

Welcome to **WHAT THE BIBLE IS ABOUT**

No one's education is complete without a knowledge of the Bible.

Over half the world's people consider the Bible to be part of their belief structure.



The Bible is not mere literature: it offers insight and wisdom to those seeking truth.

What is the "Bible"?

τὰ βιβλία

from *biblia* (Latin)

from earlier *tà biblía* (Koine Greek)

meaning "the books" or "library" or "book"

A collection of sacred texts or scriptures that Jews and Christians consider to be a product of divine inspiration and a record of the relationship between God and humans



66 books by
40 authors

[shepherds, kings, scholars, prophets, fishermen, a priest, a soldier, and a cupbearer]

from
3 continents
3 writing in
languages
over more than
1,500 years.

The Unity of Scripture

Yet with a single, unified message of God's nature, His love, and His plan of salvation for fallen humanity.

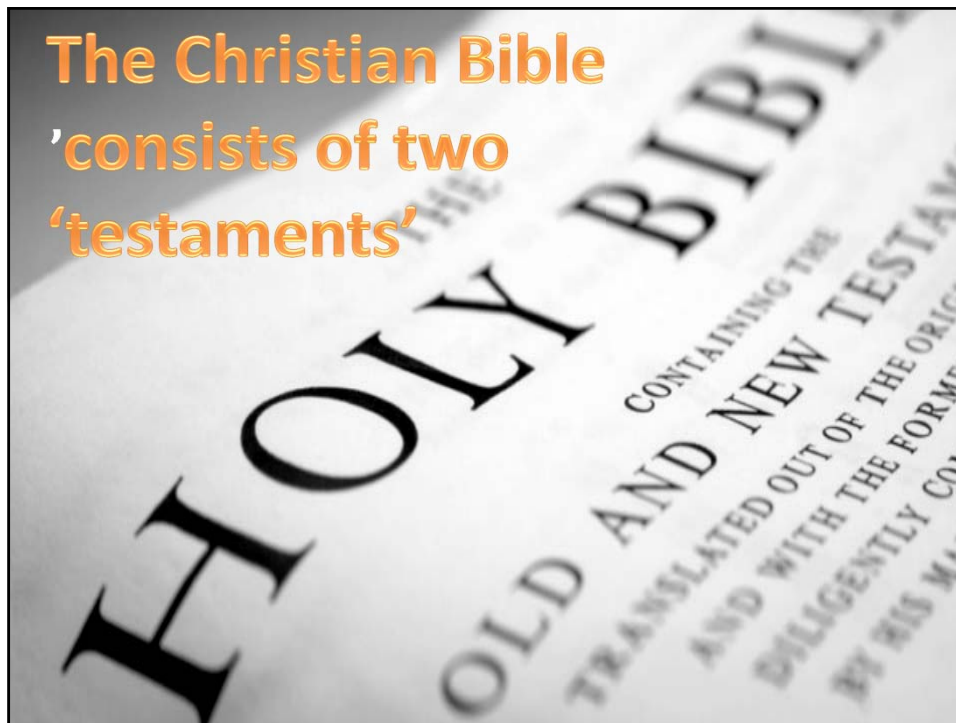
Some things to keep in mind

- The Bible is **not religion!** Religion is man's attempt to get closer to God. The Bible is God's perspective.
- The Bible purports to be a **message from God** to us. Don't expect it to be like **"just any old book"**.
- The **Bible** is full of **supernatural matters** like angels, fallen angels, spirits, and miracles. The lame walk, the deaf hear, and the blind see.

Science is limited because it can only study **observable** and **measurable natural things**. **God** of the Bible **isn't** similarly **limited**.

- "In the beginning, God..." **God** of the Bible **claims to be the Creator** of all things.
- "What is **impossible with man** is **possible with God**."
- "A matter must be established by the testimony of *at least* **two or three witnesses**."
- **God is outside time**. He **alone** can declare "...**the end from the beginning**, and from ancient times **things that are not yet done**." (Isaiah 46:10)

We call this attribute **"prophecy"**.



