



IONA SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY

**The Writings
First Year
January 9, 2021
Dr. Steven Bishop**

Study Guide

This guide is intended to assist you in reflecting on the material you read and provide a basis for our face to face time in January. This material will not be reviewed in class but it will be assumed that you have sufficiently reflected on the questions in order to give the class a common starting point for the material that will be presented in class. This guide is for your preparation, there is nothing to hand in.

***Out of the Depths: The Psalms Speak For Us Today*
Read Chapters 1, 2, and 10. Briefly review “Appendix B” (pp. 219-224) to familiarize yourself with the various genres of Psalms.**

Psalms

1. In what ways have the psalms been significant for you?
2. What significance do you give to the fact that psalms appear throughout the Old Testament?
3. What do the “collections” of the Psalms suggest to you?
4. What is poetic parallelism? Find an example in the Psalms.
5. What does it mean to read the Psalms as poetry?
6. How is the book of Psalms divided and what is its significance?
7. How was Israel’s poetry influenced by its neighbors? What is significant about this observation?

***The Old Testament: Canon, History, and Literature* by Richard D. Nelson.
Abingdon Press, 2019.**

Read Chapter 21.

Sociological Origins

8. What are the sociological origins of “wisdom” in Israel?
9. What influences did other Ancient Near Eastern cultures have on Israel’s wisdom tradition?

Book of Proverbs

10. How does Proverbs use the expression “fear of YHWH”? How would you describe the “fear of YHWH” to a parishioner?
11. Why is the personification of wisdom as feminine important to modern readers?

Book of Job

12. What is the effect on the reader (that's you) of the form of Job? Specifically, how does a prose beginning and ending augment or detract from the poetry of the book?
13. Describe how the "Voice from the Whirlwind" answers Job.

Read Chapter 22.6

Ecclesiastes (also known as Qoheleth)

14. How does Ecclesiastes challenge the Deuteronomic explication of theodicy?
15. Under what conditions could you use Ecclesiastes for pastoral care?

Read Chapter 24.4

Daniel: Apocalyptic Wisdom

16. Define "apocalyptic".
17. Define "theodicy".
18. In what ways is the book of Daniel 'apocalyptic'?
19. What does the expression "Son of Man" mean in the context of the book of Daniel?

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