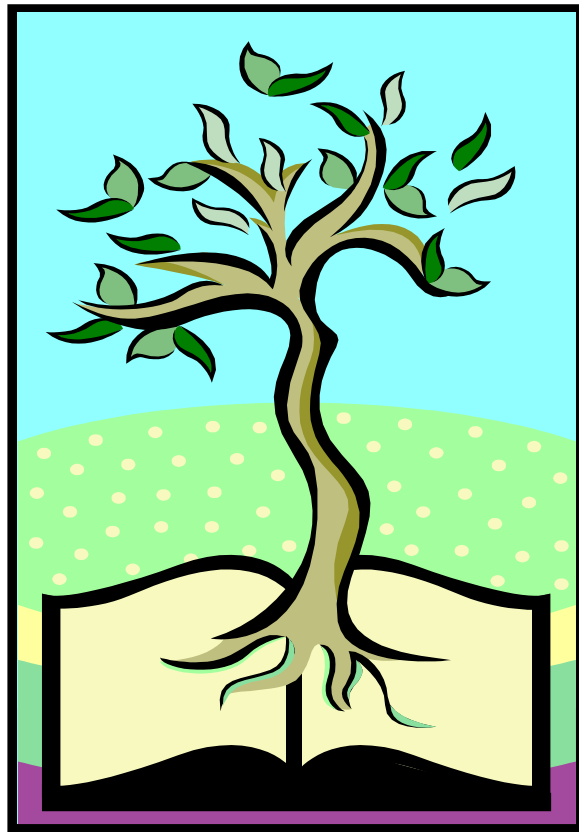


Poetical Books

Poetry and Wisdom in the Bible



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Poetry and Wisdom in the Bible

- **Job**
- **Psalms**
- **Proverbs**
- **Ecclesiastes**
- **Song of Solomon**

Poetry and Wisdom literature in the Old Testament are closely related. Five Old Testament books are clearly poetic: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. Of these books: Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon are considered to be wisdom literature. Psalms is a book full of praises with some chapters of wisdom (i.e. 1 and 119).

Hebrew poetry is unusual. Most types of poetry use rhyme (the endings of two lines have the same sound) and meter (rhythm in verse or music), whereas Hebrew poetry focuses on parallelism. Parallelism is when ideas are set side by side, forming two thoughts in the mind. These thoughts may work together, or be opposites emphasizing the meaning of each other.

- **“Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy”** (Psalm 126:2).
- **“A kind man benefits himself, but a cruel man brings himself harm”** (Proverbs 11:17).
-

The purpose of Hebrew poetry is to persuade, exhort and reprove. It appeals to the human emotions and will as the writings are charged with feeling. Hebrew poetry deals with the experiences and problems that are common to man. These experiences are relayed to us for examples.

Wisdom literature is the Old Testament’s “Instruction Manual For Life”. It is poetic in form but practical in content. It teaches practical living skills instead of offering facts or abstract knowledge.

The Hebrew meaning of “wisdom” is much broader than the English. The English speaks more about knowledge, but the Hebrew relates it to the skill of making things, which we consider to be craftsmanship.

Wisdom in Hebrew includes the willingness and ability to rightly perceive and relate to the created world in all its aspects. God has created the world in a certain way and He has given us wisdom to live according to that basic structure.

Many of the prophets thought wisdom to be of importance. Jeremiah wrote in his book, **“For the teaching of the law by the priest will not be lost, nor will counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophets”** (Jeremiah 18:18). Wisdom was so important that it was mentioned with the Law and the Prophets.

Just the Facts:

- Out of the sixty-six books in the Bible (thirty-nine in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New Testament), five books are written in poetic form.
- The poetry section is the third section in the Bible.
- It is located in the Old Testament.
- These books were written during the period of monarchs (Israel's Golden Age) in the time of David and Solomon.
- They spoke to Israel then, but also speak to us today.
- The value of this portion of Scripture is in the beautiful balance between the work of the Holy Spirit and the deepest human emotions and expressions. **“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”** (2 Peter 1:20-21).

Job

...the mystery of suffering along the journey of faith.

Just the Facts:

Author: Unknown. Possibly Moses, Elihu or Job.

Number of Chapters: 42

Key Theme: Why Do the Righteous Suffer?

Key Thought: Testing

Key Verse: “Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?” (1:9)

When It Happened:



↑ About the time of Abraham

*All dates are approximate

Some 2,000 years before Christ

Where It Happened: In the land of Uz, Job’s homeland. It is uncertain where it was located.

However, many say that the land of Uz was in Edom, a region southeast of Canaan,
along the border of what is now Israel and Jordan.

Why It Happened: To explore faith’s response to human suffering.

**** Christ is seen as the “Risen Redeemer” ****

”For I know that my redeemer liveth,” (Job 19:25)

Some Extras:

Job is the first of the Poetry Books in the Bible.

Considered the oldest book in the Bible.

Job is the 18th book of the Old Testament.

**“Trial is the school of trust –
not always given as chastisement, but sometimes for our education.”
(Keith L. Brooks)**

Job

...the mystery of suffering along the journey of faith.

What I Have Learned

INTRODUCTION

The doctrine of the priests and prophets of Israel could be summed up in, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Psalms 111:10; Proverbs 9:10). Their practical proverbs were meant to lead people to righteousness and wisdom. For them, all people fit into two groups:

- The righteous
- The wicked

Of these people, the righteous would be prosperous and the wicked would be poor and miserable.

There really was a man named Job and this is his story. Job was considered to be perfect in righteousness, riches, and relationships. He feared God and was the greatest of all men of the east. His history was written to leave us an example.

The book of Job is divided into five sections.

- **The Introduction (chapters 1-2)**

This describes Job’s problems and the reasons why they happened to him.

- **Three cycles of conversation between Job and his friends (chapters 3-31)**

Job’s three friends ask why?

- **Four speeches by Elihu (chapters 32-37)**

Elihu is younger than Job and the others. These chapters give a ray of light into the meaning behind Job’s affliction. However, they do not give the cause.

- **God speaks to Job (38:1- 42:6)**

God speaks of Job’s ignorance and listens to him complain. Then He listens to Job’s response to His revelation of “WHY”.

- **The Ending (42:7-17)**

Here we read about Job’s restoration.

(The sectional division was taken from The Full Life Study Bible, page 757.)

In chapter one, Job was a wealthy man who had it all together. The Lord had blessed him with a large family and great wealth. He was the patriarchal ideal of fatherhood.

By the thirteenth verse Job’s circumstances have changed. He is a man with nothing. His possessions, children and health are gone. As Job despairingly sits on the heap of ashes that was once his home, his friends come to encourage him. They analyze Job’s misfortunes and debate with him why these things have happened. God is just and therefore must be punishing Job because of his unrepented sin.

Job and his friends start out on the same level of faith in the School of Wisdom. They all have the same chance of going to a higher level. However, when the circumstances of Job’s sufferings doesn’t fit their faith

experience, they leave Job to climb higher alone. They bounce between the two levels of: defending and retreating. They are unwilling to enter the level where their faith could be changed. Though Job doesn't understand all that is happening to him and even asks, "Why?", he still knows that God is just and is working all things together for his good.

“God does not have to explain His ways to us. It is enough for us to know that He cares and that He never makes a mistake. We do not live by explanations: we live by promises.”
(Warren Wiersbe)

THE BOOK OF JOB ONE BITE AT A TIME!

Just as the man once said he could eat an elephant if he took it one bite at a time, so can we learn from this story if we take it bit by bit. Let the mystery of suffering help us learn along the journey of faith.

Job was a man of prestige. He had a deep faith in his God. “There was a man named Job who lived in the land of Uz. He was blameless, a man of complete integrity. He feared God and stayed away from evil” (1:1 New Living Translation). He was rich. He owned 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 teams of oxen, 500 donkeys, as well as many servants. To add to his splendor, he had seven sons and three daughters. Job was so happy. He lived his life according to what the Lord said.

It is in chapters one, two and forty-two, that we read the main story of Job. The in between chapters of three to forty-one are the recorded conversations of Job and his friends, Eliphaz; Bildad; Zophar; and a bystander named Elihu.

One day, Satan and God have a conversation and God comments on how perfect Job is, asking Satan if he has considered His servant Job. Satan replies that Job is loyal because of the protective hedge God has placed around him and the many blessings He has given. The Lord agrees to remove the hedge and blessings if Satan will spare Job's life. Satan says that Job will surely curse God now. God has so much faith in Job that He allows this terrible thing to happen.

Within a day, Job is stripped of all his wealth. He experiences four tragedies:

- His oxen and donkeys are stolen by the Sabeans. They also kill his farmhands.
- His shepherds and sheep are burnt up by fire that has fallen from heaven.
- His servants are killed, and his camels are carried off by the Chaldeans.
- A fierce wind blows across the land and knocks down the house where his sons and daughters are gathered together, killing all of them.

(The above summarization of Job's tragedies was taken from The Outline Bible, page 209.)

Satan and God talk again. God tells Satan that Job has remained faithful to Him although he has lost everything. Since the four tragedies are not enough to break him, Satan also wants Job's health. Job is then afflicted with festering boils from head to foot.

Job's attitude is amazing. After the first four tragedies, Job is deeply grieved but also realizes that he has come into the world with nothing and will leave with nothing. Job has lost everything but chooses to praise God and not blame Him.

We finally hear about Job's wife and she only comes on the scene to tell Job to curse God and die. "Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die" (2:9). Despite his wife's urging to blame God, Job does not sin by anything that he says. "But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips" (2:10).

It is in the midst of his pitiful state, that Job's three friends (Eliphaz; Bildad; and Zophar) come to comfort him. They really aren't a comfort at all because when they see him in the midst of his grief, they begin to wail and throw dirt up into the air. Then they sit down beside Job and do not talk to him for a whole week. They can not understand Job and his faith in God. It is at the place where life's trials seem too big, that they regress to a lower level in faith development. They have the same chance to let their faith grow, but refuse to accompany Job as he allows God to take him to a higher level. "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith" (Romans 12:3). God has given every person a measure of faith. However, He will not force man to use it.

Although Job has great faith in God and will not sin in any way towards Him, in chapter three we read that Job wishes he never was born. This is when the conversations between Job and his friends begin. As they try to argue against God's faithfulness and reasoning, Job defends what he knows to be true. God is forever faithful.

"God has given us peace in our pain. He covers us all the time. For when we are out of control, He is still there"
(Max Lucado).

In chapters three to seven, Eliphaz questions Job's innocence. He thinks that Job has committed some sin and God is punishing him, so Job just needs to accept God's discipline. But Job defends his God and his innocence, never blames God for what is happening in his life. He simply asks God why he was chosen to lose everything. Why not someone else? He feels he has some right to complain since he has lost everything he owned and treasured.

Then Bildad takes a turn at destroying Job's faith in God. In chapters eight to fourteen, he rebukes Job and tells him that sin brings punishment. Zophar also rebukes Job and says that God is beyond understanding. Obviously, his three friends think that Job has sinned. They urge him to repent and believe God will then turn things around for him. However, Job knows that he doesn't have any hidden sin.

These three men were supposed to be comforting Job but fail to comprehend what the Lord is trying to do. Eliphaz steps in again; (chapters fifteen to nineteen) saying that many people believe that sin brings suffering. By this time, Job is frustrated and accuses his friends and God of unfairness. He needs someone to be a mediator between him and God. Job is feeling forsaken. But Job still blesses the Lord and holds on to the hope that his Redeemer lives.

"God is great beyond human comprehension, and human beings are weak and limited"
(Larry Richards).

Bildad, Eliphaz, and Zophar try once again (chapters twenty to thirty-one) to tear Job down. Job maintains his innocence and trust in God. He knows that God has all wisdom. He wishes that he could return to his former days of blessings but knows that God still knows where he is.

In chapter thirty-two, the bystander named Elihu adds his opinion. He tells Job that he shouldn't keep saying he is innocent, and rebukes the friends for not properly answering Job. He also thinks that Job considers himself too righteous. Elihu knows that God does not condemn unfairly and answers questions with His wisdom. He

feels that Job's attitude is sour and needs to be adjusted. We do not tell God what to do nor do we question Him for what happens in our life. God should be revered (chapters thirty-two to thirty-seven).

It is in the final chapters of Job where the story turns around for good. Job has stood the test. His complete trust in God has proven true. "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him" (13:15).

It is in chapter thirty-eight that God finally speaks. He humbles Job with a series of questions about creation. He asks Job "Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge" (38:2)? Since Job thinks he should know all things, then where was he when God was forming the foundation of the earth (38:4). Now God wants answers. He tells Job to "Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me" (38:3). Humans know and understand little about the workings of the Almighty. It is through God's answer to Job, that Job receives a revelation of God's constant presence, mercy, and love. Job's revelation consists of three things (Chapter 38):

- Job's prayers and yearnings to find God have been finally answered. He knows that everything is still alright between himself and God.
- Sometimes our prayers may come from hearts of confusion, frustration and anger, but God still comes to anyone who will call upon His name. As we continue to call upon His name, the Lord comes to comfort.
- We don't need to understand all of God's ways to experience His divine presence and fellowship. As long as everything is kept good between us and God, we will be able to endure all trials.

(Job's revelation was taken and summarized from The Full Life Study Bible, page 797.)

The questions about creation cause Job to realize just how great and wonderful God really is. He uses the following creations:

- The earth (38:1-7, 17-18)
- The oceans (38:8-11, 16)
- Light (38:12-15, 19-21)
- Snow and rain (38:22-30, 34-38)
- The stars (38:31-33)
- Several animals (38:39 – 39:30)

(The above list was taken from The Outline Bible, page 218.)

