

Touring the Old Testament

Job - Song of Solomon



Wisdom

by Grace Tuls

Touring the Old Testament - Wisdom Books

Table of Contents

Preface

| | | |
|------------|------------------------|-----------|
| I | JOB | 1 |
| II | PSALMS | 8 |
| III | PROVERBS | 22 |
| IV | ECCLESIASTES | 30 |
| V | SONG of SOLOMON | 32 |

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PREFACE TO WISDOM LITERATURE

Wisdom, wisdom when did it originate and with whom? The scribes and Pharisees thought they had it from the Torah, but added many additional laws. They hoped for eternal life according to their ideas without having a personal relationship with their Creator, God. They claimed Moses as their father, but refused to see the God of Moses. As you study these books called "Wisdom Literature", let's be like the men on the way to Emmaus, who walked with Jesus after His resurrection. They were hungry for the truth. Luke 24:27 *And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.*

Jesus had earlier said to the religious leaders: John 5:39 *You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me, and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life.*

We can be just like the religious leaders if we don't look deeper into the Scriptures and **see a Person!** In Proverbs chapter 8, the subject is wisdom and speaks of how wisdom was there at creation. Who else could that be, other than the Lord Jesus Christ! Prov.8:22 *The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old...vs. 27 When He established the heavens I was there.* Also, in Col. 1:15-16 *And He is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation, for by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on the earth, visible and invisible...*

We are so accustomed to study the Scriptures for intellectual knowledge, and yes we want to know Him, but Job needed a deeper understanding. He said: Job 42:5 *I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye sees Thee.* In Hebrew, "see" is raw-aw, to behold, consider, experience, perceive. Job found Him to be the Redeemer and Restorer who is altogether marvelous.

King David, the former shepherd boy, had a deeper revelation of Father God as his high tower, fortress and deliverer through all his conflicts. King Solomon loved the Lord and worshipped the Lord with a thousand burnt offerings. God was pleased and gave wisdom to him so that Solomon became the wisest man on all the earth at that time. His love song to us, the maiden, can change one's life forever.

Dear reader, as you study these precious writings may you see Him manifesting Himself in fresh, spirit quickened words which can be applied to your life and which will expose every stronghold of the enemy. We all have weaknesses and need help to change. It's about internal change, so we can be conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise God, we are living under a new covenant with better promises. Jesus fulfilled all the Old Testament prophesies about Him, and gave us a Helper, the Holy Spirit who will give us a deeper understanding of these books of wisdom. He will help us to become the spotless bride for the Lord Jesus Christ. Be blessed in this new adventure!

The version I have used throughout the Wisdom literature and the Gospels is New American Standard, the Open Bible, The Lockman Foundation, Thomas Nelson, Inc.

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JOB

Introduction: The Holy Spirit is saying to the reader: "Welcome to this writing. May you be deeply encouraged in your spirit because the Almighty God is leading you on to higher and deeper understanding of Him and the purpose for your life."

Before studying the poetic books, we need to understand a little about the Hebrew language and poetry. There are three main types of Hebrew poetry: lyric, didactic and dramatic.¹ Lyric poetry was originally accompanied by music on the lyre. The book of Psalms is an example of this. Didactic poetry, which means teaching, was used in Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. The main purpose is to share observations and evaluations of life. Dramatic poetry which is exemplified by Job was for the purpose of showing action and portraying life situations. Song of Solomon was also this type. Therefore when we examine the writings of Job keep in mind that Job is expressing his feelings, truly spoken from his soul but not necessarily the truth as on which to build a doctrine. It is the drama of his life portraying his struggles which end happily.

Author: Unknown. Some commentators suggest Elihu, Moses or Job himself.

Setting: The setting is very important in understanding the writings. Most Bible scholars place the time period, when the events took place, around 2000 B.C. This was the time of the patriarchs because Job mentions doing sacrifices for his family as a priest and he mentions the name for God as El Shaddai (Almighty God) 31 times, which was how the Lord revealed Himself at that time. However, one will notice later that he gets a glimmer of the Lord Jesus Christ as a Redeemer and Advocate.

In the book of Job there is no reference to Israel, Exodus or Mosaic Law. The Chaldeans who murdered Job's servants were nomads at that time. It is thought that Job lived at the time of Abraham. After Job's encounter with the Lord, he lived to age 200 which was typical of the patriarchs. Job was very wealthy, respected and lived in the area of Uz, southeastern Syria. Archaeologists have discovered that there was a very active civilization in that region in early days.

Theme: The faithfulness of God in spite of man's suffering, with the Sub-theme that humility and repentance bring restoration.

Survey: Overview

I. The Dilemma of Job Chapter 1:1-2:13

II. The Debates of Job Chapter 3:1-37:24

III. The Deliverance of Job and his Friends Chapters 38-42

I. The Dilemma of Job Chapter 1:1-2:13

¹ Jensen's Survey of the Old Testament, by Irving L. Jensen, Moody Press, Chicago, p.254

Chapter 1

1:1 *There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless, (KJV perfect, Hebrew, Tawm, meaning upright, complete, undefiled, pious) fearing God and turning away from evil.* The Hebrew meanings explain his standing with God.

