

The Poetical and Wisdom Books

A Christmas Consideration

OUT OF THE WORD

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The cold weather seems to enhance my zeal for old books, fountain pens, ink, and deep observation of the things that truly matter. I thank Christians ought to make a fresh commitment to consider prayerfully *The Poetical and Wisdom Books*. The books classed as poetical are Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, and Lamentations. Poetical passages are found in other sections of Scripture as well (Exod. 15:1-21; Judges 5). These books of beauty reflect the experiences of God's people from far and wide ranges of life. I have found such loveliness and inspiration yet clothed with human struggles and the realness of day-to-day life in these books. I believe it is because of this that these inspired poetic words can comfort, strengthen, and guide Christians then and there and can guide me and you here and now. Let us consider that a large majority of these poetic books were written during times of radical political hardship and captivity. This poetry is expressed by repetition, contrast, and lots of elaboration of ideas. The Bible uses much hyperbole, metaphors, simile, and alliteration to express one's thoughts. I have concluded by observing, that Hebrew poetry is very dramatic. Practical problems in life are addressed in Proverbs along with moral and spiritual questions of life's purpose (Ecclesiastes) and suffering (Job). In light of Hebrew wisdom, it is different from Greek philosophers' wisdom. The Hebrews perceived wisdom as fearing God (Proverbs 1:7, 29; 2:5, 10). Unlike the pagan view of secular wisdom, Hebrew wisdom is manifested in a deep, holy, reverent, life of a man/woman who is committed to turning from evil and turning to God (Proverbs 3:7). This emphasis upon God's wisdom transcends the good moral man's wisdom. The greatest evidence of the wisdom of Yahweh is seen in the advent of Jesus Christ (*Yeshua*). Paul stated about Christ, "who is made unto us wisdom" (1 Cor. 1:30). And Christ said of Himself, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). I want to personally wish all of Perry County a Merry Christmas from my heart to yours. As the Christian Church here in Pinckneyville continues on, we look forward to opportunities in the new year to partner with other churches to help serve our community in a way that reflects dignity, beauty, integrity, and Christian holiness. Let us remember the test of any true church (Christ's Church) is what Jesus established and not man. The true Church is not a country club, but instead, a people-called out from among the world of slaves to sin to assemble and transact the work of God's Kingdom. The ruler of the Church is Jesus Christ, our LORD, with subjects, assembly, community, and Spirit-filled organization. However, the work of Christ through His Church continues, from Acts 2 until this very day! The all-sufficient sacrifice for sin has been paid (Heb. 9:11-22, John 19:30). However, the work of evangelism, edification, and benevolence precedes. But, throughout that pilgrim's journey, God in His kindness has given us inspired poetry for our wisdom, learning, and encouragement. *Would you consider this Christmas to become more acquainted with Christ through these books?*