When Job remembers just how great God is, he repents. He confesses that God has all wisdom and who is he to question God's intent? Now that the questions are out, God tells Job that whoever can teach God, should step forward and answer. "Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? he that reproveth God, let him answer it" (40:2). Job replies, "Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth" (40:4). He confesses that he is nothing and how could he ever find answers to the questions? He decides to close his mouth and remain in silence while God talks to him.

God humbles Job by His wisdom and then also by His power when He asks Job if he could capture two fearful creatures called:

- The behemoth (40:15-24) – a hippopotamus
- The leviathan (41:1-34) – a giant crocodile or great whale.

God wants Job to realize that if he can't tame these mighty creatures, how would he ever have the knowledge of their creator. Job realizes that God has all wisdom and power and who is he to question Him?

God's persistence in arguing with Job makes Job fully realize the extent of His love. This reveals the unending mercy, patience, and genuine care that God has for His suffering children.

It is in the midst of the pile of dust and ashes that Job fully repents to God. He submissively confesses that:

- God does all things well.
- Everything that God permits is done in wisdom and with a purpose.
- The suffering of the righteous has meaning and divine reason.

(Job's confession was taken from The Full Life Study Bible, page 802.)

Job considered himself and his life as dust and ashes before a holy and righteous God. He repented for saying that God was unfair.

God rebukes the three friends and says that Job will pray for them. Job was fully restored to God's favor and given spiritual authority. God hears Job's prayer for his friends because of his righteous standing with God. Job's fortunes are then restored, and he receives twice as much as before. He is blessed with seven more sons and three more daughters, and lives another 140 years.

Job has finally passed the test of Faith Development, reaching a higher level than ever!

APPLYING THE STORY OF JOB TO US

God's purpose is revealed in Job's restoration. God never allows his children to suffer without a spiritual purpose. Though we may not understand the reasons why, we must continue to trust God through all circumstances. He will do what is eternally best for us and His Kingdom.

In God's own time, He will reach out and help all those who need restoration and healing.

**“Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy”
(James 5:11).**

It is after we endure the trials of life, with full confidence in God that we come to the joyous and blessed place where we will enjoy the presence of God for all eternity.

Although the book of Job never gives a final solution to the problem of the righteous suffering, it comes when we have communion with God. Fellowship with God brings the personal presence of a caring comforter. We can have confidence in His grace and stand upon His promises. Believers find that the Holy Spirit is a constant help and comfort. We can have confidence in God's love whether in the midst of trials or blessings. The Holy Spirit is the presence of God and it points us to the cross. God is for us and He does all things for our good. “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

CONCLUSION

God brings good out of all trials and sufferings. He allows things to happen in our lives so that He can conform us to the image of Christ and bring about our glorification.

**“Even when God permits suffering,
His ultimate intent is to bless”
(Larry Richards).**

One day we will be with God in heaven. We can hold on to the wonderful truth that we serve a risen savior. Our Redeemer lives! He is alive and we're forgiven. He is involved in our everyday lives, taking us to a higher level of faith. Sometimes it is a mystery why we suffer, but God only wants to draw us closer to Himself.

What Have You Learned?

1. The practical proverbs of the priests and prophets were meant to lead people to what?

2. Job was considered to be perfect in what three things? _____

3. The book of Job is divided into how many sections. What are they? _____

4. Job was the _____ of _____.

5. Job and his friends start out on the _____.

6. According to Warren Wiersbe "we do not live by _____: we live by _____".

7. What two levels of faith do Job's friends continue to bounce between? _____

8. In order to fully understand the story of Job, what must we do? _____

9. What all did Job own? How many children did he have? _____

10. Which chapters record the main story of Job? _____

11. God agrees to remove the hedge about Job but what must Satan spare? _____

12. What are the four tragedies that happen to Job? _____

13. Job has lost everything but _____

14. What does Job's wife tell him to do? Give Scripture. _____

15. What three things did Job's friends do when they came to comfort him? _____

16. What does Job wish in chapter three? _____

17. What important thing does Max Lucado have to say? _____

18. In chapters three to seven, what does Eliphaz say to Job? _____

19. In chapters eight to fourteen, what does Bildad say to Job? What does Zophar say? _____

20. What does Eliphaz say in chapters fifteen to nineteen? _____

21. Job becomes frustrated and needs what? _____

22. What does Job maintain throughout chapters twenty to thirty-one? _____

23. Who adds his opinion in chapter thirty-two? _____

24. Elihu thinks God should be _____

25. What does Job say in chapter thirteen and verse fifteen? _____

26. What does God ask Job in chapter thirty-eight? _____

27. Job received a revelation of God's what? _____

28. What did Job's revelation consist of? _____

29. How did God humble Job? _____

30. What does God's persistence reveal? _____

31. What three things does Job confess while sitting on the pile of dust and ashes? _____

32. How much does Job have in the end? _____
33. What does James 5:11 say? _____

34. Does the book of Job give a solution to the problem of the righteous suffering? Explain your answer in your own words. (Include a scripture to support your answer) _____

35. Why does the Lord allow things to happen in our lives? _____

36. Larry Richards says, "Even though God permits _____."

37. Sometimes it is a mystery _____

Jesus is our Timeless Redeemer!

Psalms

... the book of praises used in the renewal of worship

Just the Facts:

Authors: David (73), Moses (1), Asaph (12), Ethan (1), sons of Korah (11), Solomon (2), and 50 of the psalms are anonymous.

Number of Chapters: 150

Key Thought: Praise

Key Theme: Prayers and Praises

Key Verse: “Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness” (29:2).

When it Happened:

Adam 4000 BC

Abraham 2100 BC

Moses 1500 BC

David 1000 BC

First Return from Babylon
538 BC

Ezra 450 BC

Jesus born 7/6 BC

↑ Psalms was written between the time of Moses and David. * All dates are approximate

Where It Happened: The Psalms were written throughout the Middle East, from the Sinai desert where Moses led the Hebrews, to Israel where David built a powerful Jewish nation, to Babylon where the defeated Jews are in exile. They stretched over 1,000 miles from Egypt to Babylon, and 1,000 years from the Exodus to the Exile.

Why It Happened: To be an aid to private and congregational worship.

**** Christ is seen as the “Morning Song” ****

“The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation” (Psalms 118:14).

Some Extras:

Psalms is the **second** of the Poetry Books in the Bible.

It is the 19th book of the Old Testament.

It is the Bible’s longest book and has the longest chapter (119:1-176), shortest chapter (117:1-2), and the middle verse (118:8).

“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name” (Psalms 100:4).

The Outline of the Book of Psalms

(The following chart is from The Full Life Study Bible, page 805.)

	Book I 1 – 41	Book II 42 – 72	Book III 73 – 89	Book IV 90 – 106	Book V 107 – 150
Total Psalms	41	31	17	17	44
Authorship	Mainly David	Mainly David and the sons of Korah	Mainly Asaph	Mainly Anonymous	Mainly David or Anonymous
Predominant Divine Name	Yahweh (the LORD)	El/Elohim (God)	El/Elohim (God)	Yahweh (the LORD)	Yahweh (the LORD)
Frequent Topics	Humans and Creation	Deliverance and Redemption	Worship and Sanctuary	Wilderness and God's Ways	God's Word and Praise
Resemblance to Pentateuch	Genesis	Exodus	Leviticus	Numbers	Deuteronomy
Benediction	41:13	72:19	89:52	106:48	150:1-6

A Closer Look at Book V

Hallel Psalms 113-118 (Hallel = praise)

Songs of Degrees 120-134

Psalms of Thanksgiving 135-139

Psalms for Protection 140-143

Hallelujah Psalms 146-150

* Psalm 150 is not only the last psalm and a benediction for Book V, but is also a doxology (a short song of praise to God) for the entire Book of Psalms.

(The above information on Book V is from Halley's Bible Handbook, page 321.)

Finding the God of the O.T. in the N.T.

<i>The Scripture from Psalms</i>	<i>The Scripture from the New Testament</i>
"I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee" (2:7).	"God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee" (Acts 13:33).
"Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:" (8:6).	"But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many

	sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings” (Hebrews 2:6-10).
“For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption” (16:10) .	“Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption” (Acts 2:27).
“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?” (22:1).	“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46).
“He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him” (22:8).	“He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God” (Matthew 27:43).
“For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet” (22:16).	“The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe” (John 20:25).
“They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture” (22:18).	“They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did” (John 19:24).
“Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart” (40:7-8).	“Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God” (Hebrews 10:7).
“Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me” (41:9).	“I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me” (John 13:18).
“Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre” (45:6).	“But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom” (Hebrews 1:8).

<p>“For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me” (69:9).</p>	<p>“And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up” (John 2:17).</p>
<p>“They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink” (69:21).</p>	<p>“They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink.”</p> <p>“And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink” (Matthew 27:34, 48).</p>
<p>“Let his days be few; and let another take his office” (109:8).</p>	<p>“For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take” (Acts 1:20).</p>
<p>“The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool” (110:1).</p>	<p>“The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool?” (Matthew 22:44).</p>
<p>“The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek” (110:4).</p>	<p>“For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec” (Hebrews 7:17).</p>
<p>“The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner” (118:22).</p>	<p>“Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?” (Matthew 21:42).</p>
<p>“Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD” (118:26).</p>	<p>“And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest” (Matthew 21:9).</p>

(The above chart is taken from Halley's Bible Handbook, page 323.)

Messianic Psalms

Many psalms, written 1,000 years before Christ, contain statements that can refer to none other than Jesus Christ. They are called “Messianic Psalms”. The Greek word “Christ” is the same as the Hebrew word “Messiah”.

Psalm 2: The deity and universal reign of the Messiah

Psalm 8: Through the Messiah, humanity is to rule creation

Psalm 16: His resurrection from the dead

Psalm 22: His suffering

Psalm 45: His royal bride (the church) and His eternal throne

Psalm 69: His suffering

Psalm 72: The glory and eternity of His reign

Psalm 89: God’s oath that Messiah’s throne will be without end

Psalm 110: Eternal King and Priest

Psalm 118: His rejection by His nation’s leaders

Psalm 132: Eternal heir to David’s throne

(The list of Messianic Psalms is taken from Halley’s Bible Handbook, page 324.)

Psalms

...the book of praises used in the renewal of worship

What I Have Learned

INTRODUCTION

The Hebrew title for the Psalms is “tehillim”, meaning “praises”. The Psalms were written to be sung. The Bible is full of singing as an act of worship. Some psalms express joy and gratitude, while others express sorrow and lament.

The psalms, as spirit-filled prayers and praises, express the inner emotions of the human heart in relation to God.

- Many were written as prayers to God, expressing:
 - a) trust, love, adoration, praise, thanksgiving, and a longing for close fellowship
 - b) discouragement, distress, fear, anxiety, humiliation, and a cry for deliverance, or healing
- Others were written as songs expressing praise, thanksgiving, and adoration for who God is and the great things He has done
- Some psalms contain important Messianic sections. (See handout “Finding the God of the O.T. in the N.T.”)

(The above list is taken from The Full Life Study Bible, page 806.)

As the Hebrew songbook and devotional, the book of Psalms, with its spiritual depth and breadth, is considered to be the most important book of the Old Testament by most believers. No other book expresses the human emotions better than the psalms. Its choruses of praise and devotion flow down from the highest mountains, and its cries of desperation arise from the deepest valleys.

“Hallelujah” when translated means, “Praise the Lord.” Twenty-four of the twenty-eight times that it appears in the Bible, are found in the book of Psalms. Psalms also has a majority of the “favorite chapters” of the Bible (Ch. 1; 23; 24; 34; 37; 84; 91; 103; 119; 121; 139; and 150).

When the 150 psalms were written, many topics were mentioned. One reason for this could be that many people in many situations needed God’s touch. Some of the topics are:

- Revelation about God
- Creation
- Humankind
- Salvation
- Sin
- Evil

- Justice
- Righteousness
- Worship
- Praise
- Prayer
- Judgment

(The list of topics is taken from The Full Life Study Bible, page 806.)

“The book of Psalms is a collection of very personal songs and poems. As the book grew over the centuries, its contents were adapted by the Jews for their corporate worship as well as for their personal devotions. In this collection you find prayers from sufferers, hymns of praise, confessions of sin, confessions of faith, nature hymns, and songs that teach Jewish history, and in each one the focal point for faith is the Lord. Whether the writer is looking back at history, looking up into the heavens, or looking around at his problems, he first of all looks by faith to the Lord. The psalms teach us to have a personal relationship with God as we tell Him our hurts and our needs and as we meditate on His greatness and glory” (Warren Wiersbe, Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines, Page 425).

The psalms remind us that no matter what we are feeling, we can freely express it to the Lord. Then we can be confident that He has heard us, cares, and will work within our hearts as well as our circumstances.

In the book of Psalms, God is viewed in a variety of ways. Some are:

- A fortress (18:2; 91:2)
- Rock (28:1; 42:9)
- Shield (3:3; 144:2)
- Shepherd (23:1; 80:1)
- Ruler (105:21)
- Judge (50:6; 75:7)
- Redeemer (19:14; 78:35)
- Avenger (8:2; 44:16)

(The above list is taken from The Full Life Study Bible, page 806.)

God is omnipotent (almighty), omnipresent (everywhere present), and omniscient (All knowing). As He talks to His children He expresses His love, compassion, and anger.

Throughout Psalms, God’s people are viewed in a variety of ways. Some are:

- The apple of His eye
- Sheep
- Saints
- The upright
- The righteous, whom He has delivered from the miry pit, placed their feet upon a rock, and given a new song to sing.

(The above list is from The Full Life Study Bible, page 806.)

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way” (Psalm 37:23). The Lord directs the steps of His people. He also satisfies their spiritual longings, forgives their sins, heals all their diseases, and provides for them an eternal home.