1:2-3 *And seven sons and three daughters were born to him. His possessions ...* He had many sheep, camels, oxen, donkeys and servants, because he was the greatest of all the men of the east.

As a practice Job's children would celebrate each birthday with feasting. Job was concerned about this custom saying: 1:5 *Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts. Thus Job did continually.* He sacrificed on their behalf.

1:6 *Now there was a day when the sons of God (angels) came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.* The Lord asked Satan what he was doing, to which he replied: 1:7 *Roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.*

1:8 *And the Lord said to Satan "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.* Satan then said that Job had a hedge about him, with blessed hands and possessions, but challenged God to withdraw His hand from Job at which time, Job would curse God. God then gave Satan permission to test him but said he could not put his hand on Job. Then it happened when Job's children were feasting that Sabeans came, stole the animals and killed Job's servants. While the messenger was still speaking, fire fell, and killed the sheep and servants, and at the same time, others came, and stole the camels and killed the servants. At the same time, a wind came, causing the house to fall on all of Job's children, killing them.

1:20 *Job arose, tore his robe, shaved his head, and fell to the ground and worshipped and he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord." Through all of this, Job did not sin nor did he blame God.*

Chapter 2

Again the sons of God and Satan appeared before God with the same conversation as before but God said to Satan: 2:3 *And He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to ruin him without a cause.*

Satan is given permission to afflict Job's flesh.

Satan then accused God of protecting Job saying that if Job's flesh hurt, he would curse God. The Lord gave Satan permission again but told him that his life must be spared. Satan then left the presence of God and smote Job's entire body with sore boils. Job's wife told him to curse God and die. Job rebuked her saying *"Shall we indeed accept good from God, and not accept adversity?" In all this, Job did not sin with his lips.*

Many may question if Satan has this ability to be in the presence of the Lord now. I believe that the accuser is still able to speak against us but we also know the blood of Jesus has covered our sins under the new covenant. Jesus paid the price for our sins and ever lives to make intercession for us, Heb. 7:25. *Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.* Also, Rev. 12:11 *And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life unto the death.* God's words spoken from our lips can stop the

accusations of the enemy. We know also that we will be persecuted in this life and there may come a time that we will become martyrs.

II. The Debates of Job Chapter 3:1-37:24

Job's three friends arrive, Job's fist response

After hearing of Job's problems they arrive and are shocked at his plight. They did not recognize him, wept, tore their robes and threw dust in the air. They were speechless for seven days and seven nights. 2:13... *for they saw that his pain was very great.* Job began to defend himself, speaking what he felt. 3:25 *For what I fear comes upon me, and what I dread befalls me and I am not at ease, nor am I quiet...turmoil comes.* Let this be a warning to the born again Christian. Heb. 11:6 *Without faith it is impossible to please Him.* Job didn't have this revelation, nor did his friends understand the God whom we know. The Lord revealed more of Himself as the centuries passed. We can read of His divine character and attributes as we study the written Word, plus we have the Holy Spirit who is our guide. Praise God, we can know some of His ways. Let us press on to know Him more fully.

Main characters:²

Eliphaz, is the leading spokesman of the group whose speeches show clear reasoning and quite a bit of criticism, more than the others. He is still noble and sincere. He reasons that God is perfectly pure and righteous; and, man brings trouble on himself. (See 5:7)

Bildad, is a traditionalist (See 8:8-10); more argumentative than Eliphaz. He charged Job with godlessness and said that God never twists justice. (See 8:3).

Zophar, is a moralist, dogmatic, and blunt. Sometimes he appears prideful and charges Job with boasting. His main point was that God knows iniquity when He sees it. (See 11:11).

Elihu, whose name means "He is my God" is the youngest of the men and not well known by the friends. He declared that God is good (See 33:24). He gave the best assessment of Job's problem saying that sufferings are often God's way of refining the righteous. This is true. Elihu may have written the book of Job as implied in 32:15-17. *They were amazed, they answered no more, they left off speaking. When I had waited...I said, I will answer also my part; I also will show my opinion...*

Noteworthy Scriptures:

Eliphaz called Job foolish, but had some good things to say:

5:9-11 *Who (God) does great and unsearchable things, wonders without number. He gives rain on the earth, and sends water on the fields, so that He sets on high those who are lowly, and those who mourn are lifted to safety. He frustrates the plotting of the shrewd, so that their hands cannot attain success.*

5:17 *Behold how happy is the man whom God reproveth, so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.*

Job defended himself in chapters 6 and 7, described his great affliction, wanted death and accused God of bad things.

Bildad in chapter 8 accused Job of being sinful saying tradition shows that God will restore the man who confesses his sin but gave a glimmer of hope:

² Jensen's Survey of the Old Testament, by Irving L. Jensen, Moody Press, 1989, pg. 264

8:21 *He will yet fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouting; those who hate you will be clothed with shame and the tent of the wicked will be no more.* That is, he said, if Job would repent.

