

Name _____

The Old Testament: Our Call to Faith & Justice

Directed Reading Worksheet

Date _____

Chapter 9, *A Look at Wisdom and Apocalyptic Literature*

Directions: Read carefully through Chapter 9 and then use the text as a reference to locate answers for the questions. All questions in this *Directed Reading Worksheet* are taken in sequential order from the chapter – first questions from the early sections of the chapter; last questions from the end of the chapter, etc. Answer **True or False** questions by circling the word True or False at the beginning of the question. **Fill-in-the-Blank** questions must often be answered with one than one word per blank. (Refer to your text often!) Write your own **Short Answers** for other questions.

Page 202 Introduction

1. What are the four main themes of wisdom and apocalyptic literature in the Bible?
2. What is *wisdom literature*?
3. True or False. The Jewish wisdom authors borrowed from the wisdom collection of other nations, and vice versa.
4. Which books are included in the Old Testament Wisdom collection?
5. True or False. One thing that made the Hebrew Wisdom tradition unique was its emphasis on charity.
6. What is the origin of the word *apocalyptic* and what is *apocalyptic literature*?
7. The second half of the book of _____ is the only example of purely apocalyptic literature in the Old Testament, but portions of _____ are other examples of the development in that direction. Other apocalyptic books were written between the _____ B.C. and the _____ A.D., including _____ in the New Testament.

Pages 203-205 Wisdom Literature: Themes and Styles

8. What *is* the wisdom described by the Hebrews?
9. The Book of _____ is a collection of short, wise sayings. One characteristic of proverbs is how _____ they are --- a message that is usually _____ between cultures across different _____ as well.
10. The fascinating thing about wisdom is that it seems to apply to _____, perhaps because _____ does not change much from _____ or over the centuries. People everywhere seek answers to the _____ and want to live it the best way possible.
11. What was one thing the Hebrew authors of wisdom had to resist as they exchanged insights with other cultures?
12. One popular writing style contrasts the behavior of a _____ with those of a _____ . _____ also used the same formula.
13. True or False. Although sages are rarely mentioned in Israel, and no one knows for certain who the authors of Biblical wisdom sayings were, the evidence seems to suggest that they came from all classes of society.

Pages 206-215 Wisdom Books: A Unique Form of Spirituality

14. True or False. It's not surprising that many of the central characters of the Old Testament appear prominently in Biblical Wisdom literature.
15. How does the identity of God in the Wisdom literature differ from the literature of the prophets?
16. The very presence of Wisdom literature in the Bible suggests that _____ can come from _____ and careful _____ as well as through revelation.
17. True or False. It is likely that most, if not all, of the Hebrew Wisdom literature came from the post-Exilic era.
18. Summarize the four explanations of why Wisdom literature became popular in the post-Exilic Diaspora.
19. The author of Job is _____, but the book itself was probably written between _____ B.C. The work is highly _____ among the Wisdom literature.
20. What belief about good and evil does the book of Job reject?
21. Who was Job and what unfortunate things happened to him?
22. What conventional ideas of his day does he reject?
23. What three types of wisdom are taught in the book of Proverbs?
24. Some proverbs are _____, with little or no religious implications and most proverbs teach by _____.
25. The title of the book of _____ comes from the Greek translation of the Hebrew word *Qohelet*, meaning "_____." The title refers to someone like a _____ or _____ who presides over a meeting, but not to an actual historical person.
26. Ecclesiastes is a loose collection of _____ and was written about the _____ B.C.
27. What is a major theme in Ecclesiastes? How does this involve God?
28. The _____ has been attributed to _____ but its language and style reveal that it was written after the _____. It is a collection of _____ and the title itself is a Hebrew way of saying "_____."
29. Explain the three ways of interpreting the love poems.
30. The complete title of the book of Wisdom is "_____" although the author actually was a _____ living in _____. It was written in _____ and reveals a _____ (Greek) influence. It was the _____ book in the Old Testament to be written, some time in the middle of the _____ B.C.
31. Describe the three main sections of the book of Wisdom.

