

Wisdom Literature – Lesson 1

The Ministry of the Word

June 29, 2025

This morning we will begin looking at what is called the *wisdom* literature in the Bible>>

As we have learned from Pastor Keith, the *wisdom* literature is one of several genre of the Bible>>

Capital Hill Baptist Church defines genre as ...*a way of classifying something according to its [literary] type or style...*>>

A common complaint about the Bible is>>

<<*It's too difficult to understand*>>

Knowing and understanding the genre will help us to better interpret and apply the meaning of a passage or Book>>

Before we look at the genre of our Bible, let's keep in mind>>

1. the Holy Spirit is the Divine Author of the content of the Bible>>

2 Peter 1:20-21 *But know this **first of all**, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, **21** for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the **Holy Spirit** spoke from God.*

2. the Holy Spirit is also the Divine Author of the genre of the Bible>>

Our *natural* tendency is to think that genre is a man-made literary device>>

<<rather than the purposeful creation of the Holy Spirit in communicating the Gospel>>

3. The Holy Spirit has chosen to use the various genre as one of His means to testify about Jesus>>

Luke 24:44 *These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the **Law** of Moses and the **Prophets** and the **Psalms [writings]** must be fulfilled.*

Jesus is speaking about the three sections of the Hebrew Scriptures called the Tanakah>>

Even though the Tanakah was divided into three sections, each is composed of various genre>>

In this way, Jesus was affirming that both the content and the genre of the Scriptures are the written testimony of His identity and purpose>>

A note of caution>>

Although knowing the genre aids in our interpretation and application>>

<<we must remember that our ability to properly apply the Word is not indigenous to us>>

Interpretation and application is the ministry of the Spirit>>

John 14:26 ...the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My Name, He will teach you all things...>>

Therefore, in **1 Peter 1:10-12** we read>>

*As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, **11** seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. **12** It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven...>>*

This means we are not expected to try to ...figure out... the meaning and application of a passage>>

We are to rely upon the Spirit Who gives us the correct interpretation and application He intends through the various genre>>

Here is a list of the genre of Scripture>>

Historical/Narrative

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus and Deuteronomy, Numbers, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1st and 2nd Samuel 1st and 2nd Kings, 1st and 2nd Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Jonah

These Books the historical events of the O.T.>>

Wisdom

The O.T. Books of Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes, [Psalms and Song of Solomon]>>

<<some include the N.T. Book of James>>

The wisdom literature is a collection of sayings about the meaning of life that offer practical advice about living a Godly life>>

Poetry

Psalms, Lamentations and the Song of Solomon [Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes]>>

Poetry is a form of literature [songs] that uses figurative and emotional language to communicate meaning>>

Prophecy

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel [major prophets according to size] Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Prophecy is both foretelling coming events and forth telling the message of God>>

Apocalyptic

Daniel, the Revelation of John

The word Apocalyptic comes from the Greek word that means an unveiling, uncovering, a revealing of something that has been hidden from understanding>>

Biblically Apocalyptic literature is the revealing of coming end time events about the end of the age, the parousia [coming] of Christ>>

Gospel

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts

The Gospels are a particular type of historical narrative called *bios* which record the biographical events of the life of Jesus>>

However, the Gospels are arranged theologically not chronologically>>
<<while Acts is the historical account of the 1st century church>>

Epistle

Romans, I&II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I&II Thessalonians, I&II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews [a speech], James, I&II Peter, I, II& III John and Jude

Epistles are a form of literature written by to an audience rather than to an individual [excepting Philemon]>>

<<for the purpose of ... teaching, reproof, correction, and training in Righteousness..>>**2 Tim 3:16**

Next week we will be looking at the wisdom literature>>