



**The Writings**  
**April 22, 2020**

**Introduction**

<i>The Jewish Scriptures (Tanakh)</i>		
The Law	The Prophets	The Writings
Torah (Pentateuch) Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	Former Prophets Joshua Judges Samuel (1 & 2) Kings (1 & 2)  Latter Prophets Isaiah Jeremiah Ezekiel The Twelve (Minor Prophets)	Poetry Psalms Proverbs Job  Five Rolls Song of Songs Ruth Lamentations Esther Ecclesiastes  Historical Daniel Ezra-Nehemiah Chronicles (1 & 2)

**“Give Credit Where Credit is Due”**

- King David
- King Solomon
- Jeremiah
- Ezra
- Job?

DIVISION OF OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS				
LAW	HISTORY	POETRY	PROPHETS	
			Major	Minor
Genesis	Joshua	Job	Isaiah	Hosea
Exodus	Judges	Psalms	Jeremiah	Joel
Leviticus	Ruth	Proverbs	Lamentations	Amos
Numbers	1 Samuel	Ecclesiastes	Ezekiel	Obadiah
Deuteronomy	2 Samuel		Daniel	Jonah
	1 Kings			Micah
	2 Kings			Nahum
	1 Chronicles			Habakkuk
	2 Chronicles			Zephaniah
	Ezra	* CTJ does NOT believe that the Song of Solomon and the apocryphal books are divinely inspired and therefore part of the Bible as they were not included in the original text up until the time of Jesus.		Haggai
	Nehemiah			Zechariah
	Esther			Malachi

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### 11 Chronicles 36: 23

“Thus said King Cyrus of Persia: The LORD God of Heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and has charged me with building Him a House in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Any one of you of all His people, the LORD his God be with him and let him go up.”



## Some of the most universally famous of the Bible's Literature!

### 1. Psalms

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tAb5rYRXvs&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tAb5rYRXvs&feature=emb_title)

“By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat, sat and wept, as we thought of Zion. There on the poplars we hung up our lyres, for our captors asked us there for songs, our tormentors, for amusement, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion.” How can we sing a song of the LORD on alien soil? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither; let my tongue stick to my palate if I cease to think of you, if I do not keep Jerusalem in memory even at my happiest hour.”

- Psalms 137

### 2. Proverbs

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/To\\_a\\_Mouse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/To_a_Mouse)

“A man may plot out his course, But it is the LORD who directs his steps.”

- Proverbs 16:9

### 3. Job

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T\\_n87NtpaWo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_n87NtpaWo)

“Job said in reply to the LORD: I know that You can do everything, That nothing you propose is impossible for You. Who is this who obscures counsel without knowledge? Indeed, I spoke without understanding of things beyond me, which I did not know. Hear now, and I will speak; I will ask, and You will inform me. I had heard You with my ears, But now I see You with my eyes; Therefore, I recant and relent, Being but dust and ashes.”

- Job 42: 1-6

### 4. Song of Songs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bo53G3BSuXo>

“I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine, who grazes among the roses.”

- Song of Songs, 6:3



## 5. Ruth

[https://www.etsy.com/market/ruth\\_1\\_16](https://www.etsy.com/market/ruth_1_16)

“But Ruth replied, “Do not urge me to leave you, to turn back and not follow you. For wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus and more may the LORD do to me if anything but death parts me from you.”

- Ruth 1:16

## 6. Lamentations

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFeopMIp2jQ>

“Alas! Lonely sits the city Once great with people! She that was great among nations Is become like a widow; The princess among states Is become a thrall. Bitterly she weeps in the night, Her cheek wet with tears. There is none to comfort her of all her friends. All her allies have betrayed her; They have become her foes.”

- Lamentations 1:1

## 7. Ecclesiastes

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4ga\\_M5Zdn4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4ga_M5Zdn4)

“A season is set for everything, a time for every experience under heaven: A time for being born and a time for dying, A time for planting and a time for uprooting the planted; A time for slaying and a time for healing, A time for tearing down and a time for building up; A time for weeping and a time for laughing, A time for wailing and a time for dancing...”

- Ecclesiastes 3

## 8. Esther

<https://www.haaretz.com/us-news/.premium-ivanka-trump-fails-the-queen-esther-test-1.5494681>

“Mordecai had this message delivered to Esther: “Do not imagine that you, of all the Jews, will escape with your life by being in the king’s palace. On the contrary, if you keep silent in this crisis, relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from another quarter, while you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows, perhaps you have attained to royal position for just such a crisis.”

- Esther 4:13



## 9. Ezra-Nehemiah

“Thus said King Cyrus of Persia: The LORD God of Heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and has charged me with building Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Anyone of you of all His people—may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem that is in Judah and build the House of the LORD God of Israel, the God that is in Jerusalem”

- Ezra 1

## 10. Daniel

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel\\_in\\_the\\_lions%27\\_den#/media/File:Sir Peter Paul Rubens - Daniel in the Lions' Den - Google Art Project.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_in_the_lions%27_den#/media/File:Sir_Peter_Paul_Rubens_-_Daniel_in_the_Lions'_Den_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg)

“By the king’s order, Daniel was then brought and thrown into the lions’ den. The king spoke to Daniel and said, “Your God, whom you serve so regularly, will deliver you.”