David wrote seventy-three of the psalms. Some of the predominant thoughts throughout his writings are:

- Trust
- Praise
- Rejoicing
- Unfailing love (mercy)

(David’s predominant thoughts are from Halley’s Bible Handbook, page 321.)

The idea of “trust” is most common. It didn’t matter what the problem was, how joyous the occasion, or just how terrified David became, we see him trusting God. “Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah” (Psalm 62:8).

Throughout the Psalms, David asks God for things and then gives thanks with his whole soul for the answer to his prayers. “Praise” was always on David’s lips. “For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods” (Psalm 96:4).

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4, New International Version). “Rejoicing” is another one of David’s favorite ideas. Whether on the mountaintop or in the valley low, David expressed his joy in his God. He repeatedly says, “Sing”, or “Shout for joy.”

“I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing, I will sing. I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing of the mercies of the Lord” (Song written from Psalm 89:1). Many times David turned to the “mercy” of the Lord or spoke of His unfailing love.

THE PSALMS IN OUR LIVES

The renewal of the church begins with a renewal of worship. The Psalms help us move into a deeper place with God, showing us how to praise Him properly. We renew our minds in the unending mercy of God. Our walk of faith is strengthened, knowing we will one day meet Jesus Christ face to face.

The suffering and lamenting are so real, having a great relevance to our troubled society today. The Christian is continually fighting against the deception of Satan. However, the Psalms do not only reflect crisis and conflict, but also show the awesome power of God’s healing love. He will restore the broken, making them whole in spirit, soul, and body. The psalms will renew if they are viewed not only as wonderful devotionals, but also as the mighty Word of God among His people, transforming them for Himself.

BEATITUDES IN THE PSALMS

The book of Psalms begins with a blessing or beatitude. There are several verses that have the word “blessed” in them. Some of those are:

- “Blessed is the man ... (whose) delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night” (1:1-2)
- ...Blessed are all they that put their trust in him” (2:12).
- “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered” (32:1).
- “Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile” (32:2).
- “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD: and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance” (33:12).
- “O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him” (34:8).
- “Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble” (41:1).
- “Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah” (84:4).
- “Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them” (84:5).
- “Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;” (94:12).
- “Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments” (112:1).
- “Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart” (119:2).

(The list of Scriptures was taken from Halley’s Bible Handbook, page 324.)

JESUS IN PSALMS

There are about 36 of the psalms that point ahead to Jesus Christ. They are the hope of God’s people awaiting the coming Messiah. These psalms begin by talking about David, but find their fulfillment in the King of kings and Lord of lords. Jesus said in Luke 24:44, “And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me”.

These Messianic Psalms describe Jesus in a variety of ways. He was:

- the Son (Psalm 2)
- the One chosen by God (Psalm 45)
- a teacher of parables (Psalm 78)
- and a priest forever (Psalm 110)
- betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41)
- lied about (Psalm 35)
- mocked and eventually crucified (Psalm 22)

However, this beautiful story does not stop there.

- He then came back to life (Psalm 16)
- Returned to heaven to reign with the Father (Psalm 68)
- Then He will come back again and rule over the new heaven and earth (Psalm 72)

(Taken from The Knowing Jesus Study Bible, page 676.)

The Messianic Psalms show:

- Jesus as prophet, priest, and king
- Christ's first and second advent (comings)
- His Sonship and Character
- His sufferings, and atoning death
- His resurrection.

(Taken from The Full Life Study Bible, page 807.)

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

There are 186 quotations from the Psalms in the New Testament. Psalms is quoted far more than any other Old Testament book. It is obvious that Jesus Christ and the authors of the New Testament were filled with the psalms. The psalms are evident in Jesus' teachings and He also fulfills Scripture as the prophesied Messiah.

Psalms 110 may be a small chapter of only seven verses, however, it is the most quoted in the New Testament than any other Old Testament chapter. It contains prophecy about Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God, and a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

JESUS CHRIST THE SHEPHERD

A shepherd is one who tends sheep. Jesus Christ is the Shepherd and we are His sheep. Throughout the Bible there are many references to shepherds. However, none of them can compare to Jesus Christ. In Psalms, He is the Good Shepherd, the Great Shepherd, and the Chief Shepherd. Over and over again we can feel His tender loving care for us.

- Psalm 22 – The Good Shepherd dying for His sheep (Also read John 10:11)
- Psalm 23 – The Great Shepherd caring for his sheep (Also read Hebrews 13:20)
- Psalm 24 – The Chief Shepherd coming again for His sheep (Also read I Peter 5:4)
-

(The above list is taken from The Bible Summarized Handbook, page 115.)

SUMMARY

The psalms are among the most detailed of all Old Testament prophecies about Christ and are everywhere deeply planted in the message of the New Testament writings.

“Innumerable saints and sinners through centuries of time have been uplifted, consoled, inspired, and changed by reading and meditating on the Psalms” (Albert H. Baylis).

What Have You Learned?

1. What does the Hebrew title for Psalms mean? _____

2. The Bible is full of _____

_____.
3. Some of the Psalms express inner human emotions in relation to God. List at least six.

4. What does “Hallelujah” mean when translated? _____
5. How many times is Hallelujah mentioned in the Bible? _____
6. How many times is Hallelujah mentioned in Psalms? _____
7. List six of the topics mentioned in the Psalms. _____

8. According to Warren Wiersbe, what do the psalms teach us? _____

9. In Psalms, God is viewed in a variety of ways. List four with Scripture references.

10. God is _____, _____, and _____.
11. As He talks to his children He expresses His _____, _____, and _____.
12. What does Psalm 37:23 say? _____

13. God not only directs the steps of His people, but He also does what four things?

14. How many of the psalms did David write? _____
15. What were David's predominant thoughts throughout the psalms? _____

16. Which thought is the most common one? _____
17. What was always on David's lips? _____

18. What does David repeatedly say? _____

19. Many times David turned to the _____ of the _____ or spoke of His
_____.
20. What does the renewal of the church begin with? _____

21. The psalms help us do what? _____

22. The psalms will renew if what? _____

23. The book of Psalms begins with what? _____

24. "Blessed is the nation whose _____ is the _____."
25. "Blessed are they that keep his _____, and that seek him with the _____."
26. How many psalms point ahead to Jesus Christ? _____
27. These psalms are the hope of _____

28. The Messianic Psalms begin by talking about David, but what? _____

29. Quote Luke 24:44. _____

30. List the various ways that the Messianic Psalms describe Jesus. _____

31. What is special about Psalm 110? _____

32. What is a shepherd? _____

33. What type of shepherd is Jesus seen as in Psalm 22, 23, and 24? What did He do as this type of Shepherd? _____

34. What is the summary of Psalms? _____

35. What does Albert H. Baylis say about the psalms? _____

36. Which Psalms are considered to be the Messianic Psalms?(Refer to handout.) _____

Jesus is our Morning Song!

Proverbs

...guidelines for daily life

Just the Facts

Authors: Solomon, Hezekiah, Agur, King Lemuel, and others.

Number of Chapters: 31

Key Thought: Wisdom

Key Theme: Wisdom for Right Living

Key Verse: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:
and the knowledge of the holy is understanding” (9:10).

When It Happened:

Adam 4000 BC

Abraham 2100 BC

Moses 1500 BC

David 1000 BC

Solomon 971 BC

Hezekiah 700 BC

Ezra 450 BC

Jesus born 7/6 BC

* All dates are approximate

↑ The Proverbs were written between 970 and 700 B.C., the times of Solomon and Hezekiah.

Where It Happened: In Israel

Why it Happened: To help readers make good decisions concerning wise behavior, righteousness, justice, and impartiality.

**** Christ is seen as “Wisdom”.**

“Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength” (Proverbs 8:14).

Some Extras:

Proverbs is the **third** of the Poetry Books in the Bible.

It is the 20th book of the Old Testament.

**“The most intensely
practical thing in the world is godliness”
(Keith L. Brooks).**

Outline of Proverbs

Proverbs Chapter One – Wisdom warns about being enticed by sinners.

- A. The reasons for the proverbs (1:1-7)
 - 1. To grasp wisdom and discipline
 - 2. To receive guidance and understand deep thoughts
 - 3. To give insight to the immature and mature alike
- B. The recipients of the proverbs (1:8-33)
 - 1. Advice regarding wicked companions – Stay away from them!
 - 2. Advice regarding wisdom's counsel – Stay close to her!
 - 3.

Proverbs Chapter Two – Wisdom saves from evil and pays benefits.

- A. It will sanctify you (2:1-6)
- B. It will secure you (2:7-9)
- C. It will satisfy you (2:10-11)
- D. It will save you (2:12-22)
 - 1. From godless men
 - 2. From godless women

Proverbs Chapter Three – Wisdom results in right relationships and gives life and honor.

- A. The route (3:1,3)
 - 1. Keep its precepts in your heart
 - 2. Fasten them around your neck
 - 3. Write them deep within your heart
- B. The rules (3:5-12, 19-21, 25-35)
 - 1. What to do
 - 2. What not to do
- C. The release (3:19-20)
 - 1. By wisdom God lays the foundation of the earth, clouds, and rain.
 - 2. By wisdom He established the heavens.
- D. The rewards (3:2, 4, 13-18, 22-24)
 - 1. A long and satisfying life
 - 2. Favor with both God and people
 - 3. A possession more precious than silver, gold, and jewels
 - 4. Riches and honor
 - 5. A tree of life
 - 6. Confidence and security

Proverbs Chapter Four – Wisdom results in self-discipline.

- A. David's counsel to Solomon (4:1-9)
 - 1. Acquire wisdom
 - 2. Embrace wisdom
 - 3. Love and cherish wisdom
- B. Solomon's counsel to Rehoboam (4:10-27)
 - 1. Let wisdom guard your feet

2. Let wisdom guard your heart
3. Let wisdom guard your tongue
4. Let wisdom guard your eyes

Proverbs Chapter Five – Wisdom instructs about sexuality.

- A. The woman in the street: depart from her (5:1-14, 21-23)
 1. The pleasure she offers
 2. The price you pay
- B. The wife in the home: delight in her (5:15-20)
 1. The rule: Remain faithful to her
 2. The reward: Her love will satisfy you

Proverbs Chapter Six – Wisdom warns of pitfalls to avoid.

- A. God's admonitions (6:1-15, 24-35)
 1. The thoughtless
 2. The shiftless
 3. The ruthless
 4. The virtueless
- B. God's assurances (6:20-23)
 1. His Word will guard us
 2. His Word will guide us
- C. Seven abominations in God's sight (6:16-19)

Proverbs Chapter Seven – Wisdom warns against fornication.

- A. Receive my words and live! (7:1-5)
 1. Guard my teachings as your most precious possession
 2. Tie them on your fingers as a reminder
 3. Write them deep within your heart
 4. Love wisdom like a sister
- B. Reject my words and die! (7:6-27)
 1. Solomon's observation
 2. Solomon's twofold conclusion

Proverbs Chapter Eight – Wisdom proclaims her worth, availability, and accomplishments.

- A. Wisdom's entreaty (8:1-21, 32-36)
 1. Valid
 2. Valuable
 3. Vital
 4. Vibrant
- B. Wisdom's eternity (8:22-31)
 1. Wisdom creates with God in eternity past (Wisdom is with God during Creation)
 2. Wisdom is God's companion from eternity past (Wisdom is God's constant delight)

Proverbs Chapter Nine – Wisdom spreads a banquet and gives instructions.

- A. Wisdom's Fruits (9:1-12)
 - 1. Its palace
 - 2. Its provisions
 - 3. Its plea
 - 4. Its platform
 - 5. Its promises

- B. Whoredom's Folly (9:13-18)
 - 1. What sexual immorality promises
 - 2. What sexual immorality produces

Proverbs Chapter Ten – Wisdom instructs on right and wrong.

- A. The two children (10:1-7)
 - 1. The wise child brings joy to his father
 - 2. The foolish child brings grief to his mother
- B. The two lifestyles and their results (10:8-32)
 - 1. The wise vs. the foolish
 - 2. The obedient vs. the disobedient
 - 3. The rich vs. the poor
 - 4. The godly vs. the godless

Proverbs Chapter Eleven – Wisdom avoids all kinds of wickedness.

- A. God hates dishonesty (11:1-3)
- B. Riches won't help (11:4-9)
- C. The upright uphold the city (11:10-11)
- D. The godly live right (11:12-21)
- E. The godly use discretion (11:22-23)
- F. The godly are generous (11:24-26)
- G. The righteous are rewarded (11:27-31)

Proverbs Chapter Twelve – Wisdom contrasts righteousness and wickedness.

- A. Character counts (12:1-14)
- B. The wise weigh their words (12:15-16)
- C. Words can wound (12:17-23)
- D. The worker wins (12:24-28)

Proverbs Chapter Thirteen – Wisdom instructs on right living.

- A. Correction (13:1)
- B. Control (13:2-4)
- C. Consequences (13:5-25)

Proverbs Chapter Fourteen – Wisdom instructs about the fear of the Lord.

- A. The wise and the foolish (14:1-9)
- B. True joy (14:10-13)
- C. Personality patterns (14:14-21)
- D. General Dos and Don'ts (14:22-28)
- E. Anger and envy (14:29-33)
- F. Lifting up kingdom and king (14:34-35)

Proverbs Chapter Fifteen – Wisdom instructs on right emotions and the right way to live.

- A. Use words wisely (15:1-7)
- B. Remember what the Lord loves (15:8-9)
- C. Consider the consequences (15:10-19)
- D. Use good sense (15:20-29)
- E. Look and listen well (15:30-33)

Proverbs Chapter Sixteen – Wisdom instructs on God's providential care.

