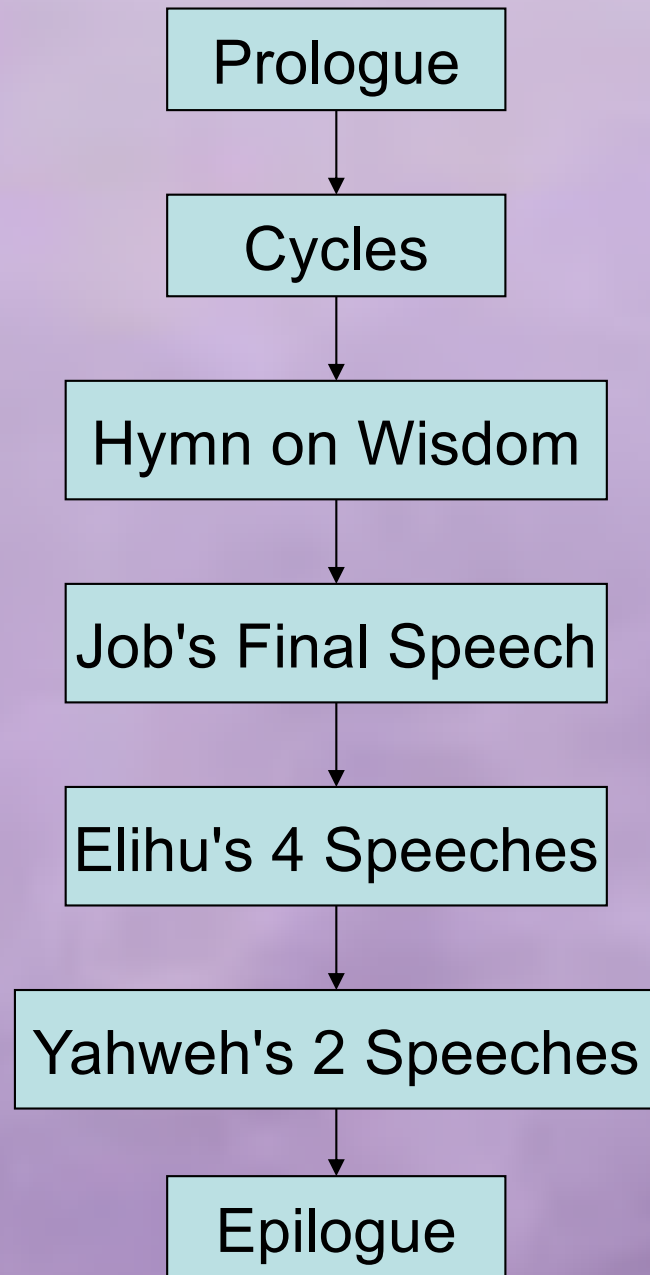


DATE:

1. Job probably lived during the patriarchal period.
2. The book was probably written at that time, since it has so much dialogue.



OVERVIEW



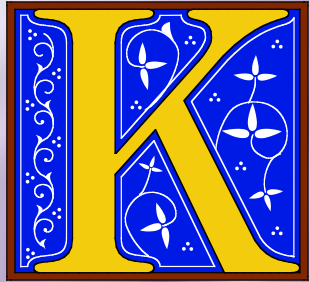
Theological Themes

The doctrine of retribution in Deut. 28 (blessings and curses) is a moral principle of God's administration of justice for Israel, but not a hard and fast rule for each individual. Job and the 4 speakers held fast to retribution theology but God eliminated it.

God can work all things – even evil things – together for good (Rom. 8:28).

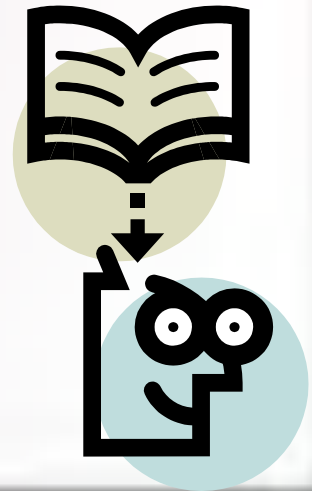
Jesus suffered the greatest evil – betrayal and crucifixion – so that we have forgiveness and cleansing.

PROVERBS



KEY WORD

WISDOM



EY VERSE

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.”

