HELLO AND WELCOME TO THE WEEKLY RESOURCES FOR REL-1310!

These resources are structured a bit differently from other online study guides on the Baylor Tutoring website because the content in these courses are organized largely around biblical histories and narratives. Please take a look at other weekly resources listed on our website for additional topics from Christian Scriptures throughout the semester. Your professor might be discussing these topics in a different order than presented here.

We also invite you to take a look at the group tutoring chart on our website to see if this course has a group tutoring session offered this semester.

If you have any questions about these study guides, group tutoring sessions, private 30-minute tutoring appointments, the Baylor Tutoring YouTube channel or any tutoring services we offer, please visit our website www.baylor.edu/tutoring or call our drop-in center during open business hours, M-Th 9am-8pm on class days, at 254-710-4135.

Wisdom Literature

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes

Job

- **Main theme:** *Asking life’s difficult questions* (what is righteousness and why do people suffer?)
- **Chapters 1-2**
  - Job is a very righteous man who loves the Lord. He had a large family and a lot of belongings.
  - Satan (Hebrew for ‘the accuser’) told the Lord that if he lost his things, he would not love the Lord anymore.
  - The Lord allowed Satan to test Job by having natural forces destroy his belongings and having people kill his children.
  - Job mourned for his family but he still praised the Lord.
  - Satan then made Job sick. This made Job miserable.
  - Job’s wife told him that he should curse God and die.
  - Job’s 3 friends (Eliphaz, Bildad, & Zophar) arrive.
- **Chapters 3-4**
  - Job cursed the day he was born.
  - Eliphaz accused Job of not fearing God.
- **Chapters 5-37**
  - Job’s friends blame him and say that he had to have sinned in some way to cause his suffering.
- **Chapters 38-41**
  - After the friends have discussions for most of the book, the Lord speaks to Job.
  - The conversation has a courtroom feel and the Lord tells Job about his wisdom, power, and justice.
- The Lord tells Job that He is the one who created the universe and knows everything about it while Job does not.
- Job responds to the Lord initially with silence.

- Chapter 42
  - Job responds and admits he does not have the ability to understand the things that the Lord understands.
  - The Lord says that Job spoke correctly about His nature while his 3 friends did not.
  - The Lord restores Job’s health and belongings and blesses him with a larger family.

Psalms

- Made up of 5 books of poems.
- The Psalms express Israel speaking to God: praise, anger, and a wide range of other emotions.
- Stages of developing faith: 1) trust for God like what one has in a parent, 2) personal reflection, 3) acceptance of the lack of human knowledge and the necessity of faith.
- ‘Hallelujah’: Hebrew for ‘praise the Lord’.

- Books 1-3
  - Contrasts righteousness with wickedness.
  - Encourages the reader to choose righteousness.
  - Psalm 2: introduces David’s family as the rulers that God has appointed.
  - Some are cries for help (laments).
  - The Lord is seen as a place of refuge and hope.
  - Psalms 42-83 refer to ‘God,’ while the rest refer to ‘the Lord.’
  - Book 3 addresses the fall of Jerusalem.

- Books 4-5
  - Book 4 begins with a prayer of Moses to remind us of the time before Israel became a kingdom (Psalm 90).
  - These books emphasize praise of the Lord.

Proverbs

- Definition of proverb: a short teaching about life.
- Example of a modern proverb: “The apple doesn’t fall far from the tree.”
- The proverbs do not intend to be answers to all of life’s questions. Instead, they act as general guides for what happens in life.

- Outline:
  - Proverbs 1-9
    - Calls the readers to listen to wisdom.
    - Wisdom is personified as a woman.
    - Foolishness is personified as a prostitute who leads to death and destruction.
  - Proverbs 10-22
- Proverbs of Solomon
  - Proverbs 22-24
    - Sayings of the wise
  - Proverbs 25-29
    - More proverbs of Solomon
  - Proverbs 30
    - Sayings of Agur
  - Proverbs 31
    - Sayings of Lemuel
    - Description of a wise woman

Ecclesiastes

- Tradition considers Solomon to be the author of Ecclesiastes.
- Chapter 1 verse 1 says the book is written by the preacher who is the son of David.
- The book talks about how sometimes the wisdom from Proverbs does not address all the confusing times of life.
- The author says that everything seems ‘vain’ (pointless) and things like work are just like chasing after the wind – we will never catch the actual meaning.
- There is another emphasis on the human inability to know the future.
- The author decides in the end that the best option we have is trusting and fearing God and his teaching.
Test your knowledge!

Answers are at the bottom of the document.

1) Which king of Israel is the book of Ecclesiastes traditionally understood to be written by?
   a. Saul
   b. David
   c. Soloman
   d. Rehoboam

2) What is the main overarching theme of Job?
   a. Bad things always happen to good people.
   b. Because we are not God, we will not always understand everything.
   c. Someone’s sin must be responsible for everything bad that happens.
   d. We should always assume that our friends are right about our problems.

3) What is ‘hallelujah’ Hebrew for?
   a. Praise the Lord
   b. Good day
   c. Peace
   d. God be with you

4) Which wisdom literature book is made up of 5 smaller books?
   a. Job
   b. Psalms
   c. Proverbs
   d. Ecclesiastes

5) What did Job’s wife tell him to do while he was suffering?
   a. Praise God and live
   b. Kick rocks
   c. Curse God and die
   d. Use the scapegoat from the book of Numbers.

Answers: 1) c. 2) b. 3) a. 4) b. 5) c.