

NT 615 - 5-3-1 – *Fee & Stuart, Ch 11-12*

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Questions:

1. What is the unique problem of interpreting the Psalms?
2. What are the seven different categories of Psalms?
3. Where is wisdom taught most at? What is a critical component of biblical wisdom?
4. Are proverbs ironclad promises one can claim with God?
5. Is the song of songs best interpreted as an allegory of Christ's love for the church?

Answers:

1. The unique problem is answering, "How do these words spoken to God function as a word from God to us?"
2. They are (1) laments, (2) thanksgiving psalms, (3) hymns of praise, (4) salvation-history psalms, (5) psalms of celebration and affirmation, (6) wisdom psalms, and (7) songs of trust.
3. Wisdom has been taught more at home than in any other setting. The advice may be focused on practical and social issues, but it should never fail to acknowledge that the highest good a person can achieve is to do God's will.
4. No, proverbs set forth a wise way to approach specific practical goals, but it cannot be treated like a divine guarantee of success.
5. No, it centers on human love – love between a man and a woman, celebrating both this love itself and their attraction for one another.

Terms:

1. Imprecatory psalms: psalms that contain verbalization to God of anger at others
2. Wisdom: the ability to make godly choices in life
3. Proverbial wisdom: wisdom that concentrates primarily on practical attitudes and behavior in everyday life

Summary:

Psalms are a unique genre in that it contains words spoken to God or about God that function as a word from God to us. Psalms are meant to be emotive and purposefully metaphorical to help God's people express themselves to God and to consider God's ways. Wisdom literature is a helpful resource for Christian living, but it is often misinterpreted to justify selfish, materialistic, shortsighted behavior – the opposite of God's intended. The heart of wisdom is making godly choices, a life centered on God and his will. It is imperative to know that proverbs are often general truth, and when you live this rule of life, you will succeed according to God's definition of success.