

# Content

<b>Editors' Foreword</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>Preface</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>General Introduction</b> .....	<b>17</b>
A Unique Book .....	17
Text and Versions .....	17
The Unity of the Book .....	19
Literary Structure .....	20
Language and Style .....	21
Language .....	21
Style .....	22
The Literary Genre: Between the Epideictic Genre and Midrashic Style .....	24
Wisdom: A Proteptic .....	24
Wisdom: An <i>Encomium</i> .....	25
The <i>Midrashic</i> Style .....	26
Author, Date, and Place of Composition .....	27
Author .....	27
Date .....	28
Place .....	30
The Book of Wisdom and the Scriptures .....	31
The Book of Wisdom and the Ancient Jewish Tradition .....	34
The Book of Wisdom and Hellenism .....	36
The Book of Wisdom and the Christian Tradition .....	40
The Links with the New Testament .....	40
The Problem of Canonicity and the Use of the Book in Christian Antiquity .....	41
<b>Introduction to the First Part (Wis 1–6)</b> .....	<b>44</b>
Literary Structure .....	44
Literary Genre: Wis 1–6 and the Encomium .....	45
<b>Wis 1:1–15: Love Justice!</b> .....	<b>47</b>
Literary Structure of Wis 1:1–15 .....	47
Wis 1:1–5: Justice, Wisdom, and Spirit .....	48
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	48
Synchronic Analysis .....	49
Diachronic Analysis .....	54
Wis 1:6–10: Wisdom is a Philanthropic Spirit .....	55
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	56
Synchronic Analysis .....	56
Diachronic Analysis .....	59
Wis 1:11–12: Do Not Seek Death! .....	61
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	61

Synchronic Analysis .....	62
Diachronic Analysis .....	64
Wis 1:13-15: God Did Not Create Death! .....	65
Synchronic Analysis .....	65
Diachronic Analysis .....	67
Summary of Wis 1:1-15 .....	69
 <b>Wis 1:16–2:24: The Godless Summon Death through Their Words and Deeds .....</b>	 <b>70</b>
Literary Structure of Wis 1:16–2:24 .....	70
Wis 1:16-2:5: The Party of Death: A Life without Meaning .....	71
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	72
Synchronic Analysis .....	72
Diachronic Analysis .....	75
Wis 2:6-9: Let Us Enjoy Life! .....	77
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	78
Synchronic Analysis .....	79
Diachronic Analysis .....	79
Wis 2:10-16: Let Us Oppress the Just Man! .....	81
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	81
Synchronic Analysis .....	82
Diachronic Analysis .....	84
Wis 2:17-20: Let Us See If the Just One Is the Child of God ...! .....	85
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	86
Synchronic Analysis .....	86
Diachronic Analysis .....	88
Wis 2:21-24: The Mysteries of God .....	89
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	89
Synchronic Analysis .....	90
Diachronic Analysis .....	92
Summary of Wis 1:16 – 2:24: The Identity of the Ungodly and That of the Just .....	93
 <b>Wis 3-4: The Just and the Godless between Life and Death: Four Contrasts .....</b>	 <b>97</b>
Literary Structure of Wis 3-4 .....	97
The First Diptych: The Destiny of the Just and the Ungodly (Wis 3:1-12) ..	101
Wis 3:1-9: The Just Are in the Hand of God and Will Govern Nations .....	101
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	102
Synchronic Analysis .....	103
Diachronic Analysis .....	107
Wis 3:10-12: The Ungodly and Their Descendants .....	111
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	112
Synchronic Analysis .....	112
Diachronic Analysis .....	113
The Second Diptych: The Barren Woman, the Eunuch and the Infertility of the Ungodly (Wis 3:13-19) .....	114

