

What are “The Writings”

- The typical designation of the Writings or the Wisdom Books.
 - Job
 - Psalms
 - Proverbs
 - Ecclesiastes*
 - Song of Solomon*
 - Lamentations*
- Worthy of consideration in this section:
 - The books:
 - Ruth*
 - Ezra
 - Nehemiah
 - Esther*
 - The reason: each of these books has had some degree of “allegoric” interpretation through history.
- The * are the books of the megiloth – a scroll of wisdom literature in the TaNaKh.

Principles for the study of the Writings

- If you study for direct application to your life, you will almost always create a mess.
- If you study without looking under the surface, you will almost always miss a blessing.
- If you create a scenario that doesn’t work literally, you are likely not interpreting it incorrectly.

*Recognize the inherent danger in **reading what is not there**,
but also recognize the equal danger in **not reading what is hidden in there!***

What you’ll find in the Wisdom Literature

- Ruth: A prophecy of the latter-days return and redemption of Israel.
 - Read annually at Pentecost
- Esther: A prophecy of Israel in the days of the Tribulation.
 - Read annually at Purim
- Job: A prophecy describing the “Day of Jacob’s Trouble.”
- Psalms: Prophecies of revelation, remnant, or reign.
- Proverbs: How Israel is to prepare for the coming Tribulation.
- Ecclesiastes: Reproof for Israel in the Tribulation (Kohelah - to call or assemble).
 - Read annually at the Feast of Tabernacles
- Song of Solomon: How Israel should prepare for separation from her master.
 - Read annually at Passover
- Lamentations: Descriptive of the Tribulation
 - Read annually on the 9th of Ab.

How to Study the Writings

- *If there is history, put it in its context.*
- *Read every word looking for a clue to place any typology into its proper context.*
- *Find a theme within the book. Don't isolate passages from the book.*
- *Test your theory...over and over throughout the book.*
- *Look for inconsistencies and "appaling" statements. These can often be the shibboleth that gives insight.*
- *Remember the foundational principle: Books in the Old Testament are not about the church.*

Some Examples

- *The book of Ruth – See Ruth: More Than Meets the Eye.*
- *The book of Psalms – A quick look at Psalms 1-8*
 - *Psalm 1: The blessed Man compared to the wicked men.*
 - *Psalm 2: The someday-reigning King.*
 - *Psalms 3-7: The cry of the remnant, progressing from persecution to trust.*
 - *Psalm 8: The reigning King.*
- *Song of Solomon –*
 - *Is it literal (Mark Driscoll)*
 - *Is it allegorical (The Roman Catholic Church - the virgin Mary)*
 - *Is it typical (Evangelicals – Christ and the church)*
 - *Is it prophetic (Fundamentalist dispensationalists)*