- A. A purpose for everything (16:1-9)
- B. Kingly advice (16:10-15)
- C. More glorious than gold (16:16-17)
- D. Pride and prosperity (16:18-24)
- E. A godless grouping (16:25-30)
- F. Temper your temper! (16:31-33)

Proverbs Chapter Seventeen – Wisdom instructs on fools.

- A. A refining fire (17:1-5)
- B. Family pride (17:6)
- C. A catalog of fools (17:7-28)

Proverbs Chapter Eighteen – Wisdom instructs on moral virtues and their contrary vices.

- A. The mouth of a fool (18:1-9)
- B. The safety of the Lord (18:10-11)
- C. The power of the tongue (18:12-21)
- D. The wonders of a wife (18:22)
- E. The best of all brothers (18:23-24)

Proverbs Chapter Nineteen – Wisdom instructs on character.

- A. Wealth and wisdom (19:1-4)
- B. Deceivers and liars (19:5-9)
- C. Fools, kings, and children (19:10-14)
- D. Laziness and life (19:15-16)
- E. Discipline and dedication (19:17-25)
- F. Parental abuse (19:26-29)

Proverbs Chapter Twenty – Wisdom instructs on avoiding drunkenness, sloth, and a contentious spirit.

- A. Do not be lead astray by drink (20:1)
- B. Do not rouse the king’s anger (20:2-8)
- C. Do not have double standards (20:9-13)
- D. Watch out for bad bargains (20:14-18)
- E. Do not gossip or hold grudges (20:19-25)
- F. Do not tolerate wickedness (20:26-30)

Proverbs Chapter Twenty-One – Wisdom instructs on integrity, patience, and God’s sovereignty.

- A. God watches the heart (21:1-8)
- B. It’s simpler being alone (21:9-19)
- C. The way of the wise (21:20-29)
- D. Victory belongs to the Lord (21:30-31)

Proverbs Chapter Twenty-Two – Wisdom instructs on how to secure and keep a good name. It emphasizes wise words and justice towards others, especially the poor.

- A. A good name (22:1)
- B. Some general guidance (22:2-16)
- C. Some good advice (22:17-29)

Proverbs Chapter Twenty-Three – Wisdom instructs on greediness, intemperance, and impurity.

- A. Dining with a king (23:1-5)
- B. Dining with the stingy (23:6-8)
- C. Fellowshiping with fools (23:9)
- D. Disciplining your children (23:10-18)
- E. Avoiding pitfalls (23:19-28)
- F. Avoiding drunkenness (23:29-35)

Proverbs Chapter Twenty-Four –Wisdom tells how to relate to the wicked and foolish and conduct oneself with neighbors, and warns against sloth.

- A. The house wisdom built (24:1-9)
- B. Rescue the perishing (24:10-12)
- C. Like honey to the soul (24:13-14)
- D. Down seven times (24:15-16)
- E. When enemies fall (24:17-22)
- F. Partiality and preparation (24:23-27)
- G. Return good for evil (24:28-29)
- H. Learn from the lazy (24:30-34)

Proverbs Chapter Twenty-Five – Wisdom instructs kings and their subjects on the fear of God and righteousness.

- A. The source of proverbs (25:1)
- B. The rights of rulers (25:2-7)
- C. Be slow to sue (25:8-10)
- D. The right use of words (25:11-15)
- E. Moderation in all things (25:16-17)
- F. Dealing with others (25:18-20)
- G. Kill him with kindness (25:21-22)
- H. Better off on the roof (25:23-24)
- I. Good news and self-control (25:25-28)

Proverbs Chapter Twenty-Six – Wisdom instructs against dishonorable conduct.

- A. Facts on the fool (26:1-12)
- B. Seven times smarter (26:13-16)
- C. Mind your own business (26:17-19)
- D. Gossip generates grief (26:20-28)

Proverbs Chapter Twenty-Seven – Wisdom instructs on human relations.

- A. Neither boast nor brag (27:1-3)
- B. More dangerous than anger (27:4)
- C. Sweeter than kisses (27:5-9)
- D. Never forget a friend (27:10-14)
- E. A rainy day and a cranky woman (27:15-18)
- F. More reflective than a mirror (27: 19-22)
- G. Caring for the lambs (27:23-27)

Proverbs Chapter Twenty-Eight – Wisdom instructs on the unscrupulous and unlawful dealings of the rich against the poor.

- A. A stable government (28:1-2)
- B. A pouring rain (28:3)
- C. Integrity (28:4-9)
- D. The blessings of the godly, the plight of the godless (28:10-15)
- E. The rise of the just, the fall of the unjust (28:16-20)
- F. Partiality and punishment (28:21)
- G. Being critical (28:22-24)
- H. Greed and generosity (28:25-28)

Proverbs Chapter Twenty-Nine – Wisdom instructs against stubbornness and insubordination.

- A. Accepting criticism (29:1)
- B. Wisdom and wickedness (29:2-8)
- C. Facts about a fool (29:9-11)
- D. Potentates and the poor (29:12-14)
- E. Spanking, not spoiling (29:15-17)
- F. No revelation, no restraint (29:18-19)
- G. Thoughtless speech (29:20-26)
- H. The godly and the ungodly (29:27)

Proverbs Chapter Thirty – Wisdom instructs on God’s Word and other subjects.

- A. The writer (30:1-3, 7-9)
 - 1. His identity
 - 2. His ignorance
 - 3. His inquiry
- B. God’s wonders (30:4)
- C. God’s Word (30:5-6)
 - 1. Every word of God proves true
 - 2. We dare not add to it!
- D. God’s world (30:10-33)
 - 1. Seven kinds of people
 - 2. Two suckers belonging to the leech
 - 3. Four things that are never satisfied
 - 4. Four wonderful and mysterious things
 - 5. Four things the earth finds unbearable
 - 6. Four small but wise things
 - 7. Four stately monarchs
 - 8. Three by-products of life

Proverbs Chapter Thirty-One – Wisdom instructs kings and praises the virtuous, wise, and industrious woman.

- A. A godly mother’s counsel (31:1-9)
 - 1. Whom she taught
 - 2. What she taught
- B. A godly wife’s character (31:10-31)
 - 1. Her worth
 - 2. Her works
 - 3. Her wisdom
 - 4. Her witnesses
 - 5. Her worship

(The above outline was taken and abbreviated from The Outline Bible by Harold L. Willmington.)

Proverbs

...wisdom guidelines for right living

What I Have Learned

INTRODUCTION

What is a proverb? A proverb is a brief, popular statement that expresses a general truth. It is an oracle, parable, or wise saying. The Hebrew word “mashal”, when translated, means “proverb”.

Ancient Israel had three categories of ministers:

- Priests
- Prophets
- Sages

The sages were gifted with godly wisdom and counsel concerning practical and philosophical issues of life. The proverbs represent the inspired wisdom of the sages.

(The above paragraph and list were taken from The Full Life Study Bible, page 924.)

Proverbs are designed primarily for teaching, especially young people. They are compact, practical statements that stick in the mind. Although there are a few longer discourses in the book of Proverbs, the majority are short, clever statements containing wisdom for living a righteous life.

Proverbs is considered a thoroughly practical book in the Old Testament. It touches upon a broad range of principles for right relationships and behavior in everyday life.

THEN AND NOW

Proverbs were popular in ancient times because of their clarity. People could easily memorize the short statements and then pass them on from generation to generation. Even today, many cultures use proverbs for this same purpose.

The family holds a place of importance in the Proverbs, even as it did in God’s covenant with Israel. Sins that violate God’s purpose for the family are especially exposed and warned against.

The book begins with a statement of purpose. The proverbs were to provide wisdom and understanding concerning wise behavior, righteousness, justice and equity (1:2-7). These guidelines were so that:

- The simple people could be prudent (cautious) (1:4).
- The Youth could obtain knowledge and discretion (1:4).
- The wise might become wiser (1:5-6).

(The previous list was taken from The Full Life Study Bible, page 925.)

GOOD ADVICE

Though the proverbs are essentially a handbook on wise living, the foundation of all wisdom should be “the fear of the LORD” (1:7).

There are several things that make the proverbs special.

1. General Principles are stated in Proverbs.

These principles are not just for believers. People everywhere can use them. They describe what will happen when a person makes a right choice, not what God guarantees will happen.

2. Proverbs is about choices.

They are not just information to fill up space, but rather guidelines for decisions. The writers want us to do the right thing, avoiding wrong decisions and the consequences of those decisions.

3. The “Fear of the Lord” is critical.

The fear of the Lord is not terror, but rather having a reverent acknowledgment of His sovereign power and presence. Only a firm belief in God will keep a human on the wise, moral pathway described in Proverbs.

4. There are many topics talked about in the Proverbs. Five examples are:

- a. Crime – 6:30-31
- b. Lies – 6:16
- c. The poor – 13:8
- d. Work – 12:11
- e. Adultery 22:14

(The list of things that make the Proverbs special is from The Bible – God’s Word for the Biblically – Inept, pages 76-77.)

“Common sense is good, but it’s not enough. We need the love of and respect for the Lord to form the basis of our choices. So, take and read the Proverbs – and grow in the knowledge of God”
(Charles Swindoll).

“Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God” (Proverbs 2:5).

The Proverbs have general truths not promises. For instance, “A gentle answer turns away wrath” (15:1, New international Version). However, this is not what always happens. Sometimes, the exact opposite takes place.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

The book of Proverbs is divided into five smaller books.

- The way of wisdom by Solomon (chapters 1-9)

- The main collection of the proverbs of Solomon (chapters 10-24)
- Hezekiah's collection of Solomon's proverbs (chapters 25-29)
- The words of Agur (chapter 30)
- The words of King Lemuel (chapter 31)

(The division of the proverbs is taken from Halley's Bible Handbook, page 347.)

Although Proverbs, like Psalms, is not easily summarized as other books of the Bible, there is some discernable structure. The first nine chapters of the Proverbs are different from the rest of the book. Here is found thirteen discourses such as a father would give to his son upon entering the teen years. Except for these three (1:30; 8:1; and 9:1), each one begins with "my son" or "my sons". In these chapters there is a contrasting of wisdom and foolishness. Afterwards there are one or two line truths gleaned from life that are universal. Any person who follows the advice given will live a much happier life.

There is no plot or story line in the proverbs. They are mostly two-line sayings or admonitions that have no order.

Proverbs has been called one of the best guidebooks to success that a young person can follow.

Although Proverbs is an intensely practical book, it also contains a profound view of God as:

- Wisdom personified (8:22-31)
- Creator (3:19-20; 22:2)
- Omniscient (5:21; 21:2)
- Just (11:1; 19:17)
- Sovereign (19:21; 21:1)

(The above list is taken from The Full Life Study Bible, page 925.)

To finish the book, a wise wife and mother are portrayed. This wife of noble character receives an impressive tribute. A good woman is highly viewed. "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies" (31:10).

SOLOMON

Just as David seems to be the main author of Psalms, Solomon obviously wrote most of Proverbs. The difference between the two is that Psalms is a book of devotion, while Proverbs is a book of practical ethics.

Solomon had a consuming passion for wisdom and knowledge (I Kings 3:9-12). His intelligence was a wonder of his time. Many kings came from far away just to hear him speak.

Solomon was a scientist, political ruler, businessman, poet, and preacher. He was the Israelite king whom God told, "I'll make you wiser than anyone who has ever lived or ever will live" (I Kings 3:12, The Contemporary English Version).

Solomon's fame was a sounding board that carried his voice to the ends of the earth and made him an example to all the world of the wisdom of God.

WISDOM IN THE PROVERBS

The unifying theme of Proverbs is wisdom for right living. This wisdom begins with a humble submission to God and flows into every area of life.

1. Wisdom admonishes concerning:
 - a. Family
 - b. Youth
 - c. Sexual purity
 - d. Marital faithfulness
 - e. Honesty
 - f. Hard work
 - g. Generosity
 - h. Friendship
 - i. Justice
 - j. Righteousness
 - k. Discipline

2. Wisdom warns about:
 - a. Folly of sin
 - b. Strife
 - c. Dangers of the tongue
 - d. Foolishness
 - e. Alcohol
 - f. Gluttony
 - g. Lust
 - h. Immorality
 - i. Falsehood
 - j. Slothfulness
 - k. Wrong company

3. Wisdom compares:
 - a. Discretion and folly
 - b. The righteous and wicked
 - c. Pride and humility
 - d. Laziness and diligence
 - e. Poverty and wealth
 - f. Love and lust
 - g. Right and wrong
 - h. Life and death

(The wisdom lists are taken from The Full Life Study Bible, page 925. The following information on wisdom is from The Full Life Study Bible, page 926.)

Wisdom exhortations in the Proverbs are the Old Testament forerunner to the many practical exhortations in the New Testament letters.

Wisdom is personified in chapter eight in a way similar to the personification of the Word in the Gospel of John (John 1:1-18). Wisdom is:

- Involved in Creation (3:19-20; 8:22-31)
- Related to the origin of both biological and spiritual life (3:19; 8:35)
- Applicable to righteous and moral living (8:8-9)
- Available to those who seek her (2:1-10; 3:13-18; 4:7-9; 8:35-36)

The wisdom of Proverbs finds its ultimate expression in Jesus Christ, someone “greater than Solomon” (Luke 11:31), who “is made unto us wisdom” (I Corinthians 1:30), and “in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:3).

JESUS IN PROVERBS

God has always desired that His people become acquainted with Him starting by making Him a confidant and then learning to walk hand in hand with Him, putting the acquired knowledge into practice. That is what the Bible means when it talks about wisdom. God’s wisdom takes on a body (our body), as we live life the way He wants us to. The book of Proverbs begins by describing wisdom as a person with whom we can have a close personal relationship.

Principle: In the Old Testament, God gave His people the law to enable them to know wisdom in principle.