Job argued his case in chapters 9 and 10 but had some good words about God:

9:8 *...who makes the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades (constellations) and the chambers of the south; who does great things, unfathomable, and wondrous works without number.* Yet Job complained in bitterness and spoke his feelings.

Zophar in chapter 11 said that Job is wicked and speaks too much.

Job got a glimmer of truth and saw salvation for his future.

13:15-18 *Though He slay me, I will hope* (Hebrew: wait, trust, expect) *in Him. Nevertheless, I will argue my case before Him. This also will be my salvation* (Hebrew: deliverance, victory)...*I know that I will be vindicated.* However Job still accused God of being unfair. He was confused concerning who is the adversary and who is God. Yet in his despair he got another glimmer of truth:

16:19 *Even now, behold, my witness is in heaven and my advocate is on high.* Praise God, we know our Advocate is on high. I John 2:1 *And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.* Heb. 7:25 *Hence, also, He is able to save forever, those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.* I John 3:8 *The Son of God appeared for this purpose: that He might destroy (undo) the works of the devil.*

Bildad accused Job again but now Job responded with faith:

19:25-27 *I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth. Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God; whom I myself shall behold and whom my eyes shall see and not another. My heart faints (KJV yearns) within me.*

Eliphaz implored Job to repent saying:

22:3 *Is there any pleasure to the Almighty if you are righteous, or profit if you make your ways perfect?*

22:28 *You will also decree a thing, and it will be established; and light will shine on your ways.*

Job said:

23:10 *When He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold...I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.*

Bildad made an unusual statement:

25:3 *Is there any number to His troops and upon whom does the light not rise?* Maybe he saw into the spirit realm?

Job saw God in His creation:

26:7-8 *He stretches out the north over empty space and hangs the earth on nothing. He wraps up the water in His clouds...* In chapter 27 Job defends his righteousness:

27:5-6 *Till I die, I will not put away my integrity from me. I hold fast my righteousness and will not let it go.*

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

In Chapters 29-31 Job spoke about his present trial and the good works which he had done, which were amazing. Then he pleaded to meet with God so that he could defend himself.

31:35 *Oh that I had one to hear me! Behold, here is my signature: let the Almighty answer me!*

Elihu intervened in the debate:

Because Elihu was younger than the others, he was polite and waited for an opportunity to speak. His anger began to burn against Job *because he justified himself before God (32:2).*

32:8 *... it is a spirit in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives them understanding. The abundant in years may not be wise....*

32:17-22 *I too will answer my share ...for I am full of words. The spirit within me constrains me. Behold my belly is like unvented wine...let me speak that I may get relief... Let me now be partial to no one; nor flatter any man; for I do not know how to flatter, else my Maker would soon take me away.*

In chapter 33:9-11, Elihu said that he heard Job say he was pure, innocent and not guilty, and he accused God of inventing pretexts against him.

Elihu spoke:

33:12-17 *Behold, let me tell you, you (Job) are not right in this (that you defend yourself) Why do you complain against Him ...indeed God speaks once, or twice...in a dream, a vision of the night, when sound sleep falls on men, while they slumber in their beds, then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction, that He may turn aside from his conduct and keep man from pride.*

34:12 *Surely, God will not act wickedly, and the Almighty will not pervert justice.*

34:21-22 *His eyes are upon the ways of a man, and He sees all his steps. There is no darkness...where workers of iniquity can hide themselves.*

34:35-37 *Job speaks without knowledge...Job ought to be tried to the limit...for he adds rebellion to his sin... and multiplies his words against God.*

35:7 *If you are righteous, what do you give to Him? Or what does He receive from your hand?*

36:3-11 *I will ascribe righteousness to my Maker...gives justice to the afflicted... if they hear and serve Him, they shall end their days in prosperity...*

It is amazing that these truths were revealed to the spirit of man 4,000 years ago which is the time this drama took place. Just the idea that there is a Supreme Being whatever his name is: Buddha, Krishna, Siva, Allah, the Chinese kitchen god, or the early Canaanite gods, shows that mankind has an inborn vacuum created by God. People know that this unknown being has power to bless or curse. Many know there is a dark spirit world which they fear. People feel that it is necessary to give a gift to this being so their lives will be blessed, lest they be cursed by the dark spirits. Yet, only the true God, Jehovah, who later revealed Himself in the Lord Jesus Christ, can give supernatural peace.

We all have a divine destiny planned before the foundation of the world. (Eph.1:4-5) God has an eternal purpose for us, redemption came through His Son, and now we can become the Bride of Christ. We were created to be a Bride for His Son. These truths we study help us understand our Creator God and His great love for mankind. He is love, and just and eagerly wants us to look to Him in humility and submission. Job was learning to know his Creator.

Elihu then reminded Job of the greatness of God in chapters 36 and 37. Elihu was drawing Job's attention away from himself to the One who created the heavens and controls the weather.

