

KETUBIM WRITINGS

Overview

A. Poetical Books

1. Psalms
2. Job
3. Proverbs
4. Hebrew Poetry → parallelism = balancing of thoughts

B. Megilloth

- Each book a part of a scroll that unrolled with five festivals in chronological order, though rabbinical sources list in varying orders. *Codex Leningradensis* lists in this order (cf. p. 52 below):

1. Ruth
2. Song of Songs
3. Ecclesiastes
4. Lamentations
5. Esther

C. Historical Books

1. Daniel (apocalyptic)
2. Ezra-Nehemiah (historical)
3. Chronicles (historical)

A. Poetical Books

1. Psalmic traditions

- a. FT
 - 2 Samuel 22 (cf. Ps 18)
 - Joshua 10:13; 2 Samuel 1:18; 1 Kings 8:12-13 LXX.
 - Seams in narrative books shift to poetry.
 - Many prophetic books utilize poetry.

b. Psalms

1) Overview

- Chapters?
- Books?
- Introduction? Conclusion?

- Chs. 3-41 (41:13) Yahweh 272X to 15X
Pss 14 & 53
- Chs. 42-72 (72:18-19; 20) Elohim 164X to 30X

- Chs. 73-89 (89:52)

- Chs. 90-106 (106:48)

- Chs. 107-150 (150:6)

2) Name

- *Tehillim* = “praises”

- Septuagint (LXX) = *Psalmoi* → from Hebrew *mizmor* = “sing with a stringed instrument”

- Latin = *Psalmi* → English “Psalms”

3) Authorship

- David (headings say 73X, mostly in Books 1 and 2) – Ps 72:20; 17X after 72:20
- Moses (Ps 90)
- Asaph
- Descendants of Korah
- Solomon
- Headings in 101 of 150 – not inspired in the opinion of many scholars

4) Examples

- Psalm 1 (19, 119)

- Psalm 2 (cf. Pss 110; 132)

- Types of psalms: lament/complaint psalms; praise psalms (individual/community); hymns; prayers; royal psalms; wisdom psalms. cf. 1 Chron 16:4 for forms.

- Ps 80
 - Ps 13
 - Ps 30
 - Psalm 117
 - Psalm 124
- 5) Theologically, we find the presence of Yhwh in relationship with Israel and believers. It is a presence that is (1) intimate, (2) transcendent, and (3) elusive.

2. Wisdom Traditions

- Wisdom overview
 - Little known directly, mostly by inference.
 - Jer 18:18
 - 1 Kings 4:29-34
 - Practical side of life in relationship with God
 - Relational, character development > group and personal, vertical and horizontal

a. Job

1) Theme: suffering of the righteous

- Why do the innocent suffer?

2) Outline of answers:

a. Answer of the introduction (chs. 1-2): “devil made me do it”

(1) Satan and Job’s family, ch. 1

(2) Satan and Job’s health, ch. 2

b. Answer of the dialogue between Job and his four friends (chs. 3-37)

c. Answer of the Yhwh's monologue (chs. 38-41)

d. Answer of Job's humility (ch. 42)

3) Ultimate answers? Theological

- They lie in the mind of God.
- 42:1-6

b. Proverbs

1) Theme: 1:7 and 9:10

2) Topics:

- fools vs. wise
- substance abuse
- sexual mores
- work ethic
- family relationships
- friendships
- life's major questions

3) Outline:

A. Instructional proverbs, chs. 1-9

- ch. 3
- ch. 8

B. Individual proverbs, chs. 10-31

- Examples: 15:20; 16:8; 17:1; 18:7; 19:6; 23:13-14; 24:28-29
- Solomon's name and numeric value = 375 (10:1)

c. Megilloth = ([Five] Scrolls)

1) **Ruth** (Shevuoth = Festival of Weeks [Pentecost] in May-June)

- 2:3
- Close to levirate marriage (Deut 25:5-10).
- Naomi focus, 4:14-17

2) **Song of Songs** (Passover in April)

- How to interpret? Drama? Liturgy? Allegorical? Love poems?
- “Woman’s Song”

3) **Lamentations** (9th of Av in July-August, commemorates destruction of temple)

- Hebrew title = “How” or “how long” (*‘ekah*)
- Each chapter is a separate poem in acrostic form (except ch. 5).
- Different entities lament – the city (ch. 1); the LORD (ch. 2); and an individual (ch. 3); possessions of the city (ch. 4); and the community (ch. 5).

4) **Ecclesiastes** (*Sukkot* = Festival of Tabernacles in September-October)

- *Koheleth* = the preacher.
- 1:2 = theme verse.
- Resolution, 12:13-14

5) **Esther** (Purim in March)

- Comic tale with serious message about Jewish unity in diaspora.
- No mention of God nor of prayer, but it highlights God’s providential care.

3. Historical Books

a. Apocalyptic tradition

1) **Daniel**

- 2:4b-7:28, approximately ½ of book in Aramaic.

2) Other scattered passages

- Isa 24-27
- Ezekiel 40-48
- Zechariah 14

b. Historical traditions (exile and restoration; Samuel/ Kings interpreted)

1) Ezra-Nehemiah

2) Chronicles

- 1 Chron 21; cf. 2 Sam 24:1ff
- Interest of priesthood and Levites; genealogies; positive view of kingship and especially Davidic line.