testament

/ˈtɛstəmənt/
 noun

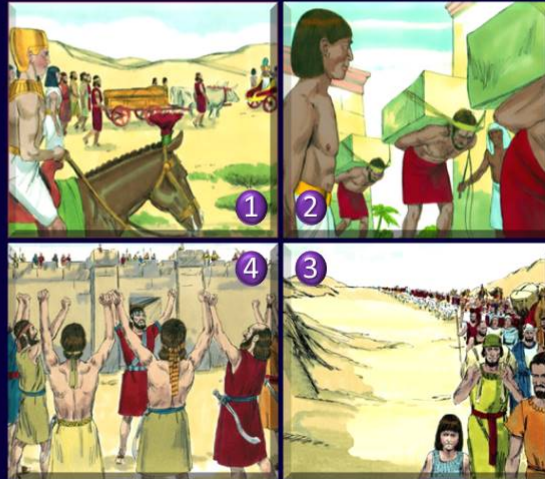
1. (law) a will setting out the disposition of personal property.
2. a. a covenant instituted between God and man,
 b. a copy of the Bible or either the Old or the New Testament.

Origin: from Late Latin *vetus testamentum* and *novum testamentum*, loan-translations of Greek *palaia diatheke* and *kaine diatheke*. The Greek **διαθήκη** (*diathēkē* /dē-ä-thā'-kā/ Strong's G1242), means a compact, a covenant, a testament or a will.



The **Old Testament** is the story of a **Nation**

- 1 The Hebrews went to Egypt as a Family.
- 2 They were later enslaved.
- 3 Moses led them out as a Nation...
- 4 ... that conquered Canaan.



The **New Testament** is the story of a **Man**
...told by people (**eyewitnesses**) who knew Him.



A central Bible tenet

The **New Testament** is in the
Old Testament **concealed**,
the **Old Testament** is in the
New Testament **revealed**.

Purpose

The purpose of this course is not to advise anyone on what I or anyone else think they should believe; it is to make sure that each has a clear concept of what the Bible itself says so that they can determine for themselves what to believe.”

Objectives

- ① Introduce the **objective study** of the Bible.
- ② Respect diverse religious and non-religious sensibilities of participants.
- ③ Avoid promotion of various religious traditions over others or of religion over non-religion.
- ④ Appreciate guidelines of Bible interpretation.
- ⑤ Take into account context, literary styles, figures of speech, grammatical context, etc.

The Spirit of this course

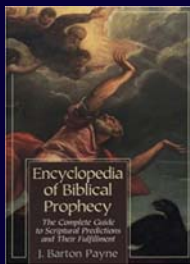
ETSI DOCTRINA
NON DARETUR

(“as if doctrine is not given.”)

Questions



A tidbit on Prophetic Fulfilment



Per Payne, 8,352 verses (27%) out of 31,124 in the Bible are predictive.

The Bible has 1,817 separate predictions covering 737 topics.

The Old Testament is 28.5% predictive while the New Testament is 21.5% predictive.

>80%

of the predictions have come true; **all** except those of Christ's Second Coming and the End Times.

Two different views of prophecy

The Greek (Western) View The Hebrew (Eastern) View

● Prediction ⇨ Fulfilment

● Pattern(s) ⇨ Repeated

PROPHECY (x2):

1. Zechariah 9:9. Messiah ("the King") will ride into Jerusalem on an ass.
2. Daniel 9:25: Gabriel tells Daniel that the Messiah will enter Jerusalem 173,880 days after the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem. (N.B. Calculation omitted)

FULFILMENT:

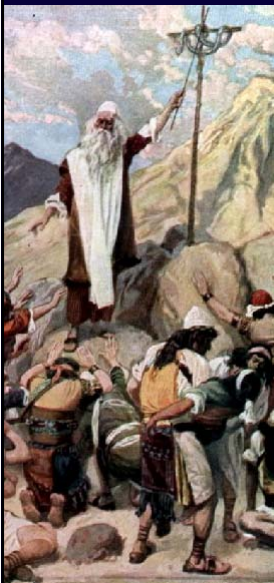
- A. Jesus rode an ass into Jerusalem on 6 April 32 AD exactly 173,880 days after Artaxerxes Longimanus so ordered on 14 March 445 B.C.

