



*Interpreting Old Testament  
Wisdom Literature*

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“Drawing together esteemed senior scholars as well as insightful younger voices in the field, this anthology provides a rich and expansive description of the study of Old Testament wisdom today.”

—Daniel J. Estes,  
distinguished professor  
of Old Testament,  
Cedarville University

## The Wisdom of the Wise in a Postmodern World

Popularly viewed as the “self-help” or “philosophy” section of the Old Testament, wisdom literature has often been marginalized by Old Testament scholars. However, the issues addressed in the wisdom books are highly relevant today. From justice, faith, and wealth to suffering, meaning, and sexuality, Old Testament wisdom deals with the very issues currently filling headlines.

*Interpreting Old Testament Wisdom Literature* brings wisdom literature into these modern-day discussions, appreciating the recent scholarly acceptance of wisdom literature as reflecting part of the Israelite worldview. This collection of essays offers up-to-date assessments from respected scholars focusing on both the wisdom books and wisdom ideas.

Craig Bartholomew opens the book with a comprehensive survey of recent developments in the field of Old Testament wisdom. Part two follows up with discussions of issues arising from the main wisdom books – Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes – and examines the Song of Songs as a wisdom text. Part three includes essays on wisdom themes in Ruth, wisdom within the broader Old Testament, the concept of retribution in wisdom, and the issue of divine absence.

“A clearer understanding of the nature of Old Testament wisdom literature has led to something of a revival in academic interest of late,” write the book’s editors, David G. Firth and Lindsay Wilson. “Indeed, its interest in everyday life is seen to have great potential in speaking to new generations of people within and outside the church. . . . May this volume help you see afresh some of the riches that God has offered to us in the wisdom materials of the Old Testament.”

The contributors to this volume include the following:

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