

COMA questions for Hebrew wisdom literature and poetry

Context

1 • Are there any clues about the circumstances in which the passage was written?

2 • What has happened so far?

Observation

3 • Are there repetitions or multiple instances of similar ideas? Do these repetitions make a particular point, or point to the structure of the passage?

4 • What images or metaphors does the author use? What do they indicate about God or the other people in the text? What might they indicate about modern readers?

5 • What is the tone of the passage? What emotions is the author arousing?

6 • What is the main point or points?

7 • What surprises are there?

Meaning

- 8** • Are there specific instructions/commands given to the reader? Does this passage mention any consequences for not following God's commands?

- 9** • How does the author motivate the reader/audience, or make his appeal?

- 10** • What does the passage teach us about God, and his people, and life in his world?

- 11** • Does the passage point forward to Jesus? Is the gospel anticipated or foreshadowed in some way?

Application

- 12** • How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?

- 13** • Is there some attitude you need to change?

- 14** • How does this passage call on you to change the way you live?

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