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**Bible Review**

**Job ‑ Song of Songs**

Instructions: This is an open Bible, open note exam. Do what you can from memory, and the rest with your Bible and notes. Essays should be substantive and include biblical references. The objective of this review is to create a learning experience.

Agree/Disagree

1.\_A \_The theme of Job is "keeping faith in times of trial."

2.\_A\_\_Job's three friends believed that suffering is always proportionate to a one’s sins.

3.\_D\_\_ God gave Satan a free hand in bringing suffering and pain to Job’s life.

4.\_A\_\_Job reveals that a sovereign God need not explain for all that He chooses to do.

5.\_D\_\_ At the end of the book, Job repents of the sin which had lead to all his suffering.

6.\_A\_\_The purpose of Psalms is to express the religious sentiments of God's people, and ultimately to praise the Lord.

7.\_D\_\_The word translated "praise" (hesed) in the Hebrew text literally means "to bend the knee," and signifies outdoor worship.

8.\_A\_\_While you can thank God in private, praise has a forum and occurs in a public assembly.

9.\_D\_\_Descriptive praise emphasizes God's actions, while declarative praise emphasizes God's attributes.

10.\_A\_\_The superscription of a psalm contains the name of the author, musical indicators, and sometimes a reference to the historical setting.

11.\_D\_\_The oldest psalms in the Hebrew Bible were written by David.

12.\_D\_\_The theme of Proverbs is "the pursuit of wisdom and success."

13.\_A\_\_The fear of the Lord is the central theological thrust of the Wisdom Books.

14.\_A\_\_Wisdom may be defined as an ability to use knowledge in a practical and successful way.

15.\_A\_\_Proverbs are general principles intended to serve as practical guidelines for successful living.

16.\_D\_\_Because the proverbs are inspired and inerrant, they are personal promises and true for every situation.

17.\_A\_According to Ecclesiastes, there is no contradiction between enjoying life to the fullest and living a life of obedience to God.

18.\_D\_\_Ecclesiastes contains the reasoning of man "under the sun," presenting a philosophy of life apart from God.

19.\_A\_\_Ecclesiastes is intended to show that in light of life's futility, man must live by faith so that he can use his one opportunity to enjoy life to the fullest.

20..\_A\_\_The key to interpreting Ecclesiastes is to properly relate the theme (2:24) to the thesis (1:2) and the conclusion (12:13‑ 14).

Fill In: Identify the types (categories) of psalms with the following characteristics.

1.\_Exodus Psalms\_\_\_\_Crossing the Red Sea is a key feature

2.Alphabetical Psalms Incorporates an A‑B‑C memory device

3.\_Royal Psalms \_\_\_Contains the message, "Yahweh is King!"

4.Imprecatory Psalms Contains a curse based on the Ab. Covenant

5.Pilgrim Psalms\_\_\_\_\_Psalms sung while going up to Jerusalem

6.\_Didactic Psalms \_\_Psalms that exalt the "instruction" of Yahweh

7.\_Wisdom Psalms\_\_\_Psalms that emphasize the "fear of the Lord"

8.Penitentical Psalms Contains a confession of sin and plea for mercy

9.Messianic Psalms\_\_Tells of the person and work of Christ

10.Lament of the Individual:\_Contains a petition or supplication of a person in great distress

11.Descriptive Psalms of Prasie:\_Contains public confession of God's attributes‑‑His greatness and goodness.

Essay (take some time for this one!)

Discuss the concept of "the fear of the Lord." (1) What does it mean to "fear" God as seen in the Wisdom Literature? (2) How is this concept related to biblical "wisdom"? (3) What practical implications is the concept of "the fear of Yahweh" having in your life?

(1) What does it mean to "fear" God as seen in the Wisdom Literature?

When we think of “the fear of the Lord”, we usually focus on the word "fear". However, with such a focus, we will easily associate "the fear of the Lord" with punishments. It is not exactly the essence of the concept of "the fear of the Lord". Before we examine what this expression means as seen in the *wisdom literature*, let's take a look at what the N.T. has to say regarding this.

 "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love." (1 John 4:18) So, the fear of punishment should not be the essence for this concept.

"For they could not bear the command, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it will be stoned." And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, "I am full of fear and trembling." But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God." (Hebrew 12:21-22) From this scripture, it looks like God does not want us to always live with the kind of fear experienced by Moses. However, it is not right saying that Christians are supposed to be all relaxed and having fun before God. At the end of the same chapter, it says, "let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire." (Hebrew 12: 28-29) It looks like the kind of fear mentioned in the "fear of the Lord" should born of the awareness of God's greatness and holiness, which causes one to honor (respect) Him obeying His commands and serving Him. In other words, the focus is not on “fear” or “punishment”, but the “Lord”.