Person: In the New Testament, the Son of God was born as the embodiment of God’s wisdom. Now wisdom is in a person. “But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:” (I Corinthians 1:30).

(The above section is from The Knowing Jesus Study Bible, page 811.)

**“If you find it hard to believe in God, I strongly advise you to begin your search not with philosophical questions...
but with Jesus of Nazareth”
(John Stott).**

What Have You Learned?

-
-
1. What is a proverb? _____

 2. What were the three categories of ministers in ancient Israel? _____

 3. The proverbs _____ the inspired _____ of the _____.
 4. What were the proverbs primarily designed for? _____

5. Where is Proverbs considered to be a thoroughly practical book? Why? _____

6. Why were the Proverbs popular in ancient times? _____
7. What is exposed and warned against in Proverbs? _____

8. What were the proverbs meant to provide? _____

9. What should the foundation of all wisdom be? _____

10. What four things make the proverbs special? _____

11. What does “the fear of the Lord” mean? _____

12. The Proverbs have _____ not _____.
13. What are the five smaller books of Proverbs? _____

14. What is different about the first nine chapters of Proverbs? _____

15. What is contrasted in the first nine chapters? _____

16. _____ has been called one of the best _____ to
_____ that a _____ can follow.

17. How is God viewed in Proverbs? _____

18. How does the book of Proverbs end? Include scripture in your answer. _____

19. _____ is a book of _____, while _____ is a book of _____.
20. _____ had a consuming passion for _____.
21. What was Solomon? _____

22. What does the wisdom in the Proverbs begin with? _____

23. List five things wisdom admonishes. _____

24. List five things wisdom warns against. _____

25. List five things wisdom compares. _____

26. _____ exhortations in the _____ are the _____
_____ to the many _____ exhortations in the _____
_____.
27. The wisdom of Proverbs finds its ultimate expression in Jesus Christ, someone _____
_____ (Luke 11:31), who _____
(I Corinthians 1:30), and _____ (Colossians 2:3).

28. What does the Bible mean when it talks about wisdom? _____

29. Explain wisdom as a principle. _____

30. Explain wisdom as a person. _____

Jesus is all Wisdom and Power!

Ecclesiastes

... searching for life's meaning apart from God.

Just the Facts:

Author: Possibly Solomon

Number of Chapters: 12

Key Thought: Vanity

Key Theme: The vanity of life apart from God.

Key Verse: “Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun” (2:11).

When it Happened:

Adam 4000 BC

Abraham 2100 BC

Moses 1500 BC

David 1000 BC

Solomon 971 BC

Ezra 450 BC

Jesus born 7/6 BC

* All dates are approximate

↑ Ecclesiastes was written during the time of Solomon

Where it Happened: It was written in Solomon's capital city of Jerusalem while he was King.

Why it Happened: To ask if human life has meaning apart from a personal relationship with God.

Christ seen as “Above the sun”

“Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun:” (11:7).

Some Extras:

Ecclesiastes is the fourth of the Poetry Books in the Bible.

It is the 21st book of the Old Testament.

It is an intensely personal book with the author frequently using the pronoun “I”.

**“ Fear God and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man”
Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.**

Ecclesiastes

... searching for life's meaning apart from God.

What I Have Learned

INTRODUCTION

The entire writings of Ecclesiastes are a series of lessons by a teacher, preacher, or well-known public speaker.

There is no way to really organize the contents of Ecclesiastes. The writings are like excerpts from a journal where the author randomly placed his thoughts and feelings, creating an autobiography.

Solomon is thought to be the author even though his name does not appear in the book. These facts support this theory:

- The author identifies himself as a son of David who was a King in Jerusalem (1:1, 12).
- He refers to himself as the wisest ruler of God's people (1:16).
- He says he is a writer of many proverbs (12:9).
- His kingdom was known for its wealth and splendor (2:4-9).

All of these facts compare to the Biblical description of King Solomon, who was known for gathering people together and speaking to them.

(The above list is from The Full Life Study Bible, page 965.)

EXPERIENCE TALKS

According to Jewish tradition, Solomon wrote the book of Ecclesiastes during the last years of his life. Solomon seems to be performing an experiment, analyzing his life. After his spiritual decline into idolatry and a life of self-indulgence, Solomon comes to an unhappy ending filled with disillusionment and dissatisfaction. He says that all things "under the sun" are meaningless. What could he mean by this? One opinion is, "Without God no one can find lasting satisfaction and meaning in their work, their diversions, or their life" (Stephen M. Miller).

It is only when Solomon learns to look "above the sun" to God, that he finds meaning for his life.

Ecclesiastes records Solomon's reflections on the part of his life spent apart from God and His Word. During that time he experienced wealth, power, honor, fame and sensual pleasures in abundance. These all added up to emptiness in the end where he comments, "Vanity of vanities; all is vanity" (1:2).

Why would Solomon write such a book? Many have asked why it is included in the Bible. One very important reason for it being in the Word of God is to remind us today that if we attempt to find meaning apart from God, we will fail. Human life is meaningless without God and His loving purpose for us.

In writing Ecclesiastes, Solomon wanted to share his regrets and testimony with people before he died. Most importantly he wanted to help young people so they wouldn't make the same mistakes he had. So he wrote:

- It is important for youth to enjoy life (11:9-10),
- It is more important that they give themselves to their Creator (12:1).
- They should fear God and keep His commandments (12:13-14), since this is the only way that life has meaning.

(The above list is from The Full Life Study Bible, page 965.)

When Solomon lost his spiritual joy, he began to worship the gods of his foreign wives. It is at this time he wrote, "And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith. I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit" (1:13-14). He searched for happiness outside of God. He would not consider truth revealed by God, but searched for meaning in the brief years that humans have on earth. Despite all his findings, he concludes with the tragic saying, "Meaningless! Meaningless! Says the teacher. Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless" (1:2, New International Version).

The book of Ecclesiastes seems like a book of contradictions if read like a sermon or essay. Solomon first says life is unfair, unfulfilling, and makes no sense; but in the next sentence he says that we should enjoy life, work hard, and obey God. As Solomon struggles with doubt, disillusionment, and despair, we see him working his way through it all, finding comfort worth sharing.

WHERE DID SOLOMON LOOK FOR MEANING?

(The following chapter by chapter information was taken from The Outline Bible, page 317-323; and combined with The Bible – God's Word for the Biblically –Inept, page 79-80.)

In the first half of the book of Ecclesiastes (chapters one through six), Solomon searches for the answer to his question, "Does life have any meaning?"

- **Ch. 1 - Solomon devotes himself to searching out the purpose of life.** He concludes that life is useless. History merely repeats itself; wrongs cannot be righted; and the dead are quickly forgotten.
- **Ch. 2 – Can pleasures provide meaning?** Solomon searches for peace and purpose through:
 - a) Alcohol
 - b) Great building projects
 - c) Planting vineyards
 - d) Creation of beautiful parks with exotic trees
 - e) Possessions
 - f) Universal reputation
 - g) Total indulgence

He cannot find the answer and concludes that everything is empty and useless. He says to be content with what you have, and enjoy your work (2:24-26).

- **Ch. 3 – Can humans make any changes in the way things are?** Solomon sees life in the human perspective and also from God’s perspective. “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:” (3:1). There is a time for everything, that is the way life is. He also sees what God has done, is doing, and will do in the lives of His people.
- **Ch. 4 – Solomon continues his observations concerning life.** He finds all types of people. He talks about life and death; prisoners and potentates. He states that it is better to be a poor but wise youth with a prison record than to be a rich but foolish king (4:13-16). He also states that two are better than one, and three are better than two because the triple-braided cord is not easily broken.
- **Ch. 5 – Solomon observes humanity.** He thinks that since man is unable to affect God’s work, life is meaningless. In birth, we have nothing. During our life, we can be reduced to nothing. When we die, we will take nothing with us. Therefore, possessions don’t give meaning to life.
- **Ch. 6 – Where does our joy come from?**
 - a) Fortune does not bring joy. Wealthy people are unhappy with their possessions.
 - b) Families do not bring joy.
 - c) Fullness of years does not bring joy.

MAKING THE BEST OF MEANINGLESS LIVES

In chapters seven through twelve, Solomon points out some better courses of action:

- **Ch. 7 –** Make the best choices you can, adopt a fatalistic attitude, and avoid extremes. Be wise and avoid folly.
- **Ch. 8 –** Be God-fearing, submitting to authorities. Enjoy the good things that life offers.
- **Ch. 9 –** Enjoy life while we can because death will come soon enough. Follow wisdom all the days of your life.
- **Ch. 10 –** Follow wisdom, for it is the heart of the wise man that directs him to do right. The heart of the foolish man directs him to do evil.
- **Ch. 11 –** Prepare for the future but also enjoy your youth. Remember that one day you will give account for all that you have done.
- **Ch. 12 –** Honor God in your youth. Fear God and obey His commandments, for you will be judged according to all that you do.

As the book ends we see Solomon looking back over his life, reflecting on the bright promises of youth. He concludes by instructing young people to remember God while they are young, so that they do not grow old with bitter regrets and the sad task of giving an account to God for a wasted life.

**“Youth is the time to decide for
Christ and for Righteousness”
(Billy Graham).**

Solomon looks back over his life and gives some recommendations.

“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole [duty] of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil” (12:13-14, New International Version).

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

Ecclesiastes is quoted in the New Testament only once (7:20 quoted in Romans 3:10, universal sin). However, Jesus spoke about the uselessness of pursuing worldly possessions when He said:

- We should not lay up treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19-21,24).
- It is senseless to gain the whole world but lose your own soul (Matthew 16:26).

(The above list was taken from The Full Life Study Bible, page 966.)

The whole theme of Ecclesiastes (life apart from God) sets the stage for the New Testament message of grace, joy, salvation, and eternal life provided for us by a God who loves and forgives.

Solomon (the wisest man in the Old Testament) could not find happiness and peace in worldly possessions and self-centered pleasures. We too must look for our answers in someone, not something. The New Testament says that there is One who is “greater than Solomon” (Matthew 12:42), and “in him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:3). Look to Jesus Christ for your answers!

(The above paragraph was taken from The Full Life Study Bible, page 966.)

JESUS IN ECCLESIASTES

The teacher in Ecclesiastes could be a foreshadow of the great teacher to come. Jesus was often called “teacher” while He ministered on earth.

He is the meaning and purpose of our lives.

**“I believe that Jesus is the answer to every individual’s search for meaning”
(Billy Graham).**

What Have You Learned?

1. The entire writings of Ecclesiastes are a series of what? _____

2. What facts support the theory of Solomon being the author of Ecclesiastes? _____

3. According to Jewish tradition, when did Solomon write the book of Ecclesiastes?

4. Where does Solomon look to find meaning for his life? _____

5. After his search, what does he conclude in 1:2? _____

6. What is one reason why Ecclesiastes is a part of the Bible today? _____

7. Who did Solomon want to tell his testimony to? Why? _____

8. List four places where Solomon searches for peace and purpose. _____

9. What does Ecclesiastes 3:1 say? _____

10. Why are three people better than two? _____

11. What does Solomon point out in chapters seven through twelve? _____

12. What is the common instruction of chapters nine and ten? _____

13. What does Solomon say in chapter twelve? _____

14. What instructions does Solomon give to young people in the conclusion of this book?

15. What does Billy Graham say about youth? _____

16. What did Jesus say about the value of worldly possessions? _____

17. The _____ says that there is One who is “_____”(Matthew 12:42), and
“_____” (Colossians 2:3).
18. Jesus Christ is the _____ and _____ of our lives.

Jesus is the Master Teacher!

Song of Solomon

...the celebration of love

Just the Facts:

Author: Solomon

Number of Chapters: 8

Key Thought: Love

Key Theme: Wedded Love

Key Verse: “I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine:

he feedeth among the lilies” (6:3).

When it Happened:

Adam 4000 BC

Abraham 2100 BC

Moses 1500 BC

David 1000 BC

Solomon 971 BC

Ezra 450 BC

Jesus born 7/6 BC

* All dates are approximate

↑ Song of Solomon was written sometime during his reign as King of Israel.

Where it Happened: Jerusalem, Israel

Why it Happened: As a celebration of married love.

Christ is seen as the “Altogether Lovely One”

“His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely.

This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem” (5:16).

Some Extras:

Song of Solomon is the **fifth** and **last** Poetry book in the Bible.

It is the 22nd book in the Old Testament.

**“Christ covets the full communion of His people and blessedness comes to all who walk in His fellowship”
(Keith L. Brooks).**

Song of Solomon

...the celebration of love

What I Have Learned

INTRODUCTION

The Song of Solomon is also known by the name “Song of Songs”, an expression that means “The Greatest Song” (just as “King of kings” means “The Greatest King”). It is often called “Song of Songs” because Solomon could have considered it to be the most wonderful song of the 1,005 songs he wrote. Some scholars believe that Song of Solomon was written to celebrate marriage to his favorite wife.

This book is a love song, set in blossoming springtime, which shows Solomon’s fondness for nature, gardens, meadows, vineyards, orchards, and flocks (I Kings 4:33).

When Song of Solomon was written, Solomon’s harem was still relatively small. He had approximately 60 wives and 80 concubines. Later it grew to 700 wives and 300 concubines.

The question arises: How could Solomon have used such monogamous (life-long commitment to a single spouse) language if he already had wives and concubines? It is possible that the Shulammitte maiden was Solomon’s first wife from his youth, before he became king. The Bible gives no explanation, but whatever the reason, Solomon was deeply and emotionally committed as one would be to his first love.