How Joseph's life prefigures Jesus

1. Despised for his prophetic gift.
2. Betrayed by Jews into Gentile hands.
3. God turns the betrayal into salvation.
4. Betrayed by brother Judah(s) for silver.
5. Cloak taken as proof he was not in the pit.
6. Falsely accused at an unfair trial.
7. Condemned with two criminals, one who lives and one who dies.
8. Condemnation to exaltation in three days.
9. Upon exaltation, every knee bowed.
10. Upon exaltation married a Gentile bride.
11. Not recognised at first coming, at second coming Joseph's brothers wept.
12. Joseph beloved of his father.

The richness and understanding that accompanies the rediscovery of the Midrashic hermeneutic is one of the most exciting aspects of studying the Old Testament.

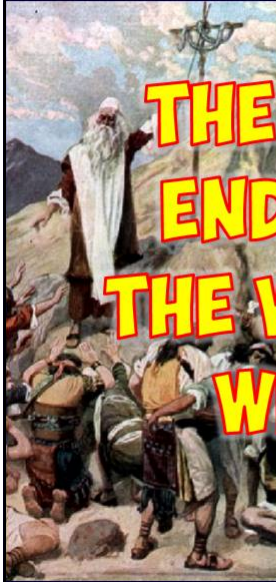
Typical Hebrew Prophecy: Numbers 21:5-10



5. And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for [there is] no bread, neither [is there any] water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.
6. And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.
7. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.
8. And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, [brazen or bronze¹ serpent] and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.
9. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.
10. And the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in Oboth.

NOTE: 1. Throughout the Bible, bronze symbolises "judgement".

Example Coding: Numbers 21:5-10

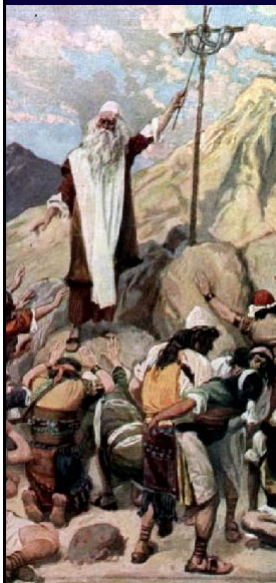


THE OLD TESTAMENT ENDED WITH NO ONE THE WISER ABOUT THIS WEIRD PASSAGE!

5. And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for [there is] no bread, neither [is there] any water; and the LORD hath sent serpents among us, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.
9. And Moses said unto the LORD, I beseech thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.
10. And the LORD said unto Moses, Take a serpent of brass, and set it upon a pole, and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.
10. And the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in Oboth.

NOTE: 1. Throughout the Bible, brass symbolizes "judgement"

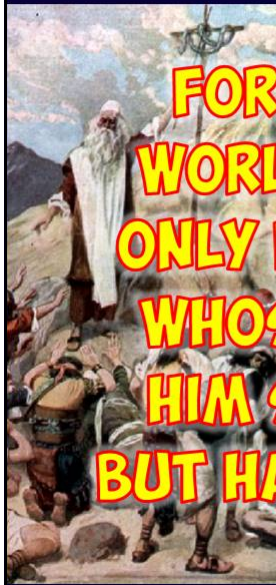
Until Jesus explained in John 3:14-15



14. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:
15. That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.



Until Jesus explained in John 3:14-15



14. And as Moses lifted

**FOR GOD SO LOVED THE
WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS
ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT
WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN
HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH,
BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.**

15. That whosoever

John 3:16



Another prophecy in Genesis 5

Hebrew

אדם
שת
אנוש
קינן
מהללאל
ירד
חנוך
מתושלח
למך
נח

Another prophecy in Genesis 5

<u>Hebrew</u>	<u>Transliterate to English</u>
אדם	Adam
שֵׁת	Seth
אנוש	Enosh
קינן	Kenon
מהללאל	Mahalael
ירד	Jared
חנוך	Enoch
מתושלח	Methuselah
למך	Lamech
נח	Noah

Another prophecy in Genesis 5

<u>Hebrew</u>	<u>Transliterate to English</u>	<u>English meaning</u>
אדם	Adam	Man (is)
שֵׁת	Seth	Appointed
אנוש	Enosh	Mortal
קינן	Kenon	Sorrow (but)
מהללאל	Mahalael	The Blessed God
ירד	Jared	Shall come down
חנוך	Enoch	Teaching <small>(refer to Hebrew root)</small>
מתושלח	Methuselah	His death shall bring
למך	Lamech	(the) Despairing
נח	Noah	Comfort, Rest

How can God prophesy?

