

SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



Welcome
to
Studio Scriptura

We Will Begin

SHORTLY

in a few minutes

~~presently~~ **soon**

in just a bit

very soon




Logistics & Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will gain a high level understanding of the:
 - a. Hebrew poetry
 - b. Job
 - c. Psalms
 - d. Proverbs
 - e. Ecclesiastes
 - f. Song of Solomon

New King James Version,
1988. Nashville: Holman
Bible Publishers.



c. 2091 BC	Abraham believed God <small>(Kish tablet dates to around 3,500 BCE)</small>	c. 722 BC	Northern Kingdom Falls / Assyria
c. 1876 BC	Jacob Goes to Egypt	c. 586 BC	Southern Kingdom Falls / Exile to Babylon
c. 1446 BC	Moses / Exodus	c. 538 BC	Return from Babylon to the Land
c. 1400 BC	Joshua Enters the Land	c. 515 BC	Second Temple Period Begins
c. 1030 BC	Davidic Covenant Begins	c. 356 - 323 BC	Alexander the Great
c. 966 BC	First Temple Period Begins	c. 146 BC	Rome Ascends
c. 930 BC	Kingdom Splits	c. 4 BC	Jesus' Birth

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- ❑ LANGUAGE OF THE SOUL
 - ❑ BRINGS AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE
 - ❑ PROMPTS US TO CONTEMPLATE LIFE
 - ❑ “MAYBE I’M NOT AS SMART AS I THOUGHT I WAS!”
 - ❑ IS OFTEN PUT TO MUSIC
 - ❑ DESIGNED TO BE MEMORIZED

- Hebrews used poetry to express the soul. The religious life of Israel is a record of real human experiences. The poetic portions of the Old Testament therefore portray the emotions and the experiences of God's people.
- PURPOSES OF HEBREW POETRY is to express emotion—to facilitate worship—to instruct in wisdom
- CHARACTERISTICS OF HEBREW POETRY.
 - Figurative language
 - Chiasm
 - Ps 3:7: (a)You strike (b)all of my enemies (c)on the jaw; (c)The teeth (b)of the wicked (a)you break
 - Alliteration & Acrostics
 - Parallelism

➤ Parallelism:

- Synonymous parallelism—The second line expresses the same thought as the first line,
- Antithetical parallelism—The second line expresses a thought that is in contrast to the first line.
- Synthetic parallelism—The second line completes the thought of the first line in some way.
- Emblematic parallelism - comparisons are at play by using simile and metaphor
- Staircase parallelism - a thought continues to build to its climax

➤ Wisdom literature fits within the framework of a theology of creation. It rests on the belief in the goodness of God's created order. Akkadian and Egyptian terms for *wisdom* often refer to magic [the desire, attempt, and knowledge on how to manipulate God for one's own selfish purposes].

The Hebrew connotation of wisdom refers to *skillful living* which is rooted in reverence for God.

Wisdom literature is:

- **Didactic** - the teaching of practical themes for successful living (Proverbs)
- **Skeptical** and philosophical inquiry into the meaning of life (Ecclesiastes)
- **Philosophical** on the purpose of pain (Job)
- **Worshipful** on the grandeur of God (Psalms)
- **Exploratory** into the meaning of true love (Song of Songs)

WHEN READING THE BIBLE'S POETIC LITERATURE:

- Slow down and read it purposefully; it's the language of the soul
- Enhance your prayer life
- Boost your worship
- Contemplate the deeper issues of life
- Sharpen your eternal focus
- Allow it to humble you
- Memorize it
- Meditate on it



THE
BOOK OF

Why do bad things happen to good people?

1. Unconfessed sin (Joshua 7, Hebrews 12:6-11)
2. Failure to live a skilled life (Proverbs 11:3)
3. Going it alone, rather than crying out to God for help and direction (Proverbs 11:14)
4. God is redirecting your life (Psalm 119:65-72)
5. God's is pruning of your character (John 15:1-8)
6. Endure with patience and hope, as a testimony of your faith and hope in Him (1 Peter 2:19-21)
7. "But that the works of God should be revealed" (John 9)

- Suffering draws out the deepest human emotions, which are best communicated through the literary form of poetry and story, rather than academic lessons or PPT Slides
- A "story" through which we get a glimpse into the supernatural realm
- Academics believe that Job lived during the time of the patriarchs
- The book of Job is a literary masterpiece with an unusual structure of poetic dialogue set within a narrative framework.
- The book of Job deals with some of life's most important philosophical questions?
- Norman Geisler summarizes perspectives from within the book of Job in the following way:
 - Author: Suffering is pernicious (satanic)
 - Job: Suffering is a puzzle (serious)
 - Three Friends: Suffering is penal (sinful)
 - Elihu: Suffering purifies (shortcomings)
 - God: Suffering is providential (sovereignty)
- Job deals with the issue of theodicy (the attempt to justify God's actions), but it does so from a thoroughly monotheistic perspective.



