

b. Further points to study in Proverbs.

--following the previous suggestion of reading through the book and noting the items that strike you, watch for the following:

- :the difference between wise and foolish people
- :the contrast of heavenly and earthly wisdom
- :the values of material things
- :the particular ways of evil
- :practical advice that builds good relationships
- :contrasts of the rich and the poor
- :relative values of wisdom and folly

Try to avoid atomizing Proverbs, that is, turning it into a book of proof texts or aphoristic wisdom. Be careful when citing a proverb that you keep it in its context and in the intention of the writer. Proverbs is easily denied a context but such should not be the case. Study both contrasts and comparisons.

Proverbs is a rich book in thought and is rightly styled "God's Wisdom".

C. A Survey Study of the Megilloth: the five rolls (scrolls).

This is the section section of the Hagiographa--the sacred writings. The Megilloth consist of Ruth, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Lamentations and Esther...and they are considered in that order. The title "Megilloth" is from the verb "to roll" (and other meanings are in the root) and this derived noun gives the picture of things rolled...like scrolls. These little books were read in connexion with Israel's feasts:

- Pentecost -Ruth
- Passover -Song of Solomon
- Tabernacles --Ecclesiastes
- Purim -Esther
- Ab (destruction of Jerusalem) -Lamentations

Each of the books is easily read at a single sitting.

In our English Bibles, Ruth is usually associated with Judges and Lamentations with Jeremiah. In this course, a survey course at the Seminary level, we are following the order of the Hebrew Bible and so take these as a unit. The notes that follow are combined notes the material including both the work of Fred Putnam (Eternity Magazine, used with permission) and my own materials from the various courses taught on these books. You will not know whose work is whose except that Mr. Putnam writes much better so that may be a clue.

1. A Survey Study of the Book of Ruth ("God's Redemption")

a. An overview

The Book of Ruth is written in model short story form and probably dates to the reign of David. It appears to have been written as an account illustrating the background of the king and showing the favor of God in redeeming a lost family for continuance with His people. It is written in narrative prose and shows a period of critical change in the Israelitish kingdom.