Wisdom in Israel

In the unit, we will read the Jewish wisdom literature. This literature is rooted in the long tradition of guidance for responsible living commonly shared by most of the ancient Near Eastern peoples. However, the Jews reflect on this tradition from the viewpoint of their post-exilic development as a renewed covenant people and so transform the tradition into one that is imbued with their specific religious beliefs. The wisdom tradition reveals an exciting and creative enterprise in Jewish theology. It attempts to bring together the general wisdom traditions, which were based on everyday experience and on the patterns of creation, with specifically Jewish traditions based on a covenant with God.

PRIOR REQUIREMENT FOR TAKING THE COURSE
Have access to a computer with internet access, have a personal email address, and purchase the student workbook. Purchase of suggested reference books is highly recommended.
Pauline Viviano, Ph.D.
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Pauline A. Viviano, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor Emerita of Theology at Loyola University of Chicago where she taught for thirty-five years. She holds a doctorate in Biblical Languages and Literature from St. Louis University. Besides articles in academic and popular journals, she has written popular commentaries on the Books of Genesis in the Collegeville Bible Commentary series (1984) and more recently on the Books of Jeremiah and Baruch for the new Collegeville Commentary Series (2013). She has completed a commentary on the Book of Joshua for Paulist Press and is presently working on a literary analysis of the Books of Jeremiah and Lamentations. She received the “Living Tradition Award” for lifelong commitment and service to the Catholic intellectual life through teaching and scholarship in the Hebrew Bible from the Joan and Bill Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage, Loyola University Chicago, April 22, 2016.

Course Objectives

Unit 1: Wisdom in Israel

• Recognize the distinctive sources, literary forms, and theological themes of Israel’s wisdom traditions.

• Identify the historical and social situation in which the Hebrew wisdom literature developed

• Apply the wisdom message to your present situation