1-2 / PROLOGUE / The plot unfolds in heaven

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. Job 1:1

Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" Job 1:8

But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" Job 1:11

In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong. Job 1:22

So they sat down with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his grief was very great. Job 2:13



3-27 DIALOGUE - Job and his friends

I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest, for trouble comes. Job 3:26

Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said. Job 4:1

Then Job answered and said. Job 6:1

Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said. Job 8:1

Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said. Job 11:1

"Therefore I will not restrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul. Job 9:32

For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, Job 19:25-26

28 INTERLUDE on Wisdom

And to man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, And to depart from evil is understanding.' Job 28:28



29-42 MONOLOGUES

Elihu

So Elihu, the son of Barachel the Buzite, answered and said: "I am young in years, and you are very old; Therefore I was afraid, And dared not declare my opinion to you. Job 32:6

"Listen to this, O Job; Stand still and consider the wondrous works of God. Job 37:14

GOD'S FINAL RESPONSE

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: "Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. Job 38:1-3

Moreover the Lord answered Job, and said: "Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? He who rebukes God, let him answer it." Job 40:1-2

Then Job answered the Lord and said: "I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Job 42:1-3





THE BOOK OF PSALMS

- Psalms was the prayer book of ancient Israel - these 150 songs were collected for use in worship at the Temple in Jerusalem.
- The term *psalmos* in Greek refers to a song sung to the accompaniment of a harp.
- The book of Psalms is the most frequently quoted Old Testament book in the New Testament.
- **Selâh** is used 71 times in the Psalms and it may indicate a musical pause calling worshippers to think about what they are singing, lift their eyes to heaven, and exalt the Lord.
- Psalms reflects the *passion* of the true worshipper and expresses the full range of human emotions the community of faith experiences as they enter into God's presence and seek His help for daily living.



The Essence of the Old Testament: A Survey
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- **Messianic** psalms predictively refer to Christ, the anointed messianic King.
- **Thanksgiving** psalms are prayers expressing thanks to God for specific answers to prayer or for deliverance from danger.
- Psalms of **Confidence** are expressions of trust in the Lord and praise to the Lord for the security He provides to those who trust in Him.
- The **Wisdom** psalms teach the value of living a godly life by focusing on the centrality and importance of the Word of God - contrasting ways of the righteous and the wicked.
- The **Imprecatory** psalms are prayers containing elements of extreme emotion and anger calling on God to bring judgment on the enemies of God.

Christians do not rejoice in the death of evil individuals; but we are aware of the final judgment when God will destroy the wicked and make all things right (2 Thess 1:6-10). We therefore are committed to - *preaching Jesus, warning every man and teaching every man ... that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.* (Colossians 1:28)



- Psalm 1 - Way of the Righteous and the End of the Ungodly
- Psalm 2 - Messiah's Triumph and Kingdom
- Psalm 6 - A Prayer of Faith
- Psalm 19 - The Perfect Revelation of the Lord
- Psalm 22 - My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?
- Psalm 23 - The Lord is my shepherd
- Psalm 51 - Prayer of Repentance
- Psalm 110 - Messiah's Reign
- Psalm 118 - Praise God for His Everlasting Mercy
- Psalm 119 - Excellencies of the Word of God
- PSALM 150 - Let all praise the Lord

WISDOM

Proverbs

Prologue: Purpose and Theme
The proverbs of Solomon son of David, King of Israel:
for attaining wisdom and discipline,
for understanding words of knowledge,
for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life,
for knowing what is right and just,
for understanding the way of wisdom and discretion,
and the way of the righteous.



let's lie in wait for someone's blood,
let's waylay some harmless soul;
allow them alive, like the
grave,^b
whole, like those who go down
to the pit;
I'll get all sorts of valuable things
I'll fill our houses with plunder;
it is your lot with us,
and we will share a common
fate.



- Wisdom. Hebrew **חכמה** *chokmâh* - this word is a derivative of *chakam*, used 312 times in the Hebrew Bible, most frequently in Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes. It describes prudence in practical matters, skill at living, moral sensitivity, and spiritual insight.
- Ability to make wise decisions in all of life's practical matters was highly esteemed in near eastern wisdom. Hebrew wisdom literature taught people not only how to make *good* choices in life but also how to make *godly* choices.
- A proverb - Hebrew *mashal* is a short poetic sentence conveying wisdom in a concise and memorable form. In a general sense The Proverbs can be grouped into two major forms: instructive discourses (1-9; 22:17-24:22; 31:1-9) and pithy sayings (10:1-22:16; 24:23-34; 25-29).
- Proverbs are capsules of wisdom that summarize great truths in simple phrases. They concentrates primarily on practical issues, rather than on theological issues.
- Proverbs are general truths, not specific promises or guarantees from God.
- 31 chapters in total for us to read 1 chapter per day!

