113 There are Three Books (*Libri tres sunt*)

There are three books, namely scripture, conscience, and creature. Of which Prov. 22[:20]: “Behold I have described it to you in three manners of ways, not that you would have the book of scripture. In the heart the book of conscience. Before you, the book of creatures. In work as through writings. In the first book we are illuminated by the matters written, in the second we are reformed by the matters written, and in the third we are inflamed.

¶ Concerning the first, Ezech. 2[:9]: “Behold, a hand was sent to me, wherein was a book,” etc. About which Gregory, *Super Ezechiele*, homily 9,[[1]](#endnote-1) there was written *Lamentations*, that is, the penitence of sins, *and Songs*, because there was expressed the damnation of the reprobate.

¶ Concerning the second, Jer. 31[:33]: “I will give my law in their bowels.” And Rom. 2[:15]: “Who show the work of the law written in their hearts.”

¶ Concerning the third, Wis. 13[:5]: “For by the greatness of the beauty, and of the creature, the creator of them may be seen.” And Rom. 1[:20]: “For the invisible things of God, from the creation of the world,” etc.

1. Gregory, *Homilia in Ezechielem* 1.9.34 (PL 76:885): Lamentationes videlicet, quia in eo scripta est poenitentia peccatorum. Carmen vero, quia ibi praenuntiantur gaudia justorum. Vae autem, quia illic expressa est damnatio reproborum. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)