

PONTIFICIO ISTITUTO BIBLICO

SEMINARIO PER STUDIOSI DI S. SCRITTURA [25-29 GENNAIO 2016]

Sedute seminariali del pomeriggio

Recurring Issues in studies on the Wisdom of Solomon (structure and Hellenistic background)

Prof. Michael KOLARCIK, S.J. [giovedì 28 gennaio]

The seminar will focus on two recurring issues in studies on the Wisdom of Solomon: the literary structure of the work and its Biblical and Hellenistic background.

In the first hour we will study the author's unique technique of linking methods to move from one major section to another. Wisdom 6:12-25 is the link which moves the author's argument from the exhortation to love justice in Wis 1-6 to the contemplation of the benefits of Wisdom in Wis 7-10. Wis 10 in turn is the link which moves the author's argument from the contemplation and pursuit of Wisdom to the example of divine providence in the exodus from Egypt in Wis 11-19. To prepare for this study, I would recommend to read the linking texts in their immediate context Wis 6-7, and Wis 9-11.

In the second hour we will take up the issue of the author's Hellenistic Background and Biblical Foundation. Has the author become thoroughly Greek? In light of the obvious use of the Greek language and so many Hellenistic or Greek literary topoi, we should ask the question what texts form the author's authoritative foundation. As a study text we will examine briefly Wis 7-8 to appreciate the author's level of enculturating Biblical foundations into a Greek world. To prepare for this study, I would recommend to read Wis 7-8 paying attention to its Biblical foundation and Hellenistic backdrop.