- “I am God and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning.” (Isaiah 46:10)
- “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.” (Proverb 15:3)

Per the Bible, God is eternal. He is not constrained by time. He created time.

One Method – Inductive Bible Study

01 Observation
Discover what the Bible says.

02 Interpretation
Discover what the Bible means.

03 Application
Discover how the Bible works.

1

2

3

Observation – what to look for

Terms, not just words

- Kingdom
- Kingdom of God
- Kingdom of Heaven

Structure

Emphasis

Repetition

Relationship of ideas

- Cause-and-effect
- Logic (if – then)
- Questions & answers

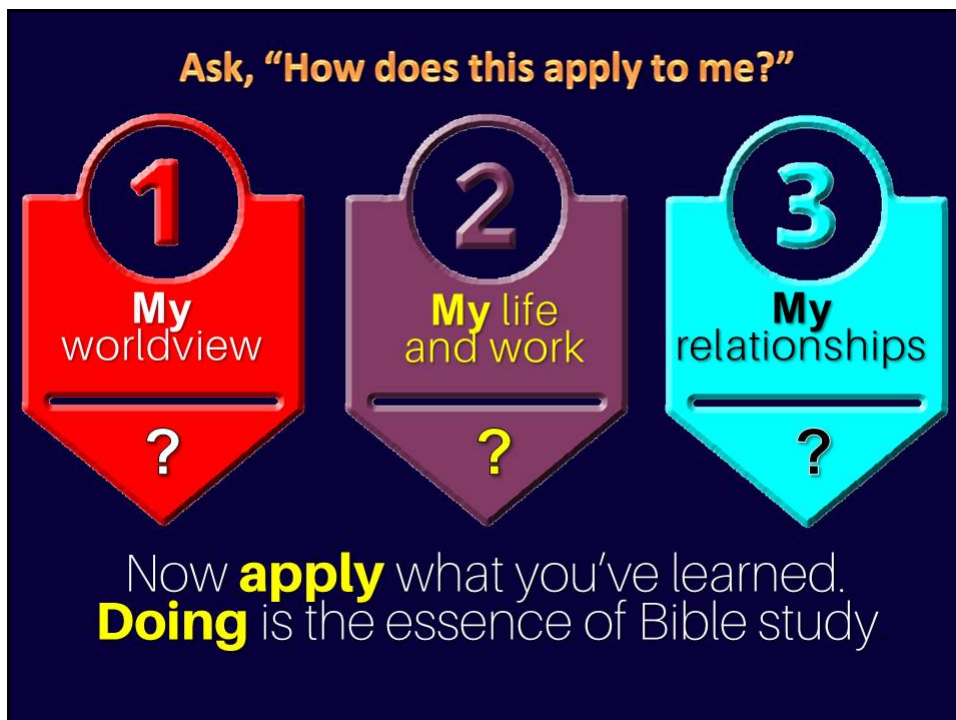
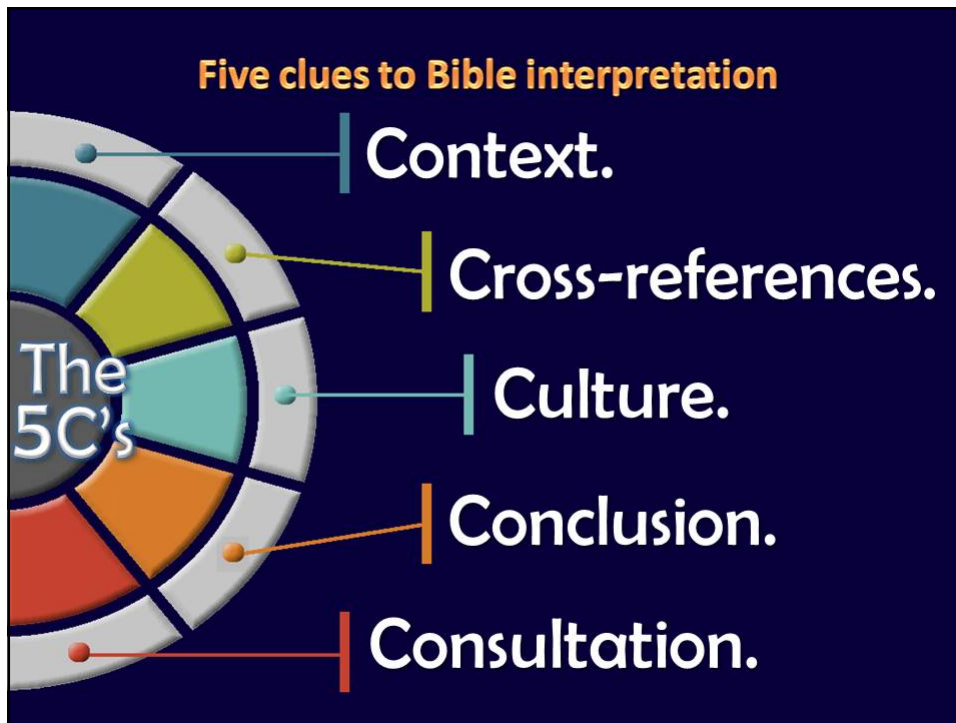
Comparisons & contrasts