Notes on the Text and Translation .....	114
Synchronic Analysis .....	115
Wis 3:13-15: Praise for the Childless and the Eunuch .....	115
Wis 3:16-19: The Children of the Godless .....	117
Diachronic Analysis .....	118
The Third Diptych: Virtue and Children (Wis 4:1-6) .....	120
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	121
Synchronic Analysis .....	122
Diachronic Analysis .....	124
The Fourth Diptych: The Premature Death of the Just and the Sad Death of the Ungodly (Wis 4:7-20) .....	126
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	127
Synchronic Analysis .....	128
Wis 4:7-16: The Premature Death of the Just .....	128
Wis 4:17-20: The Sad Death of the Godless .....	131
Diachronic Analysis .....	133
Summary of Wis 3-4 .....	137
 <b>Wis 5: Concluding Contrast of the Just and the Godless before the Background of the Cosmos .....</b>	<b>139</b>
The Literary Structure of Wis 5 .....	139
Wis 5:1-3: Introduction to the Second Discourse of the Ungodly .....	140
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	141
Synchronic Analysis .....	141
Diachronic Analysis .....	142
Wis 5:4-13: The Discourse of the Ungodly .....	143
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	144
Synchronic Analysis .....	146
Diachronic Analysis .....	149
Wis 5:14-23: The Vain Hope of the Ungodly and the Blessed Destiny of the Just; the Cosmos, in Alliance with God .....	151
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	152
Synchronic Analysis .....	153
Diachronic Analysis .....	158
Summary of Wis 5 .....	160
 <b>Wis 6:1-21: A New Appeal to the Readers .....</b>	<b>161</b>
The Literary Structure of Wis 6 .....	161
Wis 6:1-11: Listen, O kings! .....	163
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	164
Synchronic Analysis .....	164
Diachronic Analysis .....	168
Wis 6:12-21: Wisdom Searches for the One Searching for Her .....	170
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	171
Synchronic Analysis .....	171
Diachronic Analysis .....	175
Wis 6:22-25: I Will Explain the Nature of Wisdom to You .....	175

Notes on the Text and Translation .....	176
Synchronic Analysis .....	176
Diachronic Analysis .....	178
Summary .....	179
<b>Introduction to the Second Part (Wis 7-9) .....</b>	<b>181</b>
<b>Wis 7-8: The Elogium of Wisdom .....</b>	<b>183</b>
The Literary Structure of Wis 7-8 .....	183
Wis 7:1-6: Weakness of “Solomon” .....	186
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	186
Synchronic Analysis .....	187
Diachronic Analysis .....	188
Wis 7:7-12: Love Wisdom .....	190
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	190
Synchronic Analysis .....	191
Diachronic Analysis .....	192
Wis 7:13-22a: the gifts of wisdom .....	194
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	194
Synchronic Analysis .....	196
Diachronic Analysis .....	199
Wis 7:22b-8:1: The Nature of Wisdom .....	201
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	202
Synchronic Analysis .....	203
Diachronic Analysis .....	207
The Theological Sense of Wis 7:22b-23 in Light of Its Sources .....	210
Wis 8:2-9: Wisdom as Spouse, Friend, Counsellor .....	215
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	216
Synchronic Analysis .....	216
Wis 8:2-4: Wisdom, Friend and Counsellor .....	216
Wis 8:5-8: Wisdom Is Superior to Every Good .....	218
Diachronic Analysis .....	221
Wis 8:10-16: On the Gifts of Wisdom Again .....	223
Synchronic Analysis .....	224
Wis 8:10-12: The Gifts Offered by Wisdom .....	224
Wis 8:13: The Gift of Immortality .....	225
Wis 8:14-16: Wisdom, the Art of Good Governance .....	225
Diachronic Analysis .....	226
Wis 8:17-21: A Prayer to Obtain Wisdom .....	228
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	229
Synchronic Analysis .....	229
Diachronic Analysis .....	233
Summary of Wis 7-8 .....	235
<b>Wis 9: The Prayer to Obtain Wisdom .....</b>	<b>237</b>
Literary Structure of Wis 9 .....	237
Wis 9:1-6: The First Strophe – Wisdom, Creation, and Human Weakness .....	239
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	239