32. The book of Sirach is unique among the wisdom books because the author is identified as _____. He was likely a _____ in _____ who had a great love for the _____.
33. What types of writings does one find in the book of Sirach?
34. It was written in _____ in the _____ century and, because it was used so extensively by the early Church in the instruction of _____, it has also been called *Liber Ecclesiasticus*, meaning “_____.”
35. The Psalms present an inward journey of _____ and _____ that prepares Christians for the coming of _____ more than any other part of the Old Testament.
36. The word *psalms* is derived from the name of a _____ instrument called a “_____.” The book of Psalms actually refers to “_____.” The overall literary style of the psalms is _____.
37. What are the two types of *parallelism* found in the psalms?
38. Those who have studied the Psalms suggest that originally there were _____ “books” of the Psalms.
39. Explain the evidence which suggests that originally there were five “books” of the Psalms.
40. Traditionally it was thought that _____ was the author of the first seventy-two psalms. The historical books mention that he played a _____ instrument in the court of _____.
41. Almost _____ of the entire book of Psalms are believed to come from the period of the second _____ although the exact dates for most psalms are hard to determine. Psalm 137 is easy to date because it mentions the _____, so it can be no older than 587 B.C.
42. Psalm 29 is thought to be the _____ psalm because its poetry is similar in style to _____ poetry of an earlier era. Psalms 65 and 68 cannot have come from _____ because they are about the _____ which was built by his son, Solomon.
43. Explain the four main categories of psalms.
44. How were the psalms used? Some were used for _____ in the Temple, others were used for _____ festivals. It is presumed that _____ sang some of them, although the historical psalms may have been used by students to recall the history of _____.
45. Some psalms seem to have been used to appeal to God for _____ in settling a conflict. A dispute might be over money, _____, business, or _____.
46. The appeal of the psalms is that they help modern readers to “_____” of the Israelites despite the _____ of time and culture. They also aid _____ people of all generations in the most _____ of pain, praise, joy, and sorrow of the ancient Hebrews. Jesus himself turned for comfort to Psalm 22 at the moment of his _____.

Pages 215-217 *The Rise of Apocalyptic Literature*

47. What are two similarities and one difference between Wisdom literature and Apocalyptic literature?
48. What was the goal of apocalyptic visionaries who addressed the sense some people had that life was out of control?
49. Explain three characteristics of apocalyptic literature.
50. There are _____ main models of apocalyptic writing. The first involves _____.
The second is known as “_____” because it uses _____ to represent people, places, and _____. This _____ type of apocalyptic literature is used in the _____.
51. Summarize the eight characteristics of the historic symbolic style of apocalyptic literature.

Pages 217-220 *Apocalyptic Writing in the Old Testament*

52. Although the book of _____ is the only pure source of apocalyptic writing in the Old Testament, the prophets _____ do use the apocalyptic style in certain places. For instance the book of Joel sees _____ in a terrible plague of locusts that ravages the land. He also describes a vision of the future when all the _____ will gather in the Valley of Jehoshaphat to _____.
53. What does it mean to say that the book of Joel has a very eschatological tone?
54. The apocalyptic visions found in the book of Zechariah were intended to promote the _____ and to encourage the people after the disruption and _____ of the _____.
55. When Jesus was called before the _____, he evoked the words of _____ in speaking about the coming of the _____ on the clouds of _____.
56. The Catholic _____ includes the book of Daniel with the _____ books. The book contains _____ as well as _____ literature.
57. Describe the three main divisions of the book of Daniel.

58. Why does the anonymous author of the middle section of Daniel tell the story as if it had occurred four centuries earlier?

59. Interpret the meaning of the symbols and message found in the seventh chapter of Daniel.

60. Explain why apocalyptic writing appealed so much to Jews in the centuries around the time of Jesus.

61. What is one of the central messages of apocalyptic visions?

62. Why aren't the other apocalyptic writings of the period included in the Bible? How are they different?

63. What characteristics of these works excluded them?