III. The Deliverance of Job and his Friends Chapters 38-42

38:1-7 *Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Now gird up your loins like a man and I will ask you, and you instruct Me! Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me if you have understanding, who set its measurements since you know?...or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"*

The Lord then spoke about His creation: the sea, the heavens, the constellations, the animals and when they give birth.

40:1-2 *Then the Lord said to Job, "Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty?"*

40:3-5 *Then Job answered the Lord and said, "Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to Thee? I lay my hand on my mouth. Once I have spoken, and I will not answer; even twice, and I will add no more."*

40:6-9 *Then the Lord answered Job out of the storm, and said: Now gird up your loins like a man; and I will ask you, and you instruct Me. Will you really annul My judgment? Will you condemn Me that you may be justified? Or do you have an arm like God, and can you thunder with a voice like His?"*

The Lord then spoke about the power of the Behemoth, and the Leviathan in Chapter 41.

42:1-6 *Then Job answered the Lord, and said, "I know that Thou canst do all things, and that no purpose of Thine can be thwarted. Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge? Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand,...I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now my eye sees Thee; therefore I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes."*

Now comes an amazing part of the drama: God said that His wrath was kindled against the three friends because they had not spoken what was right about the Lord as Job had. What is so amazing is that **Job's bad words, complaints, which he spoke were completely washed away, forgotten by the Lord, after he repented.** Is that encouraging or not?

The Lord then directed the friends to bring the animals to Job so he could perform the appropriate sacrifices and pray for them. Next amazing thing:

42:10 *And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends, and the Lord increased all that Job had twofold.* The word "restored" has the meaning of "bringing back that which was captured from him." Job had 7 more sons and 3 more daughters but he had not lost the first 7 sons and 3 daughters. They were alive in the spirit world.

Then all Job's family and former friends came and consoled Job and gave him gifts.

Note here: NASV says:

42:11... *for all the evil that the Lord had brought on him.* In the Hebrew it is more accurately interpreted: the Lord was caused to allow. The scholar William E. Emmons says " that in Hebrew there is what is called a Hopal Conjugation; it is a causative passive verb which means, "He was caused to allow." By Job's unbelief, fear, and self-righteousness, God was caused to allow those things to come on Job. Job brought them on himself and God could not do anything until Job began moving in faith again."

This whole drama points to Christ the answer to all man's yearnings, and the only One who can fill the vacuum in man's soul. We learn also that humility and sincere repentance bring restoration. May the Lord grant by His grace the spirit of repentance so that we can see where we have been distracted, or deceived. When we ask for His grace, we shall receive.

42:13 *And the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning, doubling the number of animals. Job's daughters were fairer than all women and were given an inheritance.*

42:16 *And after this Job lived 140 years...and saw his grandsons.*

End of the book of Job

Additional Scriptures concerning suffering:

Ps. 140:12 *I know that the Lord will maintain the cause of the afflicted...*

Ps.34:19 *Many are the afflictions (tests, trials, pressure) of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.*

James 1:2 *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials...*

Phil. 3:10...*that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.*

I Peter 1:7... *that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

I Peter 4:13... *but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ (persecution, death to self life, temporary sickness) keep on rejoicing...*

PSALMS

Introduction: Psalms in Hebrew “Tehillim”: praise songs, in Greek: “Psalms”. Psalms means poems sung to the accompaniment of a stringed instrument. This collection of sacred songs was the inspired prayer and praise book of the nation of Israel. Dr. Ken Chant in his book on Psalms (Ken Chant Ministries) says that many of the words most likely were inspired spontaneously during the worship service led by the Levites when the people gathered to worship. Some were written by David before or after a battle.

Authors:

David wrote almost half the psalms. David was the faithful shepherd boy who sang to the Lord as he was so often alone with the sheep. He was a skillful musician, a mighty man of valor, and warrior, and later a king, an exile and a fugitive. Since praise was so important to him, at the Lord’s command, he designated Levites to carry out praise continually even before Solomon’s temple was built. *I Chron. 23:5 and 4,000 were praising the Lord with the instruments which David made for giving praise.* The main Levite choir and instrument directors were Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun (sometimes called Ethan). *I Chron. 25:6.*

Asaph. 12 psalms were written by him.

Descendants of Korah wrote 12 psalms,

Ethan, Heman and Moses each wrote 1 psalm.

Solomon wrote 2 psalms; anonymous people wrote 50 psalms.

Setting: Psalms was written over a span of 1,000 years starting with the time of Moses, 1,400 B.C. However, most of the psalms were written during the time of David and Solomon 1000 B.C. Later, many psalms were compiled by Hezekiah, Josiah, Ezra or Nehemiah until the time of 430 B.C. Before the temple was built, many psalms were sung by the people as they gathered outside the tabernacle which was at Shiloh. This was where the priest Eli met Hannah and where the child Samuel grew up and ministered. The tabernacle was later moved to Gibeon where Solomon sacrificed the 1,000 burnt offerings and received his first visit from the Lord.

