

## Welcome to 10 Minute Topics

### This week's topic is: Ketuvim

The Ketuvim (כתובים) (Writings) is the third section of the Tanach and covers the period after the return from the Babylonian exile (6th century BCE) and contains 12 books. The Ketuvim is made up of various writings that do not have an overall theme. This section of the Tanach includes poems and songs, the stories of Job, Ruth, and Esther, the writings and prophecies of Daniel, and the history of the kings of Eretz Yisrael.

Secular Name	Hebrew Name	Meaning	Author
Psalms	Tehillim	Praises	David, Adam, Abraham, & Moses
Proverbs	Mishlei	Proverbs/Wisdom	Solomon
Job	Iyov	Hated/Oppressed	Moses
Song of Songs	Shir HaShirim	Song of Songs	Solomon
Ruth	Rut	Friendship	Samuel
Lamentations	Eichah	Alas	Jeremiah
Ecclesiastes	Kohelet	Assembly of People	Solomon
Esther	Ester	Star	Men of the Great Assembly
Daniel	Daniel	G-d is My Judge	Men of the Great Assembly
Ezra	Ezra	Help	Ezra
Nehemiah	Nechemiah	Comforted of the L-rd	Ezra
Chronicles I and II	Divrei Hayamim I and II	Words of the Days	Ezra (through II Chronicles 21:1), Nehemiah

Psalms (Tehillim - תהלים) means praises and was written mostly by David with some written by Adam, Abraham, and Moses. The Book of Psalms is composed of various petitions, prayers, and songs. The book also includes some Messianic Age prophecies.

Proverbs (Mishlei - משלי) means wisdom and was written by Solomon. The Book of Proverbs begins with the reiteration of the wisdom that is found in Torah and the wisdom that mankind attains by the study of Torah. The remainder of the book speaks to the guidance and the wealth of wisdom that comes from Torah.

Job (Iyov - איוב) means hated or oppressed and was written by Moses. The Book of Job describes the tests that Job is put through as a means of showing his gratitude and faith in G-d.

Song of Songs (Shir HaShirim – שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים) was written by Solomon. Song of Songs is a book that describes the relationship between Israel and G-d in the form of a story about a married couple. This book, one of the five Meggilot, is read publicly on the Shabbat during Pesach (Passover) and some read the book at the Pesach Seder.

Ruth (Rut - רוּת) means friendship and was written by Samuel. Ruth is the story of David's (and the Moshiach's) ancestor. It follows Ruth's journey from the pagan world to that of a Jewess and her earned place as the ancestor of David and the Moshiach. This book, one of the five Megillot, is read publicly during Shavuot.

Lamentations (Eichah - אֵיכָה) means alas and was written by Jeremiah. The Book of Lamentations is a book about Jeremiah's prophecies and his lament over the sins of the Children of Israel and the destruction of the Holy Temple. Lamentations, one of the five Meggilot, is read publicly on Tish B'Av (Ninth of Av).

Ecclesiastes (Kohelet - קֹהֵלֶת) means assembly of people and was written by Solomon. Ecclesiastes shows the wisdom of Solomon as he writes that the righteous are punished for their sins in this world so they will not be in need of punishment in the Hereafter and the evil ones are punished in the Hereafter and not always punished in this world. Solomon speaks of the wisdom and guidance that both Torah learning and the pursuit of agriculture provide. This text is one of the five Meggilot and is read publicly on the Shabbat during Sukkot.

Esther (Ester - אֶסְתֵּר) means star and was written by the Men of the Great Assembly. The Book of Esther is the story of Esther and Mordechai. G-d is not mentioned in this book but is seen as being the moving force in the background. Esther becomes queen and is therefore afforded the opportunity, along with Mordechai, to save the Children of Israel from the evil Haman. The holiday of Purim is based on this text. This text, one of the five Meggilot, is read publicly every Purim with great celebration.

Daniel (Daniel - דָּנִיֵּאל) means G-d is my Judge and was written by the Men of the Great Assembly. The Book of Daniel is the story of Daniel and his oppression at the hands of king Nebuchadnezzar. It includes Daniel's prophecies about the eventual redemption as well as his various writings.

Ezra (Ezra - עֶזְרָא) means help and was written by Ezra. Ezra is a story about the return of the Children of Israel from Persia and the reconstruction of the Holy Temple.

Nehemiah (Nechemiah - נְחֵמְיָהוּ) means comforted of the L-rd and was written by Ezra. Nehemiah tells of the reconstruction of the walls surrounding Jerusalem and the return of the Children of Israel to their land. This book also speaks about the reinstatement of the Holy Temple as the spiritual center of the Children of Israel.

Chronicles (Divrei Hayamim – דברי הימים) means words of the days and was written by Ezra and Nehemiah. The first part of Chronicles tells of the genealogies of David and Judah as well as the other tribes. The remainder of the book tells the stories of the individual kings of Israel.

© Rachel-Esther bat-Avraham, 2009  
For Personal Use Only . All Other Uses Must be Pre-Approved  
[rachel-esther@becomingjewish.org](mailto:rachel-esther@becomingjewish.org)