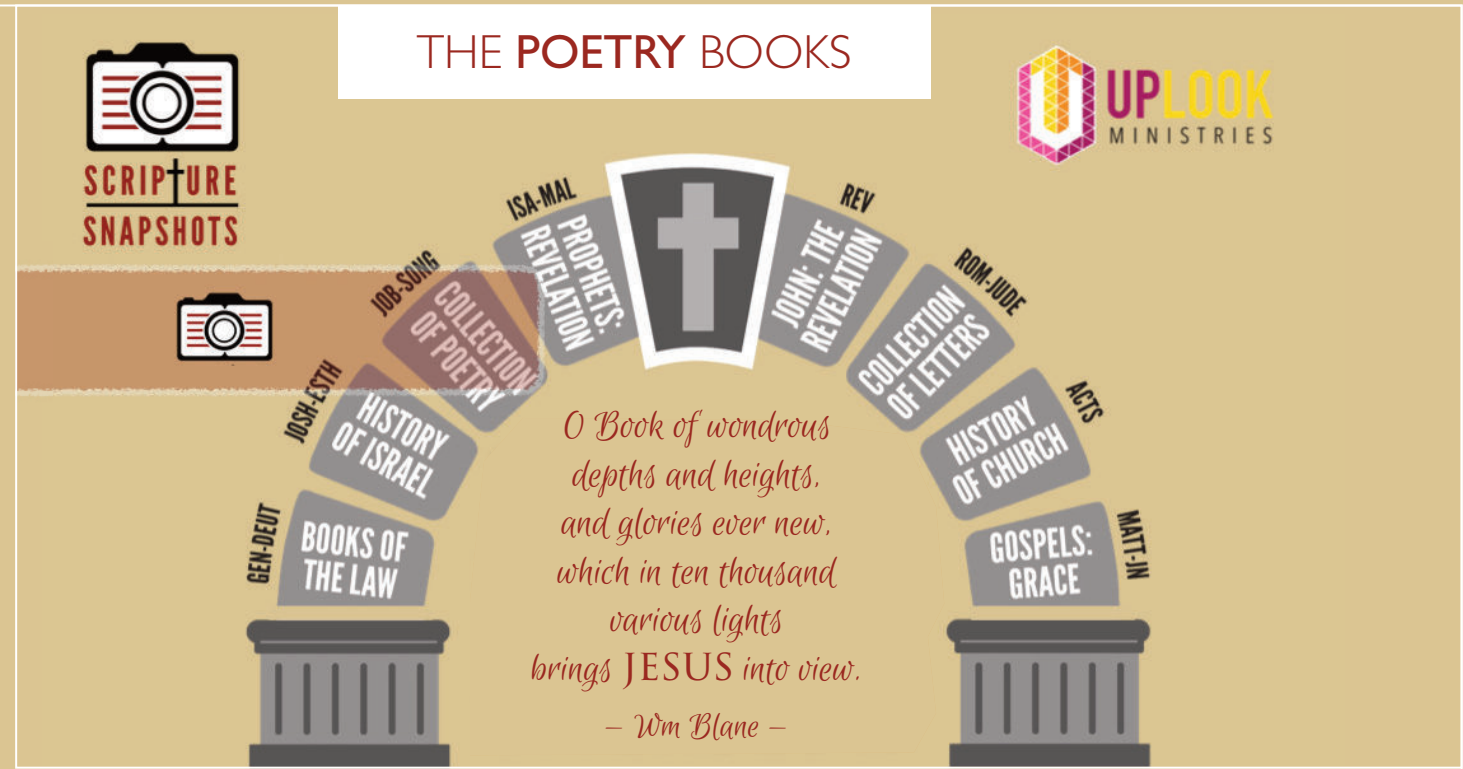


**JOB:** Probably the first book of the Bible written, the story of Job is as mysterious as is human suffering. Job and his friends wrestle with some of life's big issues: Is God just? Why is Job suffering if he is blameless, as God says? When the wisdom of men is exhausted, God speaks. Men, inhabiting such a short slice of history, have such a small view of the universe that they cannot understand what God is doing. But that God has made, and is managing so well, such a complex universe, we should be stirred to trust Him, clinging to what we do know of God's grandeur, wisdom, and love when our lives don't seem to make sense.

**PSALMS:**

**Part 1** — What is the first evidence of a Spirit-filled life? Paul tells us twice so we don't miss it (Eph 5:19; Col 3:16): "speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Or, as James puts it: "Is anyone



among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms" (5:13). Have you ever said, or heard someone else say, "Lord, we just don't have the words to praise You as we should"? Well, here's a book filled with Spirit-inspired words that we can make our own through life's experiences, and then sing them up to our Lord!

**Part 2** — In this second part to our introduction to the Psalms, we highlight the rainbow of experiences of life, responses of faith, and lessons learned throughout this hymnbook of the ages. We journey from the agonizing sorrows of the **Imprecatory Psalms**, through the heartfelt honesty of the **Penitential Psalms** and the insightful applications in the **Biographical Psalms**. Finally, we find our way to the

tender portraits of the **Messianic Psalms** and the glorious crescendos of the **Hallel**, or **Praise, Psalms**. We who know the Lord join with venerable Job and speak of "God my Maker, who gives songs in the night" (35:10).

**PROVERBS:** A *proverb* is a sermon in a sentence, a short, compact statement describing human choices that have lasting consequences. The contrasts are drawn in black and white. The objective: "to give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion" (1:4). Solomon, and the other wise men who collaborated with him, believed that wisdom (the practical and profitable outliving of truth) begins with the fear of the Lord (taking Him seriously in everything He says). That's the heartbeat of this remarkable book.

**ECCLESIASTES & SONG OF SOLOMON:** Get inside the mind of the wisest man who ever lived — until the coming of Christ. Check out the results of his lavish experiments to find the secret of true happiness. Then listen to the top ten, no, the top *one*, love song out of more than a thousand he composed. A man with 700 wives should have learned SOMETHING about love, wouldn't you think!



THE POETRY BOOKS