The psalms were also used in the temple of Solomon and later the temple built under Zerubbabel, as part of the service and also for private use. Many of the psalms were called psalms of ascents because they were used and sung as the people traveled on foot to Jerusalem for the feasts.

Various psalms reflect the height and depth of all human emotions: despair, discouragement, apathy, self-pity, vengeance, joy, exuberance, forgiveness, self-sacrifice, love, peace, trust, and humility. Most psalms, in noting these emotions, end with a note of praise or trust. During this study let us imagine ourselves back in time in Israel watching David or the Israelites pouring out their hearts to Yahweh (the Old Testament name for Jehovah). Surrounded by many natural enemies countless times, the Lord always watched over them and carried them as on eagles’ wings. (Ex. 19:4) They were His treasured possession for praise, fame and honor, set high above all nations, consecrated to the Lord (Deut. 26:18-19). David said that His laws were his delight; may this also be our confession. No matter what enemy we face, spiritual or physical, His love will cover us and His promises are true if we are faithful to Him and walk in His ways, the way of love.

David had a Warrior Spirit

Let me make this tour/study up to date now because of the present great turmoil in the nations of the world. The battle is not to be fought in the flesh first but in the spirit. David knew he was anointed by Samuel years earlier, when he was a youth. I Sam. 16:1-13. However Saul was made king against God's wishes. The people wanted a king like the nations surrounding them. By the power of God, David slew Goliath and was recognized by King Saul. However, Saul sought for years to slay David because of jealousy. Many of these psalms will reflect David's distress and yet victory as a result of praise and trust in God's promises. Even though David had two opportunities to kill King Saul, he would not, because he considered that Saul was God's anointed. David trusted God's timing and had to flee for possibly 15 years as a fugitive, hunted by the king. During this time, David poured out his soul to the Lord, praised and trusted his future to God for the fulfillment of the prophecy given by Samuel.

During this time as a fugitive, David was surrounded by many loyal mighty warriors, thirty particularly, three of whom were outstanding (I Chron. 11:15-47). All of them were willing to lay down their lives for David. Their exploits and names are recorded in Scripture. **We serve the King of Kings. Now is the time He needs some mighty warriors!** Are we willing **to fight in the spirit so His kingdom will be established on the earth?** Nations and the destiny of many people groups are hanging in the balance. God gave His only Son for us. Is He not worthy to receive our complete allegiance? He is looking for those with pure hearts who know they are totally inadequate without His power and anointing. We can follow David's example when he strengthened himself in the Lord when all seemed lost. (I Sam. 30:6). David then followed the Lord's instructions and recovered all that was stolen from him including many people. The Lord is a *warrior, the Lord is His name*. (Ex. 15:3) and **He lives in us**. We war in the spirit, united with Him (II Cor.10: 3-5) *But thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ (II Cor. 2:14)*

Finally, in God's timing King Saul is slain and the people knew that the Lord had said: *II Sam. 5:2-3 You will shepherd My people Israel, and you will be a ruler over Israel... So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron... and anointed David king over Israel*. After conquering the city of Jerusalem, he made plans to bring the ark back from Kiriath-jearim. David's greatest joy was to worship the Lord publicly in the tabernacle which he was not able to do all the years he was in exile. Once the ark was brought back, King David continued to follow the Lord's instruction in organizing the musicians and worship in a new most joyful way. The tabernacle was still at Gibeon so David dearly wanted to build a permanent place for the ark and the worship. However, David did put the ark in a temporary tent in Jerusalem. There are many more details on David's life on the internet, search: King David Biography – VTAide.com.

Note to the reader: the Psalms are so full of **LIFE**, that it was very difficult to choose the most important ones. The ones I put in **bold** were the ones that changed my life the most besides many others. Let the Holy Spirit speak to you personally which ones to claim by faith.

Theme: Praise and worship with a sub-theme of trust.

Literary style: mainly lyric poetry with these characteristics:¹

1. Partially taken from: Jensen's Survey of the Old Testament by Irving L. Jenson, Moody Press

1. **Testimony.** The author expresses his feelings bad or good.

2. **Frequent use of figures of speech:**

a. *Hyperbole:* exaggeration for effect. Example: *Ps 6:6 Every night I make my bed swim, I dissolve my bed with my tears.*

b. *Metaphor:* a figure of speech in which one thing is likened to another thing by speaking as if it were that other thing. Example: The Lord is my rock, my fortress, stronghold, shield, horn of my salvation. Or, Thy Word is a lamp; the paths of the Lord are lovingkindness and truth. Thine enemies are a footstool for thy feet.

Classification: ²

Wisdom or didactic: In these psalms, the reader is exhorted in the way of righteousness.

Example: Ps. 1, also Ps.119. Look at Psalm 1. Title: The Two Ways,

Godly or ungodly

Life or death: consider responsibility, commitment, action.