LOOKING FOR MEANING

Was the poem written out of Solomon’s experience of true love? Or is it an allegory (a story used to make a point), intended to show the love of God for Israel, and today’s believer? Though ancient Bible scholars felt strongly that the song was a symbolic expression of either God’s love for Israel or Christ’s love for the church, modern experts argue that the poem is a celebration of God’s gift of love and sexuality. Song of Solomon could also be considered a model for romance. It is a reminder that true love feeds on tender words of endearment (whether poetic or plain), spoken straight from the heart.

The content of Song of Solomon is not easily analyzed because it does not flow like a story but rather moves in a series of interlocking circles revolving around a central theme of love.

Most of the conversations in the book are between the bride (the Shulammitte woman), Solomon the king, and a chorus of friends of the bride and bridegroom called the “daughters of Jerusalem”. When the bride and groom are together, they are mutually fulfilled; when they are apart, they experience a longing for each other’s presence.

GOD ORDAINED MARRIAGE

In the beginning, God ordained marriage and the family unit as the first and most important institution on earth. He considers a godly family and the raising of children of utmost priority. God's plan for marriage consists of one male and one female who become "one flesh". "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). They are to be united physically and spiritually.

Song of Solomon is a song of praise to the joys of married life. Its essence is found in its tender and devoted expressions of the intimate delights of married love. Human happiness and welfare depend to a very large extent on proper mutual attitudes in the intimate relationship of married life.

"Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled" (Hebrews 13:4). Christians should enjoy romantic love within the bonds of the marriage relationship.

This book was inspired by the Holy Spirit and incorporated into the Word of God to underscore the divine origin of the joy and dignity of human love in marriage. God wants us to know that it can be pure, wholesome, and beautiful.

DIVISIONS OF THE POEM

Song of Solomon is divided into three sections.

- **The Courtship** (1:1-3:5) – the events preceding the wedding.
 - a. "You light up my life" – the bride speaks to the groom.
 - b. "You light up my life" – the groom speaks to the bride.
 - c. "They light up each other's life" – The young women of Jerusalem speak to the couple.
- **The Wedding** (3:6-5:1) – the events accompanying the wedding.
 - a. The wedding day
 - The coming of King Solomon
 - The carriage of King Solomon
 - The crown of King Solomon
 - b. The wedding night
 - The husband praises his wife.
 - The wife tells her husband to take her love.
 - The young women of Jerusalem tell the bride and groom to "Eat and drink deeply of this love!"
- **The Deepening Relationship** (5:2-8:14) – the events following the wedding.
 - a. In regard to the wife
 - Her dream
 - Her desire
 - Her description of her lover and love.
 - b. In regard to the husband
 - He characterizes the beauty of his wife
 - He contrasts the beauty of his wife
 - c. In regard to the young women of Jerusalem
 - They ask the wife several questions.
 - d. In regard to the wife's brothers

- ☑ The question – “What will happen to our little sister?”
- ☑ The answer – “We will help her remain pure until she marries.”
- ☑

(The above divisions were taken from The Outline Bible, pages 325-327.)

SONG OF SOLOMON IS DIFFERENT

There are four major characteristics that make Song of Solomon different from the rest of the books in the Bible.

- It is the only book in the Bible that deals exclusively with the unique love of a bride and groom. Throughout, it describes courtship, married life, and the bliss of newlyweds.
- It is a masterpiece of imagery, primarily drawn from the world of nature. The descriptive language shows the emotion, power, and beauty of romantic and wedded love.
- It is one of a small number of Old Testament books that are neither quoted nor alluded to in the New Testament.
- It is one of the two books in the Old Testament (the other being the book of Esther) that do not explicitly mention God in the text.

(The above list was taken from The Full Life Study Bible, page 982.)

SOMETHING USEFUL FOR TODAY

When studying the book of Song of Solomon, we read four different things marriage needs today.

1. Personal Attention – Physical love can not grow unless it is nurtured.
2. Leisure – Creativity, enjoyment, and playfulness only blossom in a relationship when they are cultivated in the soil of time.
3. Meaningful Getaways – Special times away from the clutter and clamor of constant demands can refresh a relationship.
4. Security – Reaching the deepest level of secure, peaceful love takes commitment.

(The above list was taken from The Bible – God’s Word for the Biblically – Inept, page 81.)

**“What an ideal we have in Solomon’s Song for Christian marriages! What freedom to be wildly in love, romantic, tender, and sensual. To be committed, secure, and happy”
(Charles Swindoll).**

JESUS IN THE SONG

The young man continuously sought out the woman, wooing her. This portrays to us God’s tireless, loving quest for a relationship with each of us. He is the lover of our souls.

Like Solomon, Jesus is our shepherd (John 10:11-16), and He promises to return and take us to a “Wedding banquet” (Matthew 25:1-13; Revelation 19:7-9). When He does return, He will come as the King of kings, and we will live in the joy of His glorious presence and love forever (Revelation 5:10; 19:16).

(The above information was taken from The Knowing Jesus Study Bible, page 874.)

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

Christians have usually regarded the book of Song of Solomon as a song of Christ and the church. In the New Testament the church is called the bride of Christ (Matthew 9:15; 25:1; John 3:29; II Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:23; Revelation 19:7; 21:2; 22:17). The Bible nowhere indicates that any aspect of Solomon's married life is a divinely intended "type" of Christ. However, since several crucial New Testament passages describe Christ's love for the church in terms of the marriage relationship, the Song of Solomon may be viewed as illustrating the quality of love that exists between Christ and His bride, the church. It is an exclusive, committed, and intensely personal love that allows for no other courtships.

**“Man is soon changed and lightly falleth away, but Christ abideth forever and standeth strongly
with His lover
unto the end”
(Thomas á Kempis).**

What Have You Learned?

1. What is the other name that Song of Solomon is sometimes called? Why is it called this?

2. What is Song of Solomon and what does it show about Solomon? _____

3. What did ancient Bible scholars think about Song of Solomon? _____

4. What is the opinion of modern experts? _____

5. Instead of flowing like a story, what is the book of Song of Solomon like? _____

6. What does God's plan for marriage consist of? What Scripture talks about this?

7. What does Hebrews 13:4 say? _____

8. What are the three sections of the book of Song of Solomon? _____

9. Give one way that Song of Solomon is different from the other books of the Bible.

10. What are the four things our marriages need today? _____

11. How can Jesus be seen in Song of Solomon? _____

12. The love between _____ and His _____ is an exclusive, committed, and intensely _____ that allows for _____.

Jesus is the Lover of our Souls!

Getting into



the Word

Getting Into the Word

- We want to understand just how Jesus Christ is seen throughout the Bible. He is not only the God of the New Testament, the Old Testament tells us much about Him too.
- As part of the Poetical Books class, a certain number of chapters will need to be read each day.
- While reading, look for Jesus' character in every chapter.

(The following Bible Study was paraphrased from The Bible Summarized Handbook by Keith L. Brooks.)

Job:

<p>DAY 1 Chapters 1-2 □</p>	<p>Ch. 1- Jesus Christ is ever interceding for His children. Satan can not touch a child of God unless God gives him permission. There is always a purpose in what happens in our lives and that is what we need to search for.</p> <p>Ch. 2- Body healing is the substitute for soul healing through Christ. Satan uses physical sickness to try and draw men from seeing their need of salvation.</p>
<p>DAY 2 Chapters 3-5 □</p>	<p>Ch 3. - Though many people often curse the day of their birth, no one usually curses the day of their new birth. They never wish that they hadn't found Jesus Christ as savior.</p> <p>Ch.4 – Certain people have had a remarkable experience that they think everyone needs to know about, never realizing others experiences are similar to theirs. We can find comfort in knowing that Christ understands our hearts better than we do.</p> <p>Ch. 5 – To have a part in the dignity of Christ, we must first fellowship with His suffering.</p>
<p>DAY 3 Chapters 6-8 □</p>	<p>Ch. 6 – Suffering for Christ is called suffering, “ according to the will of God.” (Also read I Peter 2: 20-23.)</p> <p>Ch. 7 – The only time Jesus asked “Why?” was when He died for the sins of the world and the Father's face was turned away. Why not praise and pray instead of complaining and fretting?</p> <p>Ch. 8 – People tend to be more supportive when the afflicted person includes Jesus Christ in his faith.</p>
<p>DAY 4 Chapters 9-11 □</p>	<p>Ch. 9 – It is when we stand in the righteousness of God that we ask for forgiveness for what we have done. Our merciful Savior is always willing to forgive.</p> <p>Ch. 10 –While “in Christ”, we experience times of trial and testing so that we won't be condemned with the world (Romans 8:1; I Corinthians 11:32).</p> <p>Ch. 11 – Instead of looking to Jesus, Christians often rely on their own knowledge, judging their best by other's worst</p>

<p>DAY 5 Chapters 12-14 □</p>	<p>Ch. 12 – “Never kick a man while he is down.” Don’t blame trouble on a man’s actions. Jesus is the wisest and kindest of comforters. Go to Him when in trouble. Ch. 13 – When living a holy life in fellowship with Jesus, Christians can accept trials and testing as times of growth in their walk with God. Ch. 14 – Sometimes friends bring us little comfort. But Jesus is our comforter and we can rejoice that He has defeated death at Calvary, providing eternal life for those who obey His Word.</p>
<p>DAY 6 Chapters 15-18 □</p>	<p>Ch. 15 – We are nothing in ourselves. It is only when Christ gives us the power through the Holy Spirit, that we can do a work for Him. Ch. 16 – Jesus Christ came to the earth to be a mediator between God and man. He is the best one to plead on our behalf. Ch. 17 – The true believer has a surety with God. No one can lay any blame or sin upon us if we look to Him to plead our cause. Ch. 18 – When someone has a problem or is in the midst of a trial, they should not be judged as wicked when no other proof is against them. A child of God is supposed to suffer for His name’s sake.</p>
<p>DAY 7 Chapters 19-21 □</p>	<p>Ch. 19 – Job clearly believed in Christ’s redemption, His second coming and resurrection. Ch. 20 – Unless a sinner takes refuge in Christ, the connection between sin and punishment will bring about eternal damnation. Ch. 21 – Life’s suffering will look so small when placed beside the mountain of blessings given to us by Jesus Christ. He has also provided eternal life. We are supposed to bear our crosses for Christ’s sake.</p>
<p>DAY 8 Chapters 22-24 □</p>	<p>Ch. 22 – Only Christ judges righteously. Therefore, the child of God needs to learn to pass by accusations and misunderstandings. Ch. 23 – When people do not understand our situation, it is a comfort to know that Jesus was tried in all points as we are and He understands. Ch. 24 – God does not have a daily payday but in the end He pays. Though Christians suffer now, they must stand secure in Christ, glorifying Him instead of complaining.</p>
<p>DAY 9 Chapters 25-28 □</p>	<p>Ch. 25 – Sinful man may hate God’s holiness, but he must be born again, being justified by faith in Christ, having peace with God (Romans 5:1). Ch. 26 – Discouragement comes when people demand more of us than we can produce and we need what they cannot give. Jesus never makes a mistake. He doesn’t ask for more than we can give, and He gives us all that we need. Ch. 27 – Many times Christians are censured and condemned for living a holy life. But they can find comfort in holding onto Jesus because He encourages their hearts and avenges them.</p>

	Ch. 28 – The beginning of all things is wisdom. Wisdom from God shows the way to heaven whereas the philosophies and sciences of men only show the way in the earth.
DAY 10 Chapters 29-31 □	Ch. 29 – Christ in His power and goodness is Lord to the poor man as well as the rich. He loves righteousness and hates sin. Ch. 30 – Just as Christ was ridiculed and spit upon, Job was also made a reproach of men. Those who praise you today may try to destroy you tomorrow. Ch. 31 – Jesus keeps record of all things and will bring every work into judgment.
DAY 11 Chapters 32-35 □	Ch. 32 – The man who sees the God of Calvary’s cross will have the highest conception of God. Ch. 33 – Jesus Christ is our ransom. Sin caused so much damage that nothing else could atone for it but the blood of the Son of God. Ch. 34 – No matter what we think, we must accept what God has given. His ways are so much higher and better than our own. He does all things for our good. Ch. 35 – When suffering from a trial, do not despair and think that your salvation has brought you nothing, just cast all your cares on Him for He cares for you.
DAY 12 Chapters 36-39 □	Ch. 36 - Trial is the school of trust. Trials are blessings in disguise if they bring us closer to Christ and teach us to pray and have more faith. Ch. 37 – In the midst of every storm, there is a shelter that we can run to. His name is Jesus! Ch. 38 – Man’s knowledge of creation and the things of this world is limited to what he reads in the Word of God. He knows nothing more than what has been written there. Ch. 39 – Wherever food is, that is where you will find animals (such as the eagle in Matthew 24:28).
DAY 13 Chapters 40-42 □	Ch. 40 – It is by the grace of God and the gifts that He gives us that we are able to do whatever He asks of us. He will never ask us to do something if He hasn’t equipped us for the job. Ch. 41 – Our minds are baffled by the greatness of God when we compare His mighty works with man’s limitations. Ch. 42 – It is only after we have destroyed our own will, that we are able to have a friendship with Christ. Our sinful nature must be transformed, realizing that we are nothing in ourselves without Him.

