

BIBLE 101 – Lesson Three

Ruth, Esther, and Books of Poetry (Writings)

- Ruth:** Famine in Bethlehem, move to Moab, death of Naomi's husband and 2 sons, return to Bethlehem, gleaning in Boaz' field, marriage of Ruth and Boaz, birth of Obed
- Women:**
- Ruth & Naomi (throughout the book)
 - Orpah (*Ruth 1:4-15*)
- Esther:** King Ahasuerus' banquet, replacement of Vashti with Esther, Mordecai uncovers an assassination plot, Haman vs. Mordecai, Esther's intercession, royal decree amended, Hebrews given arms, battle and victory, establishment of Purim
- Women:**
- Vashti (*Esther 1: 9- 20; 2:1*)
 - Esther (Hadassah) (*Esther 2:7-end of book*)
- Job:** Job's family & wealth, God and Satan's conversation, Job's losses, Job's 3 friends and their discussion, God's discourse, Job's blessings and rich life
- Women:**
- Job's Wife (*Job 2:9-10*)
- Psalms:** Divided into five sections, each closing with a doxology (benediction)
- Book 1 (Psalms 1–41)
- Book 2 (Psalms 42–72)
- Book 3 (Psalms 73–89)
- Book 4 (Psalms 90–106)
- Book 5 (Psalms 107–150)
- Women:** (none to cover today)
- Proverbs:** Written to impart wisdom, many in short statements or couplets in an A-B pattern. No history. Most of the instruction is related to conducting oneself ethically in daily living. Authorship ascribed to Solomon, Agur and King Lemuel.
- Women:**
- Wisdom and Folly (*Prov.1-9*)
 - Woman of Valor (*Prov.31:10-31*)

Ecclesiastes: Mostly proverbs, philosophical principles, and sayings on the meaning of life
Women: (none to cover today)

Song of Songs: Dialogues between two lovers, dialogues between the woman and the “daughters of Jerusalem,” loving descriptions of each other by the man and the woman, the woman’s dreams about the man, praise of the woman’s beauty

Women:

- One of the two major characters is the female lover

Ordering of Books in the Hebrew Bible (Tanakh)

The Hebrew Bible is called the “Tanakh” by those of the Jewish faith. The word Tanakh is an acronym of the first Hebrew letter of each of the Masoretic Text's three traditional subdivisions: Torah, Nevi'im, and Ketuvim (T-N-K) — hence TaNaKh.

Section 1: TORAH (*Teachings*): First 5 books with titles that come from the first words in the book, and are in the same order as the Christian bible

- Bereshit (בְּרֵאשִׁית, literally "In the beginning")—Genesis
- Shemot (שְׁמוֹת, literally "Names")—Exodus
- Vayikra (וַיִּקְרָא, literally "And He called")—Leviticus
- Bemidbar (בְּמִדְבָּר, literally "In the desert [of]")—Numbers
- Devarim (דְּבָרִים, literally "Things" or "Words")—Deuteronomy

Section 2: NEVI'IM (Prophets): All the non-Writings books named after people (or groups of people), which includes the “Former Prophets” of Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings and the “Latter Prophets” which are our major/minor prophets (excluding the exilic books), in same order as the Christian bible, but with Hebrew names.

Section 3: KETUVIM (*Writings*)

- Poetry Books: Psalms, Proverbs and Job
- The Five Megillot (scrolls): Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, and Esther. Each of these are read in some or all Jewish communities on holidays (see the “Jewish Festivals” handout)
- Other books: Daniel, Ezra–Nehemiah (this is one book) and Chronicles
(The above all have Hebrew names in the Tanakh)