Royal: These psalms have a description of an earthly and heavenly king. Example Ps. 2

2:1-3 earth setting, counsel chamber of the wicked

2:4-5 heaven setting, God speaks vs. 7 Jesus speaks

2:7 Jesus speaks: *I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord*

2:8 God speaks: *Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Thine inheritance...*

2:9 Judgment on the wicked, *Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron...*

2:11 Rejoice in Hebrew is “geel” to spin about.

Individual lament: These psalms are addressed to God and petition Him to rescue and defend an individual. Example: Ps. 3 This psalm was written by King David when he fled from his son Absalom.

Title: God is My Help, Victory. See II Sam 15:11. The people increased with Absalom.

Pattern of laments: A cry to God, stating of circumstances, confession of trust, petition, and vow of praise. “Salvation” occurs 62 times in Psalms, “delivered” 22 times, “healed, health,” 7 times. It is noteworthy that the Hebrew meaning of salvation is “*yshuah*” meaning deliverance, aid, victory, prosperity, health, help and welfare. *Ps.3:8 Salvation belongeth unto the Lord; thy blessing is upon thy people.(KJV)*

National lament: These psalms petition the Lord to help their nation. Example: Ps. 44. In this psalm, the sons of Korah cried out to God vs. 1-4. Now see: vs. 44:5-8 *Through Thee we shall push back our adversaries, through Thy name we will trample down those who rise up against us, for I will not trust in my bow, nor will my sword save me, for Thou hast saved us from our adversaries and Thou hast put to shame those who hate us. In God we have boasted all day long and we will give thanks to Thy name forever.* After these verses lament continues but ends with asking the Lord: Vs.26: *Rise up, be our help, and redeem us for the sake of Thy lovingkindness.*

Individual praise: These psalms thank God for what He has already done or will do. Example: Ps.8. Just imagine David looking up to the heavens and writing this: *Vs.1 Oh Lord our Lord, how majestic is Thy name in all the earth, Who hast displayed Thy splendor above the heavens....When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; What is man that Thou dost care for him?... Yet Thou hast made him a little lower than God (some versions say “angels” which is incorrect. The Hebrew word is "Elohim") and dost crown him with glory and majesty. Thou dost make him to rule over the works of Thy hand; Thou hast put all things under his feet...This is an important Scripture showing our authority over God’s creation. See also Eph. 1:21-23.*

Thanksgiving and adoration: Ex. Ps. 19 which can be divided into three sections:
 God revealed in **nature:** *Ps. 19:1-6 The heavens are telling the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard...*

God revealed in **Scripture:** *Ps. 19:7-10 The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple, the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure...They are more desirable than gold...sweeter than the honeycomb...*

God revealed in **experience:** *Ps. 19: 11-13 Moreover, by them, Thy servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward...*

God’s **grace is then revealed:** *Ps. 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.*

Enthronement: These describe God’s sovereign rule over all nations. Example: Ps. 47
*Ps. 47:1-4 Oh clap your hands, all peoples, shout to God with the voice of joy. For the Lord Most High is to be feared, a great king over all the earth. **He chooses our inheritance for us.** We have a new Father when we received Jesus. We have a new nature. The old nature died with Jesus on the cross. Now our medical history is wiped clean. **We have His DNA! II Pet. 1:4***
Ps. 47:5-8 God has ascended with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises...For God is the King of all the earth...God reigns over the nations, God sits on His holy throne...

Pilgrimage or songs of Zion: These psalms were sung by pilgrims travelling up to Jerusalem for the three annual religious feasts required: Passover, Pentecost, and Feast of Tabernacles. Example: *Ps. 87:1 His foundation is in the holy mountain. The Lord loves the gates of Zion...All my springs of joy are in you.*

ZION has four meanings in Scripture:

1. The literal Mt. Zion where the temple was built.
2. Heavenly Zion Hebrews 12:22-23
3. Millennial Zion. The throne of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem. Zech. 8:3-5
4. Israel, us, the body of Christ. II Kings 19:21 Isaiah speaks these words to King Hezekiah concerning Sennacherib, king of Assyria: *She has despised you and mocked you, the virgin daughter of Zion.* As a result, the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 Assyrians at night giving King Hezekiah a great victory!

Penitential: These psalms include confession and asking for forgiveness.

This is David's confession after Nathan confronted him about his affair with Bathsheba. It is noteworthy that King David was quick to repent and greatly desired the favor of the Lord. From this psalm, we understand what the Lord requires: a broken and clean heart. Thank God for His Holy Spirit who helps us and exposes anything that is displeasing to Him so we can confess it.

*Ps. 51:1-17 Be gracious to me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness...blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgression and my sin is ever before me...Thou dost desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part Thou wilt make me know wisdom. Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow, make me to hear joy and gladness... create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Thy presence, and do not take Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation...for Thou dost not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; Thou art not pleased with burnt offering. **The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart.** O God, Thou wilt not despise.*

Imprecatory: These psalms call down a curse on the enemies. Example: Ps. 35

For these psalms, keep in mind;

They call for divine justice rather than human vengeance.