Another example of the fear of the Lord is recorded in Luke 5: 6-8. When Peter sensed the divinity of Jesus, he was on his knees asking Jesus to depart from him because he was a sinner. He was not thinking of punishment but Jesus’ holiness. The result was that he followed Jesus thereafter. Another example is recorded in the Book of Isaiah Chapter 6. Isaiah had a vision of the Lord and immediately he was struck by fear. He was not thinking that God was going to punish him; but that he was unclean while God was clean/holy. The result was that he responded to God’s calling.

All the above ties in very well with the concept of the “fear of the Lord” as seen in the wisdom literature:

First of all, the “fear of the Lord” is sometimes equated with “knowing God” (Proverb 2:5). So the focus is not on “fear” but on “God”. I believe if we truly know God, we will surely fear Him. Both will happen simultaneously. Secondly, The fear of the Lord will cause ones to keep away from evil, meaning ones will make every effort to obey Him and lead a holy life. (Proverb 16:6, Ecclesiastes 12;13) Thirdly, It will not be just a matter of will but emotions too. Proverb 8:13 says those who fear the Lord will “hate evil”. Fourthly, from the whole O.T., it is clear that “the fear of the Lord” is not at all about “being afraid of God and so complying with His law reluctantly”. On the contrary, the Israelites were called to “fear the Lord, obey Him, love Him and serve Him whole-heartedly (Deut. 10:12)

(2) How is this concept related to biblical "wisdom"?

The focus of Biblical wisdom is also on God. Proverb 9:10 says, “knowing God is understanding”. Actually in the wisdom literature, “knowing God”, “the fear of the Lord”, “wisdom/ understanding”, and “obedience/ doing the commandments/ departing from evil” are all considered as the central religious concepts and are at times equated with one another, meaning if one truly demonstrates one of them, he/she will experience all of them. (Proverb 2:5, Job 28:28)

However, the wisdom literature has also repeated the theme of “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” many times in different books. (Proverb 1:7, 9:10, Psalm 111:10) If we take a closer look at Psalm 111:10, we can also get a biblical message that “the fear of the Lord” will bring about “doing His commandments” which will develop “wisdom/ understanding”. It seems that the wisdom literature is telling us that it is a process for “wisdom” to grow to its fullness. The process starts with “the fear of the Lord”. This sentiment will cause ones to obey His law and at the same time seek wisdom/ understanding in order to apply the knowledge of God’s truth accurately/ wisely so as to please God.

Proverb 8:17 and 2:4 clearly emphasize that it is important to seek wisdom with a strong determination and passion. I believe the “fear of the Lord” will supply these two elements. Continuously seeking to understand how to apply biblical principles in every area of our daily life and practice the know-how will result in a more and more successful life. (Ecclesiastes 10:10) That’s why in the wisdom literature, the “fear of the Lord” is described as the main element for an ideal successful woman (Proverb 31:30) and a God endorsed man (Psalm 115:13, 147:11)

(3) What practical implications is the concept of "the fear of Yahweh" having in your life?

There are 3 practical implications this concept of “the fear of Yahweh” has in my life:

1. If I do not want to have any regret at the end of my life, I need to start now with “the fear of the Lord”. This sentiment cannot be developed if we do not encounter God. No one can encounter God if we do not get close to Him. The practical implication for me is that I need to spend time drawing closer to Him in every area of my life.
2. I need to focus my efforts not on “avoiding punishments”, but on “loving Him and pleasing Him by doing His commandments”.
3. I need to keep seeking to renew my mind, i.e. my understanding of how to apply biblical principles in the right way in order to please God, the father of my soul.

The story of the foolish and wicked servant recorded in Matt. 25 should remind me of the danger of the wrong kind of fear (fear of punishment) which stifled understanding, aroused negative sentiments and in the end caused one to act foolishly and at the same time put the blame on the Lord. His word should serve as an example for me to understand what “the fear of the Lord” is not about: “And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground; see, you have what is yours.” (Matt.25:25)

The Bible says “the fear of the Lord” is the beginning of wisdom but not the other way round. This truth reminds me that my focus should always be “the Lord”. It also explains to me the puzzling case of Solomon. He asked for wisdom so that he could successfully rule the Kingdom and he was granted wisdom that surpassed any other man on the earth. (1 Kings 3:7-14) He then became very successful (that is what wisdom does). (1 Kings 4-10) Unfortunately he failed to focus on the Lord, i.e. failed to “fear the Lord” and obey His commandments. The results were not good of course. (1 Kings 11) If he had not repented of that, he would have eventually lost all his wisdom as well because “knowing God is understanding”. Thank God that he eventually regained the right focus of “the fear of the Lord” (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

I should always remind myself that “the fear of the Lord” is the beginning of wisdom which will lead of successful life but not the other way round. The Lord should always be the focus.