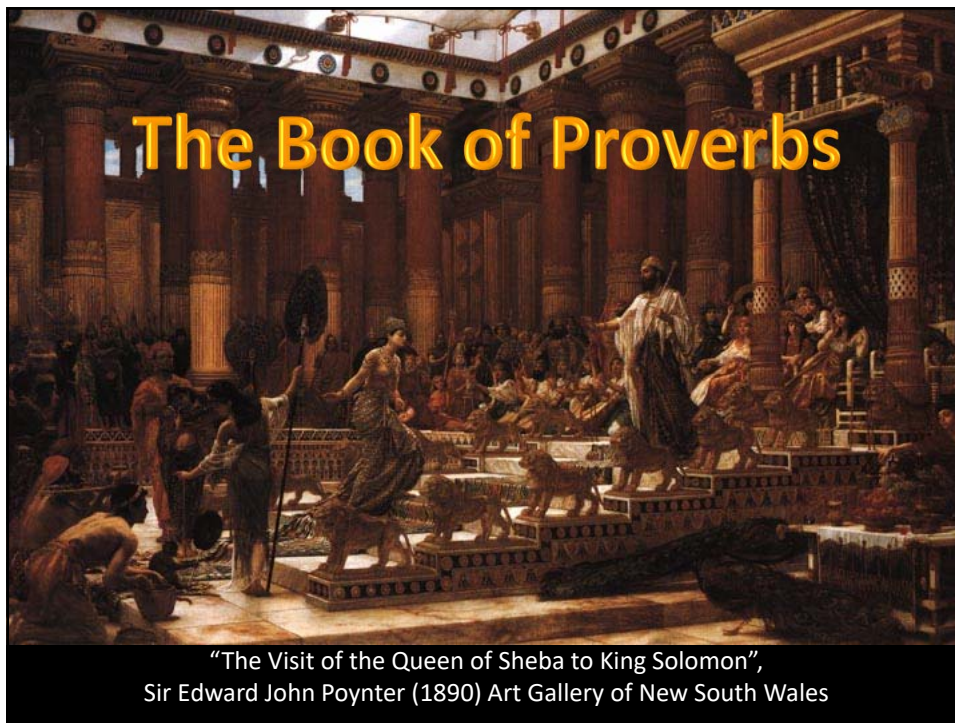
Literary form

Atmosphere

Now answer these questions

Wh What? o? What? i? What? h? What? h? What? h? What? h? What?





Wisdom Literature

- Proverbs is part of the OT Wisdom Literature



- Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Job and Psalms 19, 37, 104, 107, 147 and 148.

Wisdom Literature

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The Law				Kings and Priests					Wisdom			Major			Prophets				Minor																			
Genesis	Exodus	Leviticus	Numbers	Deuteronomy	Joshua	Judges	Ruth	1 Samuel	2 Samuel	1 Kings	2 Kings	1 Chronicles	2 Chronicles	Ezra	Nehemiah	Esther	Job	Psalms	Proverbs	Ecclesiastes	Song of Solomon	Isaiah	Jeremiah	Lamentations	Ezekiel	Daniel	Hosea	Joel	Amos	Obadiah	Jonah	Micah	Nahum	Habakkuk	Zephaniah	Haggai	Zechariah	Malachi

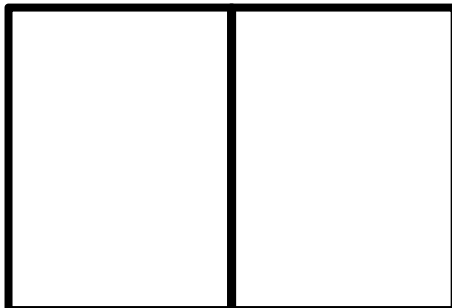
- Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Job and Psalms 19, 37, 72, 104, 107, 127, 147 and 148.
- Whose primary recorder was King Solomon.