They ask God to punish the wicked thereby vindicating His righteousness.

They condemn sin. In Hebrew thinking, there was no clear distinction between the sinner and the sin.

Jesus called down a curse on several cities and told His disciples to curse cities that did not receive the Gospel. Matt. 10:14-15.

Messianic: These psalms speak of the life, ministry and death of Jesus. Example: Ps. 22

Ps. 22:1 My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?

Vs. 7 All who see me sneer at me...saying, Commit yourself to the Lord, let Him deliver him; let Him rescue him, because He delights in him.

Vs. 14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax..

Vs. 16-18 A band of evildoers has encompassed me. They pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

Other examples of Messianic psalms are: Ps. 69:9, 21 Zeal for God's house will consume him and he will be given wine and gall to drink. Also Ps. 34:20 not a bone of him shall be broken; Ps.35:11 He will be accused by false testimony; Ps.35:19, He will be hated without a cause; Ps.41:9, He will be betrayed by a friend. Many other prophecies were fulfilled that Jesus had no control over. See the Open Bible, New American Standard.

Names for God in the Psalms

David chose to use most often the name **Lord Jehovah, meaning Covenant Maker**. Dr. Irving L. Jensen in his book: "Jensen's Survey of the Old Testament" by Moody Press, Chicago, has an excellent chart about the names of God in the Psalms. He notes that in Book I, which includes most of David's psalms, the Covenant name is used.

Lord Jehovah meaning Covenant Maker and Fulfiller is used **277 times**. In book V, this same name is used **226 times**.

Almighty One, El is used **207 times in Book II**.

Sovereign Lord, Adonai is used **61 times in all five Books**.

El Shaddai, Almighty God is used **only 3 times in all the Books**.

This shows us that the Lord God was pleased to make Himself known most often at that period of time as a **Covenant Maker and Fulfiller of His promises made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David!** Does that include us? Surely! We are Abraham's seed. *Gal.3:29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.*

Groupings of Psalms:

Book I Ps. 1-41 (Possible dates of compilation 1020-970 B.C.)

Most scholars attribute these Psalms to David and were written and compiled by him prior to 970 B.C. This was a time of great distress, war and victory over his enemies. We can learn much from his example. Each book ends with a doxology.

Noteworthy Scriptures:

Ps. 3:3 But Thou, O Lord, art a shield about me, my glory and the lifter of my head.

David is evidently fleeing from his son Absalom. His adversaries had increased.

Ps. 4:4-5 Meditate in your heart upon your bed and be still. Offer the sacrifices of righteousness and trust in the Lord. "Sacrifice" in the O.T. meant to "slay, kill".

Ps. 5:12 For it is Thou who dost bless the righteous man, O Lord. Thou dost surround him with favor as with a shield.

Ps. 10:17-18 O Lord, Thou hast heard the prayer of the humble; Thou wilt strengthen their heart, Thou wilt incline Thine ear to vindicate the orphan and the oppressed...

Ps. 11:4 The Lord is in His holy temple (our bodies need tolerate no sickness or pain).

Ps. 11:5 The Lord tests the righteous...Ps. 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers them out of them all. The Lord allows these tests to come but He plans to deliver us and has made a way through His Son at Calvary.

Ps. 12:6 The words of the Lord are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.

Ps. 15:1-4 O Lord, who may abide in Thy tent? Who may dwell in Thy holy hill? He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness and speaks truth in his heart. He does not slander with his tongue...who honors those who fear the Lord.

Ps. 16:8-11 I have set the Lord continually before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices; my flesh also shall dwell securely...In Thy presence is fullness of joy; in Thy right hand there are pleasures forever.

Psalm 18 was written by David as a praise song because the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies especially Saul. See verses 28-36 *For Thou dost light my lamp... for by Thee I can run over a troop; and by my God I can leap over a wall...He is a shield...a rock... the God who girds me with strength...He makes my feet like hinds' feet and sets me upon my high places. He trains my hands for battle, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. Thou hast given me the shields of Thy salvation...Thy gentleness makes me great...my feet have not slipped.*

Ps. 20 is entitled: Boast not in chariots and horses but in God's name.

Ps. 21 is classified as a Royal psalm written by King David in praise for God's goodness.

Ps. 22 contains David's amazing insight (work of the Holy Spirit) into the future crucifixion of Jesus as noted earlier. Also see 22:3 *O Thou who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel. He inhabits our praise. Our praise opens the highway to heaven and brings Him pleasure.*

Ps. 23 The Shepherd's psalm. So well known. Can you picture David writing this?

Ps. 24 includes the requirements for standing in the holy place. Also see the proclamation for the gates of the city being opened for the gospel- the King of Glory wants to enter. *The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory!* There was a time recently where we stood in Turkmenistan and spoke this over the country of Iran just within our view.

Ps. 27:1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear...the whole psalm is amazing. Tremendous victory for those who trust in Him!

Vs. 13 I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the glory of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the Lord.