**“ The gem cannot be polished without friction,
nor men perfected without trials” (Chinese Proverb).**

Psalms:

<p>DAY 14 Chapters 1-6 □</p>	<p>Ch. 1 – Jesus Christ was “a blessed man” who delighted in doing the work and will of the Father. Ch. 2 – A sinner may think that the yoke of Christ is heavy and hard but to a person saved by the blood, it is easy and light. Ch. 3 – David sometimes wrote more about His Lord than himself. This chapter shows the suffering of Christ. Ch. 4 – Christ died so that we as sinners can flee to the cross, putting our whole trust in that beautiful sacrifice. Ch. 5 – We should ever look towards Jesus Christ when praying. The temple was a shadow of the body of Christ, our Mediator. Ch. 6 – In this psalm of sorrow, David is seen as a type of Christ who wept but found strength in the Father.</p>
<p>DAY 15 Chapters 7-10 □</p>	<p>Ch. 7 – We need deliverance just as David. Christ has already fought the battle and gained our victory. Ch. 8 – The name of the Lord is wonderful. He is set above the heavens. For a short time He was made a little lower than the angels, but all creatures are under His feet and He is Lord of all. Ch. 9 – The Bible is full of promises. Each is precious in the life of a child of God. Ch. 10 – When we pray, let us make known our requests before the throne of grace, talking to the King of kings and Lord of lords.</p>
<p>DAY 16 Chapters 11-16 □</p>	<p>Ch. 11 – Jesus Christ is our intercessor. He is never deaf to our cries and will work on our behalf. Ch. 12 – We need to remember that when we are surrounded by the evil of this world, we are protected by the power of God. Ch. 13 – It is after we have gone through a trial that we see Jesus in a new way. We are closer to Him, which helps us forget the long time of pain. Ch. 14 – We are all sinners until we come in contact with the saving grace of Jesus Christ. All goodness is found in Him. Ch. 15 – It is only after we are in Christ, conformed to His image, that we can find a place in His tabernacle. Ch. 16 – After we submit ourselves to God’s care and guidance, we find blessedness in Him.</p>
<p>DAY 17 Chapters 17-18 □</p>	<p>Ch. 17 – Those who are in Christ will rise with Him when the trumpet sounds, to live eternally with Him. Ch. 18 – Jesus Christ is our deliverer. He will not only deliver His people from their difficulties in due time, but He will also give the grace they need to bear their trials in the meantime.</p>

<p>DAY 18 Chapters 19-20 □</p>	<p>Ch. 19 – Jesus Christ, our victorious Savior, longs to reveal Himself to His bride, the true church. Ch. 20 – While going through trials and conflicts we must always keep our eyes on Jesus, visiting the cross often before we march out into the battle. Then we can rejoice in His saving arm.</p>
<p>DAY 19 Chapters 21-22 □</p>	<p>Ch. 21 – Jesus is Lord of all. He once wore a crown of thorns but now He wears the glory crown. He is our Intercessor, ever interceding for His children. Ch. 22 – In this psalm of the cross, we see the death and sufferings of Jesus Christ. Then we see the glory that followed. We need to draw closer to the cross.</p>
<p>DAY 20 Chapters 23-25 □</p>	<p>Ch. 23 – The shepherd psalm follows the psalm of the cross. We must first have a view of the cross before we can truly see how much the Good Shepherd cares for us. Ch. 24 – The risen savior is coming again for all those who have called upon His name. He is seen as the Head and Crown of the universe, the King of Glory. Ch. 25 – God’s goodness and uprightness are in perfect unity. They came together at the sacrifice on the cross. When a sinner has faith in this sacrifice, he can have the hope of being delivered.</p>
<p>DAY 21 Chapters 26-29 □</p>	<p>Ch. 26 – Just as Christ was rejected, reproached, and rebuked, so will we be as we follow Him. Not everyone will understand why we do what we do. Ch. 27 – Even though Christ was delivered into the wicked hands of those who spoke against Him, He was not delivered to their wills. He was exalted above all principalities and powers. Ch. 28 – Beyond the veil, in the Holiest of Holies, is where the ark and mercy seat were situated. This foreshadowed Jesus Christ. After gaining acceptance through prayer, we can then approach the mercy seat for atonement. Ch. 29 – Jesus Christ is our peace. He purchased our peace on the cross.</p>
<p>DAY 22 Chapters 30-31 □</p>	<p>Ch. 30 – The Lord Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us. His father deserted Him for a time so that those who believe in Him might not be deserted eternally. Ch. 31 – The Lord Jesus committed His spirit into the hands of the Father when He made His body an offering for sin.</p>
<p>DAY 23 Chapters 32-34 □</p>	<p>Ch. 32 – Jesus Christ took upon Himself the sins of the world and was made sin for us all. Ch. 33 – The union of the power of God’s Word with the power of God’s Spirit always releases the creative power of God on behalf of His people. Ch. 34 – The eye of the Lord is upon them that fear Him. We ought to bless the Lord at all times.</p>
<p>DAY 24 Chapters 35-37</p>	<p>Ch. 35 – When we are persecuted for what we believe, we should remember that the prophets and Jesus Christ were also persecuted a long time before us. Ch. 36 – We get our life and strength from the Lord. We can not see Jesus by the</p>

<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>light of self, but we can see self in the light of Jesus. Ch. 37 – Because He lives we can face tomorrow. We are safe in Him. If we stay “in Him” then heaven is our eternal home.</p>
<p>DAY 25 Chapters 38-41 <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Ch. 38 – When we see ourselves in the mirror of His Word, we must acknowledge our helplessness in order for Him to deliver. Ch. 39 – We have no excuse for fearing man because the Lord said that He will be with us always. Ch. 40 – The Old Testament offerings became worthless when Jesus Christ came and sacrificed His life for mankind. Ch. 41 – Jesus Christ was betrayed. Therefore, we should not think it strange when family and friends betray us.</p>
<p>DAY 26 Chapters 42-44 <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Ch. 42 – We must want the mercies of God before we can learn about them. Jesus Christ was overwhelmed with grief and pain so that when we feel overwhelmed, we can run to the shelter of His arms. Ch. 43 – Jesus Christ, the light of the world is the only light that will light the road to heaven. Ch. 44 – It is when we endure affliction and trouble that we come in contact with more of God’s love and comfort. We can be more than conquerors through Jesus Christ.</p>
<p>DAY 27 Chapters 45-48 <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Ch. 45 – Jesus Christ is the picture of perfect beauty and how much more beautiful it will be when He is unified with His bride, the church. Ch. 46 – We can have confidence in God. We are safe in Him. Ch. 47 – The tongue of the dumb person will sing His praise when the Prince of Peace reigns. Ch. 48 – The Church triumphant will stand the test and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. She will put on her wedding garments to welcome her bridegroom when He comes back again.</p>
<p>DAY 28 Chapters 49-51 <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Ch. 49 – Jesus Christ has redeemed us with His precious blood. Ch. 50 – It is only by the blood of Jesus Christ and the sacrifice He made, that we can approach the throne. Ch. 51 – Baptism in Jesus Name is the only way to wash a sinner clean of sin.</p>
<p>DAY 29 Chapters 52-55 <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Ch. 52 – We must be rooted and grounded in Jesus Christ, being fruit-bearing trees, and drawing our nourishment from Him. Ch. 53 – We should always be watching for the return of the Lord. He is coming for His bride, the church. Ch. 54 – Throughout life, we need to keep an eye on Calvary, never forgetting the sacrifice that was made in our place. It is only then that we can look up and praise God.</p>

	Ch. 55 – David’s suffering at the hands of false friends is a type of how Jesus Christ suffered.
DAY 30 Chapters 56-59 □	Ch. 56 – Nothing can separate us from God’s love. Ch. 57 – God’s glory should be the nearest thing to our hearts. If we seek the glory of the Father first, our interests and desires will be safe in His hands. Ch. 58 – We never lose when we suffer for Christ’s sake. Ch. 59 – The accusers of the Lord couldn’t find any reason to persecute Him, so they made up some. What they lacked in justice and reason, they made up for in noise.
DAY 31 Chapters 60-63 □	Ch. 60 – It is in the power of Jesus’ name that we war against the powers of darkness. Ch. 61 – When in trouble, run to the rock Christ Jesus. He can keep you safe from the storm. Ch. 62 – Those who trust in Jesus Christ will be satisfied, for His riches are open to the poorest. Ch. 63 – Those who are in Christ, will rejoice in His victory when He is crowned King of kings and Lord of lords.
DAY 32 Chapters 64-67 □	Ch. 64 – A person bought with the blood of Jesus Christ, can confidently look forward to His second coming. Ch. 65 – It is through the beauty of nature that we see the awesome power of God. His praise should forever ring out of our hearts. Ch. 66 – God’s love and grace is in the midst of every test and trial. He is working all things for the benefit of His glorious purpose. Ch. 67 – If we delight in praising God, then we need to delight in telling others how to praise Him.
DAY 33 Chapters 68-69 □	Ch. 68 – The Lord is always giving us reasons to praise Him although we should not need a reason other than His greatness. Ch. 69 – When we are afflicted, we need not become discontent or sink in despair, but we should cling to the cross.
DAY 34 Chapters 70-73 □	Ch. 70 – Christ was spat upon and mocked as He walked up the hill with His cross. Be assured that the enemies of Christ will be paid for their work. Ch. 71 – A lot of things will pass away, but the righteousness and salvation through Christ will never change. This is reason enough to forever praise the Lord. Ch. 72 – Every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords. Ch. 73 – Jesus is better than all the earth and all of heaven. Heaven would not be available without Him.
DAY 35	Ch. 74 – Jesus Christ has provided eternal life for us. When we face a trial, we can

<p>Chapters 74-77 □</p>	<p>be assured that He will never leave us nor forsake us. He cares too much for us. Ch. 75 – The Lord upholds all things by the word of His power. It is through this wonderful power that we are saved. Ch. 76 – We must celebrate the glory of God’s power. He has spoiled principalities and powers. Ch. 77 – Some things we do, will eventually be forgotten. Our visit to the cross must never be forgotten. How? Go there often.</p>
<p>DAY 36 Chapter 78 □</p>	<p>Ch. 78 – It is when we forget the promises, blessings, and commandments of the Lord, that we limit Him and His power. He wants to do so much for us. When the Chief Shepherd comes again, the desert wanderings of life will be gone and we will enter into a peaceful rest in the Kingdom of God.</p>

<p>DAY 37 Chapters 79-81 □</p>	<p>Ch. 79 – When the Lord Jesus Christ returns for His people, He will destroy the wicked, and His name will be glorified. Ch. 80 – Jesus Christ is the Great Shepherd. Ch. 81 – The honey out of the rock speaks of Christ, the Rock of our salvation. Those who live for Christ are filled and satisfied with what is good.</p>
<p>DAY 38 Chapters 82-84 □</p>	<p>Ch. 82 – The Lord is coming soon. Those who don’t know Him must be told. When He comes, all unrighteous people will be broken like potter’s vessels. Ch. 83 – Those who oppose Christ and His Kingdom will eventually reach their doom. Ch. 84 – God is good and happy are they who put their trust in Him. His grace secures every covenant blessing to the believer.</p>
<p>DAY 39 Chapters 85-88 □</p>	<p>Ch. 85 – Jesus Christ, our perfect substitute, has taken the full penalty for our sins. Ch. 86 – God wants to be our preserver. By placing our lives in His hands, we allow Him to extend His hand of mercy toward us. Ch. 87 – We need to hold God’s love in reverence. Just as He loved Jerusalem, so does He love the church today. We must not take His favor for granted. Ch. 88 – David fought his despair by praying. This shows that he had the spirit of God in His heart. When life got tough, he could still reach out to God.</p>
<p>DAY 40 Chapter 89 □</p>	<p>Ch. 89 – Hold firm to the promises of God. No matter the situation, we should always praise God. He is God over all things, having a more glorious name than any other.</p>
<p>DAY 41 Chapters 90-93 □</p>	<p>Ch. 90 – The beauty of the Lord is the beauty of holiness. If Christ is truly in our lives, then his spirit will transform us into His image. Ch. 91 – If we live a life of communion with God, He will be our rest and refuge forever. Ch. 92 – As we see the wonderful works of God which He wrought on Calvary’s cross, we can say “How great are thy works; thy thoughts are very deep.” Ch. 93 – That the Lord Jesus already reigns in our hearts, should be our praise. That</p>