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

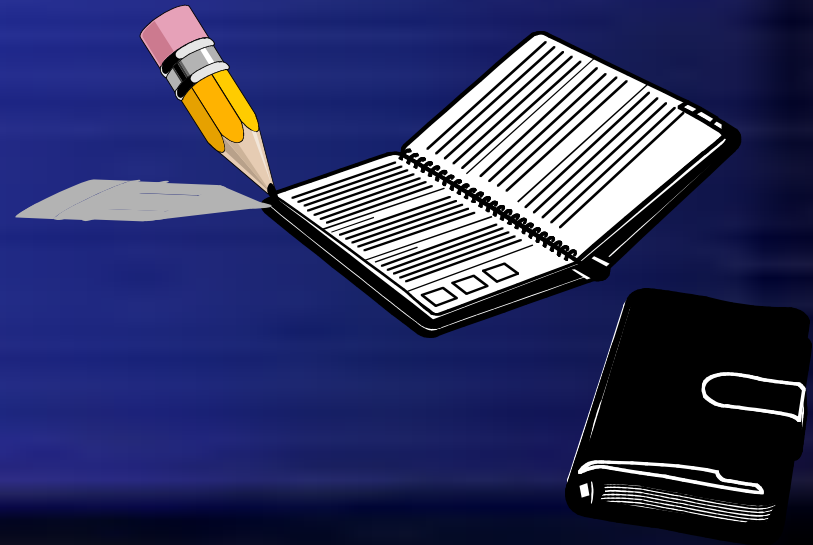
Author:

Solomon, Agur, Lemuel,
anonymous wise men



Date:

Most are from Solomon's
era (before 931 BC). The
final date of compilation is
generally considered to be
around 700 BC.



OVERVIEW

The practical benefits of wisdom
over wickedness in everyday life.



Theological Themes

The Book of Proverbs presents the contents of Israelite education, though it obviously deals with knowledge and secular education.

The Book of Proverbs' wisdom rooted in a personal knowledge of God.



ECCLESIASTES

KEY WORD

MEANINGLESS



KEY VERSE

Enjoy Life – “A man can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?” (2:24-25).

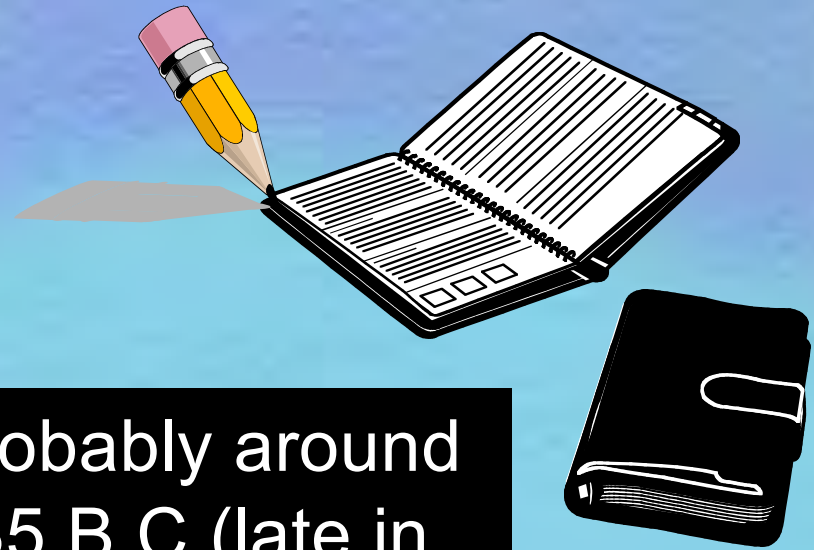
Fear God – “Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil” (12:13).

Author:

KING SOLOMON



Date:



Probably around
935 B.C (late in
Solomon's life)

OVERVIEW

Pessimistic view of life apart from

Endless Cycles

of Wisdom

Endless Cycles of Pleasure

Endless Cycles of Toil

MEANINGLESS

Theological Themes

Theology of contentment

In view of the lack of substance and meaning in life, Qoheleth urges his readers to enjoy life, for it is God who gives us that privilege (2:24-25). This satisfaction does not belong to all mankind, for the work of the sinner ends in futility (2:26). Godly contentment, however, is not the ultimate good for mankind.

SUMMARY

	Key Word	Key Verse
JOB	INCOMPREHENSIBILITY	37:24
PROVERBS	WISDOM	3:5-6
ECCLESIASTES	MEANINGLESS	2:24-25 12:13

CONTRASTS

Job and Ecclesiastes are DISCOURSIVE (REASONING) wisdom while Proverbs is INSTRUCTIONAL wisdom

Job and Ecclesiastes are negative in nature while Proverbs is positive in nature

Job debates with others. Proverbs is declaration and commands. Ecclesiastes debates with self.