POLYGAMY x 700, CONCUBINAGE x 300, AMASSING HORSES & CHARIOTS, HYPOCRISY, MAGICIAN, EXORCIST, IDOLATRY, SINNER, ADULTERY, ATTEMPTED CHILD MURDER

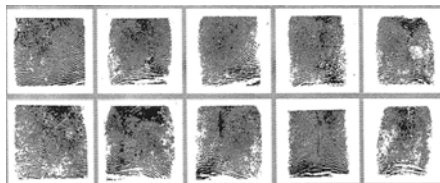
WANTED

KING SOLOMON, AKA JEDIDIAH

ALIASES: Jedidiah, Lemuel, Koholeth, the Preacher, the Collector, Son of David, the Riddler, Sulayman



Right Facing Front
(current photograph not available)



DESCRIPTION

AGE: 59 est., born c.990 BC in Jerusalem, Israel, died c.931 BC, reigned as King of the United Kingdom of Israel 960-931 BC.
 HEIGHT: 5'8" WEIGHT: 140-160 lbs EYES: brown HAIR: brown
 BUILD: medium COMPLEXION: swarthy NATIONALITY: Israeli
 OCCUPATION: poet, song writer, collector, king, prophet, builder and real estate mogul, urban developer, philanthropist.
 FATHER: King David MOTHER: Bathsheba BROTHER: Nathan+
 KNOWN ASSOCIATES: Hiram I of Tyre, Queen of Sheba,

Who was King Solomon?

- King noted for his wisdom, his wealth and his writings. His kingdom extended. World leaders sought his wisdom.
- He reigned from the Euphrates River to Egypt for 40 years from 971 to 931 BC in mostly peaceful times.
- Solomon was renowned for his building projects. His crowning achievement was the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. He taxed his people heavily and they increasingly became bitter.
- Per 1 Kings he owned 12,000 horses and 1,400 chariots, and had 700 wives of royal blood and 300 concubines.
- He composed 3,000 proverbs (some 900 in this book) and 1,005 songs. His credits include the Song of Songs, the Book of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.



The works of Solomon



Song of Solomon

Young and in love!
It's just we two!



Proverbs

Listen, my son!
Hear your father.



Ecclesiastes

All things of man
are meaningless.

Solomon's names

- Jedidiah - “beloved by Jehovah” (birth)
- Agur - “The Collector” (of proverbs)
- Koheleth – “The Preacher” (Ecclesiastes)
- Lemuel – “devoted to God” (his mothers’ pet name)

39

The Book of Proverbs

- God’s book to tell us how to wise up and live.
- A proverb (משל, *mashal*) is a parable, saying, comparison, aphorism, ethical maxim or *dark saying* (חידה, *chiydah*, a riddle, enigma or perplexing question).

A wise man will hear and increase learning; and ... attain unto wise counsels: to understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.

Proverbs 1:5-6

Proverbs are unique

- Short sentences from long experience:
 - They are easy to remember, and
 - Condense much wisdom in a small space

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- Short sentences from long experience:
 - They are easy to remember, and
 - Condense much wisdom in a small space
- Proverbs go way beyond keeping the Law:
 - They focus on leading an aggressively dynamic life.
 - Proper and improper attitudes, conduct, and characteristics are referred to in succinct, penetrating ways.

A few examples

- “When the well is dry we know the worth of water.”
- “When you want a drink of milk, you don’t buy the whole cow.”

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- “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”
(Proverb 1:7)
- “Reading a proverb takes a few seconds, applying it can take a lifetime.”

The theme of this book

- “Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”
(Proverb 9:10)

To fear God is to stand in awe of and quake at His righteousness, majesty and power and to trust Him by humbly depending on Him as Creator!

- The purpose of the book of Proverbs is to:
 - Impart moral discernment and discretion
 - Help develop moral clarity and perception

What is “wisdom”?

