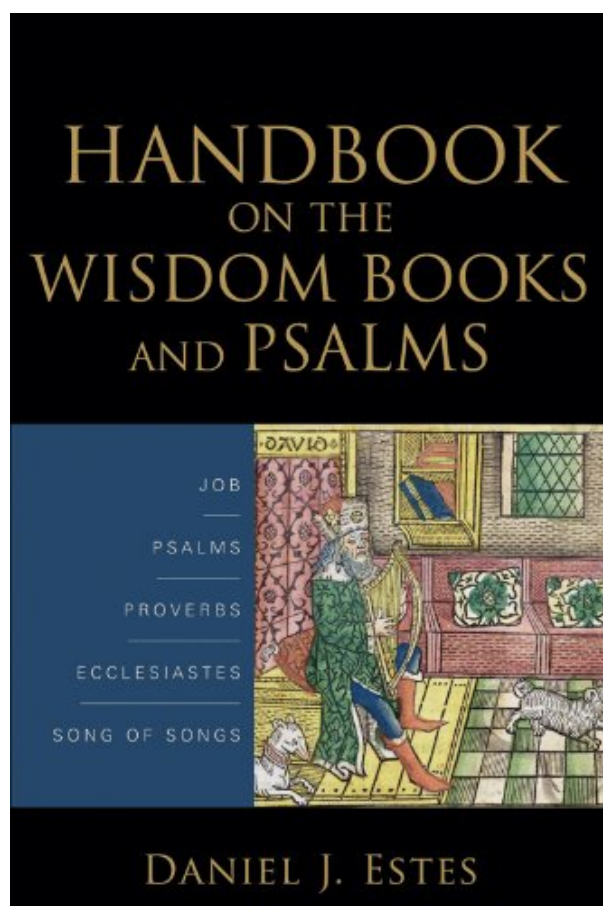


HANDBOOK ON THE WISDOM BOOKS AND PSALMS BY DANIEL J. ESTES



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From Publishers Weekly

The Old Testament wisdom literature contains beautiful songs of worship and praise (Psalms), pithy and moralistic aphorisms (Proverbs), lyrical erotic poems (Song of Songs), world-weary philosophical reflections (Ecclesiastes) and probing poetry about the nature of evil (Job). In this engaging and helpful survey of the types and themes of wisdom literature, Estes, who teaches at Cedarville College in Cedarville, Ohio, provides a generous introduction for readers interested in the interpretation of these books. Each chapter examines the authorship and date of a particular book and proceeds to discuss its structure, style and major themes. Estes then provides an illuminating exposition of the writing and an invaluable bibliography that students of wisdom literature can use to enhance their understanding. Estes's survey represents all major positions on introductory matters in judicious fashion. Thus, while Solomon is traditionally thought to be the author of Proverbs, Estes concludes that Solomon cannot be the final compiler of the collection even though he might have played a role in the beginning of the process. Estes's book joins the other volumes in this series in providing significant introductions to the literature of the Old Testament. (Dec.)

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From the Back Cover

"In this handbook Estes takes his readers by the hand to guide them through some of the more difficult books of the Old Testament. The introductory sections provide excellent orientation to their contents and to appropriate reading strategies, while the commentary explains the thought flow of the biblical writers and, importantly, the sometimes apparent breaks in thought flow. Estes writes lucidly and informs his discussion from his acquaintance with a wide range of current biblical scholarship. This is a first-class study aid that anyone could read with profit."--Robert P. Gordon, University of Cambridge

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This valuable resource introduces readers to the Old Testament books of wisdom and poetry--Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs--and helps them better understand each book's overall flow. Estes summarizes some of each book's key issues, offers an exposition of the book that interacts with major commentaries and recent studies, and concludes with an extensive bibliography. Now in paperback.

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28 of 28 people found the following review helpful.

Cedarville Prof. Writes a Great Introduction to the Wisdom Literature of the Bible

By wisdomofthepages.com

Here is a great new book published by Baker Academic and written by Cedarville University professor Daniel J. Estes.

It is an introduction to the wisdom literature of the Old Testament: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs.

This is not a full verse-by-verse commentary. Instead, it covers the kind of material that is normally covered in the beginning of a full commentary. That is, Estes discusses the authorship, date, genre, structure, etc. of each book. Additionally, each section has a "History of Interpretation" for each book, which is especially helpful for Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs.

Traveling through Psalms in only 71 pages may seem to be a disservice to the text. However, the purpose is to give the "big picture" of the book in an exciting and fresh manner that invites the reader to go further in study.

In discussion on Proverbs, Estes groups the verses under 12 themes. I took this same approach when preaching through Proverbs in the past, and definitely think this is the preferred approach for preaching through the book, at least chapters 10-31.

Regarding the Song of Songs, he rejects the allegorical interpretations in favor of: "...it extols the richness of human erotic love as a gift from God" (401)

If any of you have had the joy of sitting under the teaching of Old Testament professor Daniel Block, you know of his deep love for the Scriptures. Dr. Block gives the following recommendation for Estes' book:

"This introduction to the biblical books on godly piety and wisdom represents a model of balanced and judicious study. While taking advantage of the most recent scholarship on the Psalms and the wisdom writings, Estes is able to distill this information and present it in a form that is accessible to laypersons and

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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Handbook of Wisdom and Psalms

By Ryan T Kirkpatrick

This work is excellent! Allow me to give insight into the author Dr. Daniel Estes. Having had Dr. Estes for Wisdom Literature I can assure you that this book was written from his passion to study and teach the wisdom books. He approaches the text academically and pastorally, offering excellent exegetical work while giving contemporary life principles. If you plan on studying and teaching any of the wisdom books or Psalms, this is a must!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Good information given

By Beertje

This book gave many different ideas about the wisdom books and psalms concerning for instance author, date, historical background etc. Very useful if you want to have more information than just a bit that is superficial

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