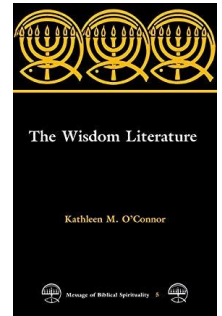




On a separate sheet of paper, answer each of the following six questions in one or two paragraphs, citing references from *both* the O'Connor text and from the Bible. As a kindness to your teachers, please type or print out your answers.



1. In chapter two, O'Connor lists seven "qualities of the wise" (virtues) put forward in the Book of Proverbs: humility, diligence, prudence, prudence in speaking, self-mastery, integrity, and fidelity in relationships. Choose one of these qualities and then do the following:
 - a. Explain in one or two sentences what O'Connor means by the virtue you've chosen.
 - b. Describe, from your own experience, how this virtue demonstrates wisdom.
 - c. List one proverb from the Book of Proverbs that showcases this virtue. Cite the reference.
2. In chapter three, the Wisdom Woman is described as a metaphor for God as follows: "In some of the texts, the Wisdom Woman ... represents another way to look at God, another metaphor to speak about the beauty, power and attraction that God holds out to human beings." (p. 83)

Which of the following statements would you say is *most* true:

- a. The biblical image of God as Wisdom Woman is very similar to the God imaged in the Sinai Covenant.
- b. The biblical image of God as Wisdom Woman is very different from the God imaged in the Sinai Covenant.
- c. The biblical image of God as Wisdom Woman expands greatly upon the image of God in the Sinai Covenant.
- d. The biblical image of God as Wisdom Woman provides a perspective that is different from but complementary to the image of God in the Sinai Covenant.

Explain your choice and *cite references from both* the Torah and the O'Connor text to make your case.

3. Choose *one* idea or image from your reading of chapters 4-7 that you find surprising or appealing. Then proceed as follows: (1) Answer **either a or b** below. (2) Then answer **either c or d** below.
 - a. What questions, if any, did your chosen idea or image raise for your journey in the Christian faith community? *or*
 - b. What insights, if any, did your chosen idea or image raise for your journey in the Christian faith community?

- c. How is your relationship with God or the faith community *challenged* by these questions or insights?
 - d. How is your relationship with God *affirmed* by these questions or insights?
4. Choose one of the following statements from the Epilogue and comment on its relevance to your journey of faith.
- a. "Jesus' participation in meals with tax collectors and sinners, the outcast and the margined, was a principal reason for his rejection by his own people and a shocking revelation of the ways of God." (p. 189)
 - b. "For Christians to belittle or demean Jews is to harm ourselves." (p. 191)
 - c. "To notice that Jesus himself taught according to the manner of the sages, winning rather than coercing his listeners, is to be challenged not only by his words but also his reverence and respect for everyone." (p. 192)
5. In chapter one of *The Wisdom Literature*, O'Connor tells us that "popular thinking ... claims that God is found primarily in the privacy of the individual soul. A spirituality that encourages withdrawal from community and flight from the world is simply not adequate to life today." (pp. 15-16) *After reading the entire book*, assess O'Connor's statement from chapter one by answering the following questions:
- a. How does this statement compare to and contrast with the understanding of biblical spirituality you've developed in your CBS studies?
 - b. Based on your own experience, list one or two truths and one or two limitations of O'Connor's statement.