Synchronic Analysis .....	239
Diachronic Analysis .....	242
Wis 9:7-12: The Second Strophe – Wisdom and God .....	243
Synchronic Analysis .....	243
Diachronic Analysis .....	247
Isis and Wisdom .....	248
Wis 9:13-18: The Third Strophe – Wisdom, the Will of God, and Salvation .....	250
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	251
Synchronic Analysis .....	251
Diachronic Analysis .....	254
Summary of Wis 9 .....	258
<b>Introduction to the Third Part (Wis 10-19) .....</b>	<b>260</b>
<b>Wis 10: Wisdom’s Work in History from Adam to Moses .....</b>	<b>263</b>
The Structure and Literary Genre of Wis 10 .....	263
Wis 10:1-4: Adam, Cain and Abel, Noah .....	265
Synchronic Analysis .....	266
Diachronic Analysis .....	267
Wis 10:5-9: Abraham, Lot and His wife .....	269
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	269
Synchronic Analysis .....	269
Diachronic Analysis .....	271
Wis 10:10-12: Jacob .....	272
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	272
Synchronic Analysis .....	273
Diachronic Analysis .....	273
Wis 10:13-14: Joseph .....	276
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	276
Synchronic Analysis .....	276
Diachronic Analysis .....	277
Wis 10:15-21: Moses .....	278
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	279
Synchronic Analysis .....	279
Diachronic Analysis .....	282
Summary of Wis 10 .....	284
<b>Wis 11:1-14: The First Antithesis .....</b>	<b>286</b>
Literary Structure of Wis 11:1-14 .....	286
Wis 11:1-5: The Introduction to the Seven Antitheses .....	287
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	287
Synchronic Analysis .....	288
Diachronic Analysis .....	289
Wis 11:6-14: The First Antithesis. The Water Changed into Blood; the Water from the Rock .....	290
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	290
Synchronic Analysis .....	291
Diachronic Analysis .....	292

<b>Wis 11:15–12:27: The Divine “Philanthropy” . . . . .</b>	<b>294</b>
Literary Structure of Wis 11:15–12:27 . . . . .	294
Wis 11:15–12:2: Divine Moderation towards Egypt . . . . .	296
Notes on the Text and Translation . . . . .	297
Synchronic Analysis . . . . .	298
Diachronic Analysis . . . . .	303
Wis 12:3–21: Divine Moderation towards the Canaanites and Its Lessons . . . . .	307
Notes on the Text and Translation . . . . .	308
Synchronic Analysis . . . . .	310
Diachronic Analysis . . . . .	315
Wis 12:22–27: God’s Mercy and Zoolatry . . . . .	317
Notes on the Text and Translation . . . . .	318
Synchronic Analysis . . . . .	319
Diachronic Analysis . . . . .	320
Summary of Wis 11:15–12:27 . . . . .	320
 <b>Wis 13–15: The Criticism of Idolatry . . . . .</b>	<b>322</b>
Literary Structure of Wis 13–15 . . . . .	323
Wis 13:1–9: The Religion of the Philosophers . . . . .	326
Notes on the Text and Translation . . . . .	327
Synchronic Analysis . . . . .	328
Diachronic Analysis . . . . .	332
Wis 13:10–15:13: Criticism of Idolatry . . . . .	335
Wis 13:10–19: The Birth of an Idol . . . . .	335
Notes on the Text and Translation . . . . .	336
Synchronic Analysis . . . . .	337
Diachronic Analysis . . . . .	338
Wis 14:1–10: The Ship of Providence . . . . .	339
Notes on the Text and Translation . . . . .	340
Synchronic Analysis . . . . .	340
Diachronic Analysis . . . . .	343
Wis 14:11–31: Origins and Consequences of Idolatry . . . . .	345
Notes on the Text and Translation . . . . .	347
Synchronic Analysis . . . . .	348
Wis 14:11–14: The Insubstantial Nature of the Idols . . . . .	348
Wis 14:15–21: Premature Grief, Worship of Rulers, Birth of Idols . . . . .	350
Wis 14:22–31: The Birth of Immorality . . . . .	351
Diachronic Analysis . . . . .	356
Wis 15:1–6: Faithfulness of God; Fidelity of the People . . . . .	360
Notes on the Text and Translation . . . . .	360
Synchronic Analysis . . . . .	361
Diachronic Analysis . . . . .	363
Wis 15:7–13: The Folly of Idolatry . . . . .	364
Notes on the Text and Translation . . . . .	365
Synchronic Analysis . . . . .	365
Diachronic Analysis . . . . .	367
Wis 15:14–19: Criticism of Egyptian Zoolatry . . . . .	369