Some Themes

- Applied Wisdom
- Wealth and Poverty
- Power of the Tongue
- Principles on Child Rearing
- Personal Discipline
- Friendships & Relationships
- Dealing with Emotions
- Authority & Leadership
- Marriage and Sexuality

**Wisdom is the principal thing;
Therefore get wisdom. And in all
your getting, get understanding.
Proverbs 4:7**

**The fear of the Lord is the
beginning of wisdom, And the
knowledge of the Holy One is
understanding. Proverbs 9:10**



APPLIED WISDOM

- The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, To perceive the words of understanding, To receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity; To give prudence to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion. Proverbs 1:1-4
- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7
- How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge. Proverbs 1:22
- When wisdom enters your heart, And knowledge is pleasant to your soul, Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you, Proverbs 2:10-11
- Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6
- A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold. Proverbs 22:1
- By humility and the fear of the Lord Are riches and honor and life. Proverbs 22:4



WEALTH & POVERTY

- Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine. Proverbs 3:9-10
- Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, Which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler, Provides her supplies in the summer, And gathers her food in the harvest. How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, And your need like an armed man. Proverbs 5:6-11
- The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself. Proverbs 11:25
- The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich. Proverbs 13:4
- Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men. Proverbs 22:29
- As a door turns on its hinges, So does the lazy man on his bed. Proverbs 26:14



POWER OF THE TONGUE

- Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you. Proverbs 4:24
- The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate. Proverbs 8:13
- Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, And whoever spreads slander is a fool. In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise. The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; The heart of the wicked is worth little. The lips of the righteous feed many, But fools die for lack of wisdom. Proverbs 10:18-21
- By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, But it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked. Proverbs 11:11
- A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter. Proverbs 11:13
- There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, But the tongue of the wise promotes health. Proverbs 12:18
- A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver. Proverbs 25:11



PRINCIPLES ON CHILD REARING

- When I was my father's son, Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother, He also taught me, and said to me: "Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live. Proverbs 4:3-4
- Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, And the years of your life will be many. Proverbs 4:10
- He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly. Proverbs 13:24
- Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction. Proverbs 19:18
- Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6
- Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him. Proverbs 22:15
- Correct your son, and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to your soul. Proverbs 29:17



PERSONAL DISCIPLINE

- Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars; She has slaughtered her meat, She has mixed her wine, She has also furnished her table. Proverbs 9:1-2
- He who has a slack hand becomes poor, But the hand of the diligent makes rich. He who gathers in summer is a wise son; He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame. Proverbs 10:4-5
- He who tills his land will be satisfied with bread, But he who follows frivolity is devoid of understanding. Proverbs 12:11
- The hand of the diligent will rule, But the lazy man will be put to forced labor. Proverbs 14:24
- He who is slothful in his work Is a brother to him who is a great destroyer. Proverbs 18:9
- The lazy man will not plow because of winter; He will beg during harvest and have nothing. Proverbs 20:13
- The lazy man says, "There is a lion outside! I shall be slain in the streets!" Proverbs 22:13
- A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest; So shall your poverty come like a prowler, And your need like an armed man. Proverbs 24:33-24



FRIENDSHIP & RELATIONSHIPS

- He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed. Proverbs 13:20
- When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him. Proverbs 16:7
- He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends. Proverbs 17:9
- A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity. Proverbs 17:17
- A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, And contentions are like the bars of a castle. Proverbs 18:19
- A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Proverbs 18:24
- Do not go hastily to court; For what will you do in the end, When your neighbor has put you to shame? Proverbs 25:8
- Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful Proverbs 27:6
- As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend. Proverbs 27:17



DEALING WITH EMOTIONS

- Keep (guard) your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life. Proverbs 4:23
- Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad. Proverbs 12:25
- There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death. Proverbs 14:12
- A sound heart is life to the body, But envy is rottenness to the bones. Proverbs 14:30
- A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger. Proverbs 15:1
- He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city. Proverbs 16:32
- Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, But a man of understanding will draw it out. Proverbs 20:5
- The wicked flee (paranoia) when no one pursues, But the righteous are bold as a lion. Proverbs 28:1



