

The Book of Sirach

Introduction – Chapter 3

Author and Date

Can this book be dated with precision? Who is the author? When was the book written?

Title

What was the title in the Latin Christian tradition?

Place in the Canon

Why is this book excluded from the Jewish Canon? Was this a disputed book in the Christian Canon?

Structure

How is the book organized as it relates to its materials? How many parts is the book divided into?

Historical Context

What cultural context was the book shaped in?

Does the book intend to defend Judaism against the challenges of Hellenism?

Content and Themes

What are the six key themes that are central to the book's theology?

Christian Perspective

Is the book quoted directly in the New Testament?

Read 1:1-10 How does the book of Sirach open? (Note 1:1-10)

How is wisdom personified? (Note 1:1)

How do you access wisdom? (Note 1:11-30)

Read 1:14 what is the beginning of wisdom? (Note 1:14)

Read 1:20 How is wisdom related to the tree of life? (Note 1:20)

Read 1:22 What is unrighteous anger? (Note 1:22)

Read 1:23 What are some of the attributes of a patient man? (Note 1:23)

Read 1:28 What does it mean to be divided in mind? (Note 1:28)

Read 2:3-5 How does suffering relate to the spiritual life? (Note 2:3) (Note 2:4)
(Note 2:5)

What does verses 3:1-16 discuss? (Note 3:1-16)

Read 3:3 How does an act of kindness atone for sins? (Note 3:3)

Read 3:8 Does the father of the family possess a power to bless his children?
(Note 3:8)

Read 3:15 Can you merit spiritual blessings from God? (Note 3:15)

Read 3:16 Is it appropriate to give honor to one's father and mother? (Note 3:16)

Read 3:18 What is the importance of humility? (Note 3:18)

Read 3:21-24 What are the dangers of intellectual pride? (Note 3:21-24)

What are matters to great for human understanding? (Note 3:23)

Read 3:29 Is the wiseman always ready to learn? (Note 3:29)