Notes on the Text and Translation .....	370
Synchronic Analysis .....	370
Diachronic Analysis .....	371
Summary of Wis 13-15 .....	372
<b>Wis 16: Three Antitheses: God Punishes and Favours; God's Word Is Nourishment .....</b>	<b>374</b>
The Literary Structure of Wis 16 .....	374
Wis 16:1-4: The Second Diptych – The Plague of the Beasts and the Quails .....	375
The Literary Structure of Wis 16:1-4 .....	375
Text .....	376
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	376
Synchronic Analysis .....	377
Diachronic Analysis .....	379
Wis 16:5-14: The Third Diptych – The Serpent in the Desert .....	380
The Literary Structure of Wis 16:5-14 .....	380
Text .....	380
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	381
Synchronic Analysis .....	383
Diachronic Analysis .....	388
Summary of Wis 16:5-14 .....	392
Wis 16:15-29: Fourth Antithesis – The Hail and the Manna .....	393
The Literary Structure of Wis 16:15-29 .....	393
Part One of the Diptych: Wis 16:15, 16-19, and 20-23 .....	394
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	395
Synchronic Analysis .....	396
Diachronic Analysis .....	398
Part Two of the Diptych: Wis 16:24-29 .....	400
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	400
Synchronic Analysis .....	400
Diachronic Analysis .....	402
Summary of Wis 16:15-29 .....	403
<b>Wis 17:1-18:4: The Fifth Diptych – The Darkness and the Light .....</b>	<b>405</b>
The Literary Structure of Wis 17:1-18:4 .....	405
Wis 17:1-6: A Night of Fear .....	407
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	407
Synchronic Analysis .....	408
Diachronic Analysis .....	409
Wis 17:7-11: The Magicians and Conscience .....	410
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	410
Synchronic Analysis .....	411
Diachronic Analysis .....	413
Wis 17:12-15: An Infernal Fear .....	414
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	414
Synchronic Analysis .....	414
Diachronic Analysis .....	416

Wis 17:16-21: Prisoners of Fear .....	417
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	417
Synchronic Analysis .....	417
Diachronic Analysis .....	419
Wis 18:1-4: Wisdom and Law, Light for the World .....	420
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	420
Synchronic Analysis .....	421
Diachronic Analysis .....	427
Summary of Wis 17:1-18:4 .....	431
 <b>Wis 18:5-25: The Sixth Diptych – The Night of the Passover .....</b>	 433
The Literary structure of Wis 18:5-25 .....	433
Wis 18:5-9: Passover Night .....	434
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	434
Synchronic Analysis .....	435
Diachronic Analysis .....	437
Wis 18:10-13: The Egyptians' Dirge .....	439
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	439
Synchronic Analysis .....	440
Diachronic Analysis .....	441
Wis 18:14-19: The Punishing Logos .....	442
Synchronic Analysis .....	442
Diachronic Analysis .....	444
Wis 18:20-25: The Trial of the Israelites and the Intercession of Aaron .....	445
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	446
Synchronic Analysis .....	446
Diachronic Analysis .....	449
Summary of Wis 18:5-25 .....	451
 <b>Wis 19: The Seventh Diptych and the Creation Renewed .....</b>	 453
The Literary Structure of Wis 19 .....	453
Wis 19:1-5: The Seventh Diptych; the Crossing of the Sea .....	456
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	457
Synchronic Analysis .....	457
Diachronic Analysis .....	460
Wis 19:6-12: The Crossing of the Sea and the Creation at the Service of God's Children .....	461
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	462
Synchronic Analysis .....	462
Diachronic Analysis .....	466
Wis 19:13-17: Egyptians and Sodomites – The Civil Rights of the Jews of Alexandria .....	469
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	469
Synchronic Analysis .....	470
Diachronic Analysis .....	472
Wis 19:18-21 and 22: The Creation Renewed. The Book's Conclusion .....	475
Notes on the Text and Translation .....	476

Content	13
Synchronic Analysis .....	476
Diachronic Analysis .....	479
Summary of Wis 19. The Theology of Chapter 19 and the Conclusion of the Book of Wisdom .....	482
<b>Bibliography .....</b>	<b>485</b>
1. Commentaries .....	485
2. Secondary Literatur on the Book of Wisdom .....	485
3. Other Literature .....	500
<b>Indexes .....</b>	<b>503</b>
Index of Hebrew Words .....	503
Index of Key Words .....	509
Index of Biblical Citations .....	511
Index of Other Ancient Literature .....	518
<b>Plan of volumes .....</b>	<b>522</b>