

## SESSION 5: WRITINGS

Please read “Writings Prologue”, pages 400-419 in **RTOT**.

1. What is poetic parallelism in general and what are the four types of parallelism in Hebrew poetry?
2. What are the major Psalm types in the Hebrew Scriptures?
3. Define the notion of Biblical wisdom and summarize the basic themes of the wisdom tradition.
4. What are the literary characteristics of apocalyptic literature? What is the socio-political background out of which apocalyptic literature arises?

Class Presentations. Choose one of the books from the Writings. Be ready to make a five-minute presentation answering the following questions:

- Who wrote the book?
- When was it written?
- Where was it written?
- For whom was it written?
- Why was it written?
- In what style was it written?
- What are the major themes of this book?

## A CLOSER LOOK

Please read Psalm 23.

1. List and count the verbs in Psalm 23. Identify the subject of each verb. What generalizations can you draw from the list?

2. List and count the nouns. Which are concrete and which are abstract? What generalization can you draw from your list?
3. Who is the speaker of this psalm? The King? The psalmist? A sheep? A pilgrim? A priest?
4. What does the speaker do? What is the speaker made to do?
5. The translation for verse 6 in Hebrew can be either “I will dwell” or “I shall return.” What difference does your choice of translation make for the meaning of the psalm?

Please read 1 Kings 6:1-22 and 1 Chronicles 28:1-11.

1. How are these accounts the same?
2. How are they different?
3. Why is the building of the Temple such good news for the exilic audience of the Deuteronomistic Historian?
4. Why is it important for the Chronicler to have David hand over the plans to Solomon according to his theology?
5. Are the Deuteronomistic History and the Chronicler's History historiographical (writing history for the sake of writing history) or religious documents? Do this explain the seeming contradiction of the details of this event?