AUTHORITY & LEADERSHIP

- It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness, For a throne is established by righteousness. Proverbs 16:12
- A wise king sifts out the wicked, And brings the threshing wheel over them. Proverbs 20:26
- Mercy and truth preserve the king, And by lovingkindness he upholds his throne. Proverbs 20:28
- When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan. Proverbs 29:2
- The king establishes the land by justice, But he who receives bribes overthrows it. Proverbs 29:4
- If a ruler pays attention to lies, All his servants become wicked. Proverbs 29:12
- The king who judges the poor with truth, His throne will be established forever. Proverbs 29:14
- It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Nor for princes intoxicating drink; Proverbs 31:4



MARRIAGE & SEXUALITY

- For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, And her mouth is smoother than oil; Proverbs 5:3
- As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love. For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, And be embraced in the arms of a seductress? Proverbs 5:19-20
- Do not lust after her (a seductress') beauty in your heart, Nor let her allure you with her eyelids. Proverbs 5:25
- Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul. Wounds and dishonor he will get, And his reproach will not be wiped away. Proverbs 5:32-33
- With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, With her flattering lips she seduced him. Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, Or as a fool to the correction of the stocks, Proverbs 7:21-22

Ecclesiastes



- He observed that life does not always play out the way one might expect. Although many things have changed in the past 3,000 years, these same basic observations hold true today regarding life "under the sun."
- Reading Ecclesiastes is not without its challenges, and many consider it one of the more perplexing books of the Bible.
- **If taken out of context**, many sayings within the book can be construed to teach an overly negative and pessimistic view on life.
- The author identifies himself only as *Qohelet* a Hebrew term meaning "one who gathers or assembles." Most English Bibles translate "Qohelet" as either *Preacher*.
- The wisdom and message of Ecclesiastes are expressed through a wide range of literary forms and techniques, including: autobiographical narrative (1:12–2:11), story (9:13–16), allegory (12:1–7), reflection speeches (2:12–16; 9:1–6), and poetry (3:2–8).

- The Hebrew word *hevel* is the key word in the book of Ecclesiastes. It is used 38 times in the book and literally means "mist" or "vapor" Life is just a vapor which quickly passes away - our mortal life is filled with vanity.
- THEMES
 - Vanity of life
 - Life Under the Sun (29 times)
 - Value of Wisdom
 - Sovereignty of God
 - Inevitability of Death
 - Enjoyment of Life
 - Remembering God

➤ SOME MEMORABLE VERSES

- The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher; "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity." What profit has a man from all his labor In which he toils under the sun? One generation passes away, and another generation comes; But the earth abides forever. Ecclesiastes 1:1-4
- That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun. Ecclesiastes 1:9
- To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, And a time to die. Ecclesiastes 3:1-2
- I know that whatever God does, It shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, And nothing taken from it. God does it, that men should fear before Him. Ecclesiastes 3:14
- Here is what I have seen: It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage. Ecclesiastes 5:18
- Dead flies putrefy the perfumer's ointment, And cause it to give off a foul odor; So does a little folly to one respected for wisdom and honor. Ecclesiastes 10:1
- Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His Commandments, For this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Song of Solomon



- The Song of Songs is a love song that is in many ways similar to other love songs from the ancient world. The Song of Songs exalts the virtues of love and evokes the emotions that run deep in the attraction God created between men and women.
- This song affirms the strength of true love that is essential to every marriage ... and teaches that love, romance, sex, and marriage were created by God to be enjoyed **within marriage, between a man and a woman.** The Song of Songs exalts the virtues of love and evokes the emotions that run deep in the attraction God created **between men and women.**
- The ability to make the right choices in the realm of romantic love concerns every one of God's people, whether married or single.
- 1 Kings 4:32 credits Solomon with at least 1,005 songs, so the fact that Solomon was a writer of songs is without question. Therefore, the clear implication in the title is that this is the greatest of Solomon's many songs.
- Some church fathers viewed the book typologically as a picture of Christ's love for His bride, the Church. The Song of Songs, however, should not be interpreted allegorically. Paul had ample opportunity to quote the Song of Solomon in support of the *profound mystery* of Christ's love for the church, but he chose not to do so,

So What & Now What?



- ❑ Before next week's class, begin to read the books of the major prophets
- ❑ Short Answer & Discuss:
 - ❑ What are the key aspects/characteristics of Hebrew Poetry? (50 words)
 - ❑ Describe the 5 types of parallelism in Hebrew poetry? (100 words)
 - ❑ Summarize from a biblical perspective "Why bad things happen to people?" (100 words)
 - ❑ Write a high-level summary of the Book of Job. (150 words)
 - ❑ Which are 3 of your favorite Psalms? Why? (150 words)
 - ❑ What are the 9 themes of the Book of Proverbs and a key verse for each? (100 words)
 - ❑ Write a very high-level summary of the Book of Ecclesiastes. (100 words)



SOT.8

Prophetic Literature

