

# Poetry Bullet Points

## ***Psalms:***

- 150 poems, songs, and prayers in 5 volumes or books
- Songs of praise and a prayer book
- Shows full spectrum of human emotion
- Starts with lament & moves toward praise & thanksgiving
- 25 Psalms point to Jesus the Messiah (ex: Psalm 22)

## ***Proverbs:***

- Short, wise sayings mostly associated with King Solomon
- Purpose is for gaining God's wisdom to know how to live well
- Principles, not promises; show how the world should be
- Proverbs is like a bright, young teacher

## ***Ecclesiastes***

- Ecclesiastes is like a sharp, middle-aged critic (realist)
- Wisdom is not always black & white; you can pursue wisdom and still fall victim to life circumstances
- Nothing in this world satisfies
- Life is like vapor or smoke; the meaning of life isn't clear, like smoke
- Stop trying to control life and instead, enjoy the simple things
- Concludes: Fear God and keep His commandments; it's up to God to make sense of it all anyway

## ***Job:***

- Job: a righteous man who suffers extreme misfortune & wonders why
- Picture him as a weathered old man with life experience
- Begs the question, "How do we trust God when life isn't fair and good people suffer?"
- Given a peek in the heavenly realms & the Divine Council in God's throne room
- God overwhelms Job with a tour of the cosmos showing His majesty, power, & wisdom
- We realize the world is more complex than we can fathom & beyond human comprehension

## *Song of Solomon / Song of Songs:*

- Claims to be the greatest of all songs
- Attributed to King Solomon
- Hebrew love poetry: describes the love story between a bride & bridegroom
- Themes of love, longing, and delight
- Key feature is garden imagery
- 3 main interpretations: (could be all 3)
  - 1) celebration of human love in marriage
  - 2) allegory of God's love for His people
  - 3) allegory of Christ's love for the Church