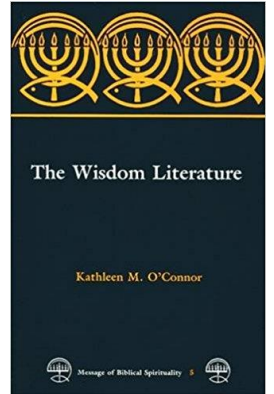


On a separate sheet of paper, answer each of the following five questions in full, citing references from the O'Connor text and from the Bible. As a kindness to your teachers, please type (print out) your answers.



1. In chapter one of *The Wisdom Literature*, the author writes, “A spirituality that encourages withdrawal from community and flight from the world is simply not adequate to life today.” (pp. 15-16)
 - a. Based on your own experience, list one truth and one limitation of O'Connor’s statement.
 - b. How does this statement compare to or contrast with the understanding of biblical spirituality you’ve developed in your CBS studies so far?
2. In chapter two, the author lists seven “qualities of the wise” (also known as virtues) put forward in the Book of Proverbs: humility, diligence, prudence, prudence in speaking, self-mastery, integrity, and fidelity in relationships. **Choose only one** of these qualities and then do the following:
 - a. Explain in one sentence what the author means by the virtue you’ve chosen.
 - b. Describe, from your own experience, whether you would consider someone with this virtue or quality to be wise.
 - c. Write out one proverb from the Book of Proverbs (and cite reference) that refers to this virtue or quality.
3. 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)

Based on your reading of chapter three, 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 seen in the Sinai Covenant.
- b. The biblical image of God as Wisdom Woman is very different from the God seen in the Sinai Covenant.
- c. The biblical image of God as Wisdom Woman expands greatly upon the image I have of God from reading the Sinai Covenant.
- d. The biblical image of God as Wisdom Woman complements 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.

4. Choose one idea or image from your reading of chapters 4-7 that you find surprising and appealing. Then proceed as follows:
- 1) **First answer either a or b** below.
 - 2) **Then answer either c or d** below.
- a. *What questions* did your chosen idea or image raise for your journey faith? **OR**
 - b. What *insights* did your chosen idea or image raise for your journey in faith?
 - c. How is your relationship with God or faith community *challenged* by these questions or insight? **OR**
 - d. How is your relationship with God *affirmed* by these questions or insights?
5. **Choose one** of the following statements (a or b) from the Epilogue and comment on its relevance to your journey of faith in the Christian community.
- a. "For Christians to belittle or demean Jews is to harm ourselves." (p. 191) **OR**
 - b. "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)