- Wisdom is an approach to life, a way of looking at the world
- For the Israelites, it was a way of living out their commitment to God.
- Wisdom literature examines life issues, like:
 - discipline for unruly children,
 - teaching children to become adults,
 - the dangers of gossip and slander,
 - why wicked people seem to prosper, and
 - the arrogance of sudden wealth.

What is “wisdom”?

- Wisdom is concerned with everyday life, with how to live well.
- It examines the human condition from the perspective of human needs and concerns.
- It reveals truths of life that can be discovered from observation and tradition, but centred on reverence and commitment to God.

חכמה *Chokmah, Wisdom*

- It occurs 45 times in Proverbs:
 - Being knowledgeable, experienced, and efficient in their areas of expertise
- Wisdom in Proverbs includes
 - practical sagacity, mental acumen, and functional skill,
 - but it also includes moral, upright living which stems from a right relationship to the Lord.

Some definitions of “Wisdom”

- **Traditional** definition:
 - “The ability to use knowledge in the right way.”
- **Biblical** definition:
 - There is a “wisdom of this world”.
(1 Corinthians 2:1–8; James 3:13–18)
 - Divine wisdom is from above.
(Proverbs 8:22–31; 1 Corinthians 1:24,30; Colossians 2:3)

Two Types of Wisdom

Wisdom of this world:

But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

James 3:14-15

Divine Wisdom:

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

James 3:17

Another comparison

For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. ... hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

1 Corinthians 1:19-21

God's Wisdom

- Wisdom is described as
 - Eternal (Proverbs 8:22–26)
 - The Creator of all things (Prov. 8:27–29)
 - The Beloved of God (Proverbs 8:30–31)
- True wisdom is to yield your life to Christ and obey Him. (John 1:1–2; Colossians 1:15–19)

God's Word is Wisdom!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.

John 1:1-2

- Wisdom is another name for Jesus Christ!

Man's wisdom versus God's

- **Man's** wisdom is often **contradictory:**

"Look before you leap"

"He who hesitates is lost."

"A man gets no more than he pays for"

"The best things in life are free."

"Many hands make light work"

"Too many cooks spoil the broth."

"A rolling stone gathers no moss"

"A setting hen does not get fat."

God's Wisdom is never contradictory

- Any **apparent** contradiction hides a message:

*"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge:
but fools despise wisdom and instruction."*

(Proverb 1:7)

*"A wise child makes a glad father,
but a foolish child is a mother's grief."* (Proverb 10:1)

*"Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman
without good sense."* (Proverb 11:22)

Guides for Study

- Proverbs are organised.
- They include thumbnails of every character in the Bible.
- They are actually written as poetry (Hebrew poetry consists of parallelism of ideas, not rhyme or meter as our poetry does:
 - Synonymous Parallelism
 - Antithetic (Contrast) Parallelism
 - Synthetic Parallelism

Synonymous Parallelism

- The second clause restates what is given in the first clause.

*Judgments are prepared for scorners,
And stripes for the back of fools.*

Proverbs 19:29

- The same thought is expressed in a different way.

Antithetic (Contrast) Parallelism

- A truth in the first clause is strengthened by contrast with an opposite truth in a second clause.

*The light of the righteous rejoiceth,
But the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.*

Proverbs 13:9

- The second statement states the same truth by contrast with the opposite point of view.

Synthetic Parallelism

- The second clause develops the thought of the first.

The terror of a king is as the roaring of a lion; He that provoketh him to anger sinneth against his own life.

Proverbs 20:2

- The second line simply continues the thought of the first line. Sometimes the second line gives a result of the first line.

Outline of the Book of Proverbs

<u>Section</u>	<u>Chapters</u>
• Wisdom and Folly Contrasted	1– 9
• Proverbs of Solomon <i>(Written and set in order by Solomon)</i>	10–24
• Proverbs of Solomon <i>(Set in order by men of Hezekiah)</i>	25–29
• Oracle of Agur	30
• Proverbs of Lemuel's Mother	31

Keep a Personal Proverbs Log

- Month #1
 - AM: Read the chapter for that date (1-31)
 - PM: Record the verse that proved to be the most relevant for that day.
- Month #2
 - Do the same
- Personal Discovery:
 - The most relevant may have been tailored to *your* specific day!