- Daniel 6:17

## 11. Chronicles

“Further, say thus to My servant David: Thus said the LORD of Hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the flock, to be ruler of My people Israel, and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut down all your enemies before you. Moreover, I will give you renown like that of the greatest men on earth. I will establish a home for My people Israel and will plant them firm, so that they shall dwell secure and shall tremble no more. Evil men shall not wear them down anymore as in the past, ever since I appointed judges over My people Israel. I will subdue all your enemies. And I declare to you: The LORD will build a house for you. When your days are done and you follow your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingship. He shall build a house for Me, and I will establish his throne forever.”

- 1 Chronicles 17



## **Robert Alter, *The Book of Psalms***

The idea of calling the book “Tehilim,” *Praises*, reflects an insight into what is going on in most (but not all) of the poems. Again and again, the psalmist tells us that man’s ultimate calling is to use the resources of human language to celebrate God’s greatness and to express gratitude for His beneficent acts. This theme is sometimes given special urgency by being joined with an emphasis on the ephemerality of human life: Only the living can praise God.

**For example:** <https://www.sefaria.org/Psalms.104?lang=en>

## **Genesis Chapter 1**

When God began to create heaven and earth - the earth being unformed and void, with darkness over the surface of the deep and a wind from God sweeping over the water— God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, a first day.

God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the water, that it may separate water from water.” God made the expanse, and it separated the water which was below the expanse from the water which was above the expanse. And it was so. God called the expanse Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

## **Psalm 104**

Bless the LORD, O my soul;  
O LORD, my God, You are very great;

You are clothed in glory and majesty, wrapped in a robe of light;  
You spread the heavens like a tent cloth.  
He sets the rafters of His lofts in the waters, makes the clouds His chariot,  
moves on the wings of the wind.



He makes the winds His messengers, fiery flames His servants.  
He established the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never totter.  
You made the deep cover it as a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.  
They fled at Your blast, rushed away at the sound of Your thunder—mountains rising,  
valleys sinking— to the place You established for them.  
You set bounds they must not pass so that they never again cover the earth.

You make springs gush forth in torrents; they make their way between the hills,  
giving drink to all the wild beasts; the wild asses slake their thirst.  
The birds of the sky dwell beside them and sing among the foliage.

You water the mountains from Your lofts; the earth is sated from the fruit of Your work.  
You make the grass grow for the cattle, and herbage for man's labor that he may get food  
out of the earth— wine that cheers the hearts of men, oil that makes the face shine,  
and bread that sustains man's life.

The trees of the LORD drink their fill,  
the cedars of Lebanon, His own planting,  
where birds make their nests; the stork has her home in the junipers.  
The high mountains are for wild goats; the crags are a refuge for rock-badgers.

He made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows when to set.  
You bring on darkness and it is night, when all the beasts of the forests stir.  
The lions roar for prey, seeking their food from God.  
When the sun rises, they come home and couch in their dens.  
Man then goes out to his work, to his labor until the evening.

How many are the things You have made, O LORD;  
You have made them all with wisdom; the earth is full of Your creations.  
There is the sea, vast and wide, with its creatures beyond number,  
living things, small and great.  
There go the ships, and Leviathan that You formed to sport with.  
All of them look to You to give them their food when it is due.  
Give it to them, they gather it up;  
open Your hand, they are well satisfied;



hide Your face, they are terrified;  
take away their breath, they perish and turn again into dust;  
send back Your breath, they are created, and You renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;  
may the LORD rejoice in His works!  
He looks at the earth and it trembles;  
He touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; all my life I will chant hymns to my God.  
May my prayer be pleasing to Him; I will rejoice in the LORD.  
May sinners disappear from the earth, and the wicked be no more.

Bless the LORD, O my soul. Hallelujah.



## **Derek Kider, *The Wisdom of Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes***

There comes a point in the Old Testament when the pilgrim is free to stop and take a look around. He has had a well-marked path to follow, and still it stretches on ahead. But now he must relate it to the world at large, to the scene spread out on every side: from what is spread out at his feet (Proverbs), the dark riddle of how the world is governed (Job), and how it should be valued (Ecclesiastes). In other words, in the Wisdom books, the tone of voice and even the speakers have changed. The blunt “thou shalt” or “shalt not” of The Law, and the urgent “Thus saith the LORD” of The Prophets are joined now by the cooler comments of the teacher and the often anguished questions of the learner. Where the bulk of The Old Testament calls us simply to obey and to believe, this part of it summons us to think hard as well as humbly; to keep our eyes open, to use our conscience and our common sense, and not to shirk the most disturbing questions.

### **For example: Proverbs 1**

For learning wisdom and discipline; For understanding words of discernment;  
For acquiring the discipline for success, Righteousness, justice, and equity;  
For endowing the simple with shrewdness, The young with knowledge and foresight.  
The wise man, hearing them, will gain more wisdom; The discerning man will learn to be adroit;  
For understanding proverb and epigram, The words of the wise and their riddles.  
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge

### **Genesis 3:6**

When the woman saw that the tree was good for eating and a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable as a source of wisdom, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave some to her husband, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they perceived that they were naked; and they sewed together fig leaves and made themselves loincloths.