	He may come and set up His kingdom on earth should be our prayer.
DAY 42 Chapters 94-98 □	Ch. 94 – God’s people may be cast down but they can never be cast off. He will work all things together for good for those who love Him. Ch. 95 – Christ is the rock of our salvation. By His hand we are led into green pastures, protected and provided for. Ch. 96 – The Lord’s coming is at hand. He will judge and rule the earth. Ch. 97 – those who rejoice in Jesus Christ and His exaltation have fountains of joy treasured up for them. Ch. 98 – We serve a conquering King who lived a marvelous life, died a marvelous death, and arose in a victorious resurrection.
DAY 43 Chapters 99-103 □	Ch. 99 – The Lord allows us to approach His throne. As we exalt Him, let us draw near in all humility and adoration. Ch. 100 – We should be honored to have been chosen out of this sinful world by the Good Shepherd. We are guided by His wisdom, tended by His care, and fed by His bounty. Ch. 101 – Whether in public or in secret, our walk with God should remain the same. Ch. 102 – The Son of God created the world, yet for our sake He became a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. Ch. 103 – God is the fountain of good. He has crowned us with loving kindness and tender mercies. Therefore, blessing His name should be the alpha and omega of our service.
DAY 44 Chapters 104-106 □	Ch. 104 – God’s sovereignty, majesty and greatness are to be celebrated. It should be our joy to serve such a majestic and wonderful God. Ch. 105 – God is always mindful of the covenant He has made with His children. He is ever interceding on our behalf, saying, “Touch not mine anointed.” Ch. 106 – The grace of God is redeeming. In spite of how He may be treated, God is always making merciful allowances for us, not giving us what we fully deserve.
DAY 45 Chapters 107-108 □	Ch. 107 – God is good. His mercy is everlasting. The Great Redeemer has provided salvation from sin and hell. Ch. 108 – We are to praise God publicly, not ashamed of our lifestyle. Others need to see the effects of serving a wonderful Savior.
DAY 46 Chapters 109-112 □	Ch. 109 – David is a type of Christ Who was surrounded with enemies, who persecuted Him, not only without cause, but also for His love and good works yet He gave Himself to prayer for them. Ch. 110 – Jesus Christ is the eternal priesthood. He will rule and reign this world majestically, and none can hinder Him. Ch. 111 – At the cross of Calvary was where Jesus Christ purchased our redemption. He truly is our redeemer. Ch. 112 – Jesus is the victor over Satan. Look to Jesus, the author and finisher of

	our faith. He will establish our hearts.
DAY 47 Chapters 113-116 □	Ch. 113 – The evidence of God’s wisdom, power, and goodness is everywhere. What a wonderful God we serve! Ch. 114 – When the blood of Jesus Christ redeems us, then we are no longer a part of the world, nor do we speak its language. Ch. 115 – We are blessed of the Lord who made heaven and earth. He will be a shield to all those who humbly put their confidence in Him. Ch. 116 – The many times God has answered prayer, should be reason enough for us to continuously praise Him.
DAY 48 Chapters 117-118 □	Ch. 117 – The mercy of the Lord endures forever. We must spread His glorious gospel to all nations. Ch. 118 – Never failing streams of mercy flow from our God. Jesus Christ is the tried stone, elect, and precious. The Jews could not see the excellence in Him to build upon. At the resurrection He became the headstone of the corner, the foundation of the church.
DAY 49 119:1-88 □	Verses 1-88 – the Lord is our portion. When we are afflicted, it is His presence and His Word that will be our comfort. God has promised to pour our His blessings on those who chose to live according to His Word. We will grow in Christ when the Word grows in us.
DAY 50 119:89- 176 □	Verses 89-176 – The Word of God is settled in heaven. When we follow His commandments, we become wiser. His Word becomes a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. It should bother us when people do not follow the commandments of the Lord. He is the only one who can save us. Let’s allow Him to search us to make sure we are on the right path.
DAY 51 Chapters 120-127 □	Ch. 120 – The God of truth will be our protection from lying lips and evil hands. We find grace in Him. Ch. 121 – Jesus Christ is our constant help. Our safety is in putting ourselves under His protection. Ch. 122 – Christ’s throne is set and truth and righteousness will be manifested on the throne with the King when He comes. Ch. 123 – When man’s eyes are toward God, he will always see God’s mercy coming toward him. Keeping our eyes open to see the least indication of God’s will. Ch. 124 – Happy are the people whose God is Jehovah and who commit themselves to His keeping. Ch. 125 – Those who trust in God live within His loving care forever. He is our high priest and our constant companion. Ch. 126 – God has done great things for us and we should be glad, giving praise unto His name forever. Ch. 127 – The best designed home will be a failure unless Jesus Christ crowns it with his favor. Bring the children up in the fear of God, knowing that Jesus is the unseen guest to every meal and silent listener to every conversation.

<p>DAY 52 Chapters 128-134</p> <p>□</p>	<p>Ch. 128 – We will be prosperous and live a happy life if we live according to the will of God.</p> <p>Ch. 129 – God is righteous in allowing His saints to be afflicted for a time, and He is righteous in reckoning with the persecutors in the end.</p> <p>Ch. 130 – God has provided a sacrifice for all our sins, providing redemption for all.</p> <p>Ch. 131 – We must become childlike in our confidence toward God. To know God and our duty toward Him is the highest learning available in the world.</p> <p>Ch. 132 – God has given us His promises that our faith might have strong confidence at all times. He will sit upon the throne of the earth and reign eternally. And we will sit with Him upon this throne.</p> <p>Ch. 133 – When we are in tune with Christ, then we will be in tune with all His people. This is called unity. While there may not always be a oneness of view, there should be a oneness of spirit and object in Christ.</p> <p>Ch. 134 – Even at nighttime, we are always under the watchful care of Jesus Christ. We always have access to Him.</p>
<p>DAY 53 Chapters 135-138</p> <p>□</p>	<p>Ch. 135 – We have been taken into His family and made joint heirs with Jesus. This is reason enough to forever let praise ring from our lips.</p> <p>Ch. 136 – God had extended His great mercy toward us, redeeming us from our sins, death and hell.</p> <p>Ch. 137 – We find our acceptance in God. He is our joy!</p> <p>Ch. 138 – We owe a debt of gratitude to God for the wonders of His grace, the revelation of His Word, and the promise that nothing will be too great and overwhelming if we continuously look to Him.</p>
<p>DAY 54 Chapters 139-141</p> <p>□</p>	<p>Ch. 139 – God is all knowing and everywhere present. Nothing can be hid from Him. We must not try to hide sins but reveal them, repent of them, and then continue on the right path.</p> <p>Ch. 140 – Jesus Christ suffered before His reign and humbled before He was exalted. It is in Him where we can find security from all harm.</p> <p>Ch. 141 – Satan will try to snare us into believing his lies, but Jesus Christ can and will secure His people from being taken into them.</p>
<p>DAY 55 Chapters 142-145</p> <p>□</p>	<p>Ch. 142 – Jesus Christ was forsaken of all men when He was crucified. He trod the winepress alone.</p> <p>Ch. 143 – If we are in Christ then our hearts should not be troubled, no matter what troubles we find ourselves in.</p> <p>Ch. 144 – Jesus Christ provides effectually for the good of His people and He will remove every hurtful thing from the earth when He comes to reign.</p> <p>Ch. 145 – Jesus has promised to always be near to His people. Praising God should be a part of our daily work. God blesses us every day.</p>

<p>DAY 56 Chapters 146-150 □</p>	<p>Ch. 146 – There should be no exemption from praising Jesus. So long as He lets us breathe, we should bless Him for His goodness and mercy. Ch. 147 – Praise is comely. Celebrate the goodness of the Lord. Ch. 148 – The people, who were afar off because of sin, can now come near to Christ through His blood. Ch. 149 – Our Lord Jesus is coming as King to overthrow all evil. Our praises should flow from our hearts, filled with delight and triumph for His mighty works. Ch. 150 – Those who are blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ will end their course on earth with one resounding Hallelujah.</p>
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**Let Everything That Hath Breath
Praise the Lord!**

Proverbs:

<p>DAY 57 Chapters 1-2 □</p>	<p>Ch. 1 – Jesus Christ is wisdom. In him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. He is the center of all divine revelation. Ch. 2 – Jesus has made it possible for those who truly desire to do His will, will be given the necessary knowledge and wisdom.</p>
<p>DAY 58 Chapters 3-4 □</p>	<p>Ch. 3 – there is true happiness in Christ. In Christ, are all the treasures of wisdom stored, in which is the knowledge and love of God. Ch. 4 – True wisdom from God is the principle thing. It will make our path brighter and brighter until we are finally in heaven.</p>
<p>DAY 59 Chapters 5-7 □</p>	<p>Ch. 5 – Every action we make will eventually be brought into judgment when Jesus comes. Ch. 6 – Warning! You play with sin and you will get hurt. Ch. 7 – the Word of God if used for a defense or armor, will keep a person from the strange woman and the destroying sin of adultery.</p>
<p>DAY 60 Chapters 8-9 □</p>	<p>Ch. 8 – Knowing the will of God concerning our lives is to be preferred above wealth and fame. It brings favor with God and eternal life. Ch. 9 – Heaven is the place where Jesus Christ (wisdom) has prepared many mansions.</p>
<p>DAY 61 Chapters 10-11 □</p>	<p>Ch. 10 – The head of the just man will be crowned with righteousness and the wicked man will be ashamed. Ch. 11 – The ways of righteousness are safe, whereas the ways of wickedness are dangerous.</p>

DAY 62 Chapters 12-13 □	Ch. 12 – Righteous living brings comfort and joy, and then eternal life. While wicked living brings condemnation. Ch. 13 – The destruction of sinners is unavoidable. The happiness of the saints is indefeatable.
DAY 63 Chapters 14-15 □	Ch. 14 – The house of the wicked will be destroyed. The tabernacle of the upright will have grace, comfort and eternally established. Ch. 15 – The fruits of a right and holy life are only found in those who are in Christ.
DAY 64 Chapters 16-17 □	Ch. 16 – If we want to walk in the way of the upright, God will make it plain for us. Ch. 17 – The most satisfactory substitute for wisdom is silence.
DAY 65 Chapters 18-19 □	Ch. 18 – Jesus Christ is a true friend to believers. He will stick closer than a brother. Ch. 19 – When we help the poor out of the love of Christ, Jesus said that we would be also helping Him. What we do to them, we also do to Him.
DAY 66 Chapters 20-21 □	Ch. 20 – No one can say that they are sinless. It is only when we reach heaven and see Him as He is and have been made like Him, that we will be able to say it. Ch. 21 – Those who follow after righteousness, will find righteousness, honor, and life.
DAY 67 Chapters 22-23 □	Ch. 22 – Those who walk in obedience to the Word of God will find true riches, honor, comfort, and long life in this world, and eternal life at last. Ch. 23 – It is sinful to take the luxuries of life for granted. Do not indulge in gluttony (over-eating).
DAY 68 Chapters 24-26 □	Ch. 24 – If the wicked prosper, do not covet what they have, nor complain about god blessing them more than you. They have no real happiness and all they have will pass away, but if we find our happiness in Jesus, it will not pass away. Ch. 25 – Turn enemies into friends by being friendly to them. Ch. 26 – We have two ears and two eyes but only one tongue. Therefore we should hear and see more than we speak.
DAY 69 Chapters 27-28 □	Ch. 27 – Human friendships are wonderful, but the sweetest and long-lasting friendship is found in Jesus Christ, the greatest friend of all. Ch. 28 – True religion is true wisdom, making men wise in every relation. Living according to the commandments of the Lord will provide security in troublesome times.

<p>DAY 70 Chapters 29-31 □</p>	<p>Ch. 29 – Satan easily overtakes those who never regard the Word of God. Ch. 30 – Jesus’ name is to be adored. His name is “I am that I am” (Exodus 3:14) Ch. 31 – Each proverb was intended to direct our manner of life upright and to point us to the Lord, Jesus Christ, Who is “made unto us Wisdom and Righteousness”. A virtuous woman is a rare prize.</p>
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**“Proverbs are short sentences drawn from long experiences.”
(Cervantes)**

Ecclesiastes:

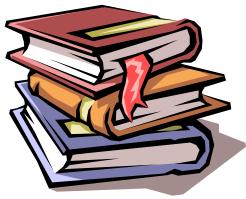
<p>DAY 71 Chapters 1-2 □</p>	<p>Ch. 1 – All is vanity if Christ is not in the heart. There has to be a hope in eternal life through Christ Jesus. Satisfaction is impossible to find outside of Christ. Ch. 2 – True and lasting happiness can not be found in this world. It can only be found in Christ. The pleasures of this world are truly empty.</p>
<p>DAY 72 Chapters 3-5 □</p>	<p>Ch. 3 – We live in a constantly changing world. However, each and every change is authorized by the supreme power of God. The only true pleasure of life is correcting using what God has given to us. Ch. 4 – Every good work that we do will be rewarded by the Lord. However, until the rewarding day let’s be reminded that we labor not in vain. We labor for the Lord. Ch. 5 – Those who labor for the world will not only die an uncomfortable death, but will miss the only satisfaction of life. That satisfaction is eternal peace in Jesus.</p>
<p>DAY 73 Chapters 6-8 □</p>	<p>Ch. 6 – We must serve the Lord with all that we have. Withholding nothing from Him. Ch. 7 – Wisdom is a defense against the vanities of this world. Ch. 8 – Heavenly wisdom makes a man a good man. It can be used against the vexations of the world.</p>
<p>DAY 74 Chapters 9-12 □</p>	<p>Ch. 9 – If a man has Christ as his Savior, he may be happy while the world frowns upon him. And if he is without Christ, he may be miserable though the world smiles upon him. Ch. 10 – Wisdom is a great tool for making our lives right. True wisdom is true honor and will gain a man a reputation that is very valuable. Ch. 11 – All service, whether great or small, when done in the name of Jesus, will be met again with abundant returns. Ch. 12 – The best thing we can do is fear God and keep His commandments. When Christ lives in us, our body should be a shrine for the Holy Ghost.</p>

Jesus Christ, who is greater than Solomon, has all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Song of Solomon:

<p>DAY 75 Chapters 1-2 □</p>	<p>Ch. 1 – Christ and His spiritual bride (the church). The church is beautiful to Christ as Christ is beautiful to the church. Ch. 2 – When our hearts are filled with the love of God and the hope of heaven, then we rejoice in Him and long to see Him.</p>
<p>DAY 76 Chapters 3-5 □</p>	<p>Ch. 3 – The bride seeking the favor of the bridegroom. Ch. 4 – The representations of the beauty of the church is talking about the beauty in holiness. Ch. 5 – The bride neglects the bridegroom. He has knocked for entrance but received no response; he at last deserts the bride.</p>
<p>DAY 77 Chapters 6-8 □</p>	<p>Ch. 6 – Though Christ may have hid His face from His bride for some time, yet his covenant stands firm and the true believers can say, “I am His and He is mine.” Ch. 7 – The bride of Christ bears the image of the King of kings and in the beauty of holiness, is beyond anything nature can reach. Ch. 8 – Only those who are truly in Christ can in sincerity call Christ their beloved, can desire Him to hasten His second coming. Let believers long for it, work for it, and pray for it!</p>

“When love is felt, the message is heard.” (Jim Vaus)



Bibliography



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- **All time lines are taken from How to Get into the Bible by Stephen M. Miller.**
 - **All Scripture is from the King James Version Bible unless otherwise stated.**
 - **The notes of this text were compiled from the following list of books. The various ideas of the authors were joined together to formulate this Bible College Text.**
 - **I, therefore do not claim any authorship but give full credit to the following people.**

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