Proverbs is deductive but the others inductive

OBJECTIVES

- **Characteristics of Wisdom Books**
- **Overview of each Wisdom Book**
- **Contrasts between Wisdom Books**
- **Applications**

A P P L I C A T I O N

Job.....Trust in God's wisdom
Submit to God despite suffering

Proverbs.....Wisdom
“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”

Ecclesiastes ... Vanity
“Wisdom can overcome life's vanities.”



Summary

**The fear of the LORD is the
beginning of wisdom.**

—Proverbs 9:10

CREDITS

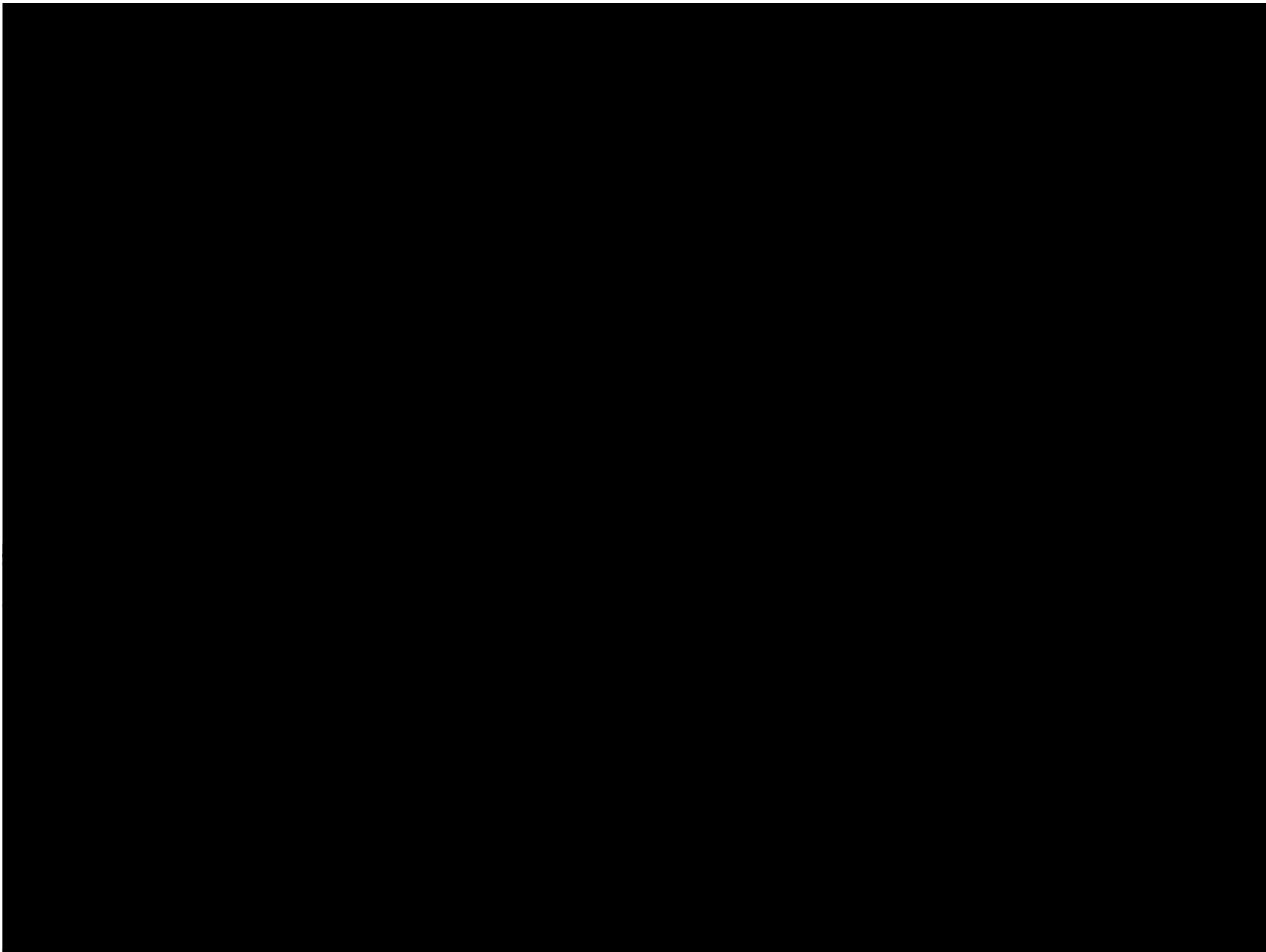
Ng Chet Wei

Priskali Achum

Ira Rebeca Tannos

William Toh


Sng Tien Leng



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A large background image for the main banner showing a pair of hands holding an open, small, black leather-bound book with yellowed pages. A semi-transparent dark grey box with white text is overlaid on the lower left of the image.

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