Ps. 29 describes the powerful hand of God in nature. Possibly David was outside observing a thunderstorm.

Ps. 29:9...And in His temple everything says "Glory!" This verse spoke to me years ago, 1984, when my husband and I just took a step of faith to go into full time ministry with no medical insurance, salary, retirement income, or church sponsorship. For some reason, I developed two hernias in my abdomen. We prayed for healing as also our pastor and friends did. We had gone overseas to teach English to this remote tribe, fell in love with them and felt led to continue going to be with them. This verse about everything in His temple (which is me) says: "Glory", spoke to me about healing. I claimed it, forgot about it and a few years later examined myself and found there were no hernias! Every cell in my body must cry "Glory", get out or get in line! Yet by faith and patience, His promises do work! His mercies are great!

Ps. 30 This is a praise psalm for victory over natural enemies and possibly physical healing for David. *Vs. 2 I cried to Thee for help, and Thou didst heal me.*

Vs. 5 Weeping may last for the night, but a shout of joy comes in the morning.

Ps. 31:19 How great is Thy goodness which Thou hast stored up for those who fear Thee, which Thou hast wrought for those who take refuge in Thee, before the sons of men.

Ps. 34 is an individual praise psalm. The NASB, Open Bible entitles this as a psalm of David when he feigned madness before Achish, who drove him away. (I Sam. 21:10-15). In this passage the king is Achish, King of Gath in whose presence David pretended to be insane.

Ps.34:7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him and rescues them. This is so very true. We must be aware of this and trust these angels everywhere we go.

Vs. 8-10 O taste and see that the Lord is good...The young lions do lack and suffer hunger; but they who seek the Lord shall not be in want of any good thing.

Ps. 35 is an Imprecatory psalm calling down a curse on the enemies. However vs. 27 is outstanding: *Let them shout for joy and rejoice who favor my vindication; and let them say continually: The Lord be magnified who delights (takes pleasure) in the prosperity (Hebrew: "shalom" welfare, happy, health, favor, rest, safety, well being.) of His servant.*

Ps. 36 is entitled The Excellent Lovingkindness of God. Excellent reading, confession.

Ps. 37 is entitled Rest in the Lord. Vs. 3-5 *Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness; delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him and He will do it.*

Vs.19 They will not be ashamed in the time of evil; and in the day of famine, they will have abundance.

Vs. 25 I have been young, and now I am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his descendants begging bread.

Ps. 41:1-3 How blessed is he who considers the helpless; the Lord will deliver him in a day of trouble. The Lord will protect him and keep him alive. And he shall be called blessed upon the earth...The Lord will sustain him upon his sickbed; in his illness, Thou dost restore him to health. 41:13:

Doxology

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen

Book II Ps. 41-72 (Possible dates of compilation 970-610 B.C.)

Noteworthy Scriptures:

Ps. 42:1 As the deer pants for the water, so my soul pants for Thee, O God.

Ps. 43:3 O send out Thy light and Thy truth, let them lead me; let them bring me to Thy holy hill...

Ps.43:5-8 Through Thee, we will push back our adversaries; through Thy name we will trample down those who rise up against us. For I will not trust in my bow, nor will my sword save me... in God we have trusted all day long and we will give thanks to Thy name forever.

Ps. 45:1 My heart overflows with a good theme: I address my verses to the King; my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

Ps. 45:3 Gird Thy sword on Thy thigh, O Mighty One, in Thy splendor and Thy majesty...for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness.

Ps. 45:7 Thou hast loved righteousness and hated wickedness, therefore God, Thy God has anointed Thee with the oil of joy above thy fellows.

King David's distress: Psalms 46-64. Most of these Psalms deal with David's distress in fleeing from King Saul and possible conquest of Israel by Syria. Note how amazing it is that David could compose songs of praise when his life was in danger continually.

Ps. 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea.

Ps. 46:4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God.

Ps. 46:10 Cease striving and know that I am God, I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Ps. 49:16-17 Do not be afraid when a man becomes rich, when the glory of his house is increased; for when he dies he will carry nothing away; his glory will not descend after him.

Two Main Victories during the time span of Book II. (970 to 610 B.C.)

- 1. King Sennacherib of Assyria came against King Hezekiah of Israel.** Isa.36-37, II Kings 19. Isaiah the prophet spoke to Hezekiah and said that Sennacherib would not come against Jerusalem but the Lord would defend the city without an

arrow being shot. That night the angel of the Lord killed 185,000 of the Assyrians!

2. **King Jehoshaphat was surrounded by the Moabites, Ammonites and sons of Seir.** II Chron. 20 The prophet Jehaziel said they would not need to fight at all. The praise teams were sent out before the army. When the singing began, the Lord set ambushes against the enemy and they began killing each other. The Israelites were three days taking the spoil!

Ps. 50:14-15 Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and pay your vows to the Most High; and call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me.

Ps. 50:23 He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors (glorifieth) Me, and to him who orders his way (conversation) aright I shall show the salvation (Heb. Yayshah: Liberty, deliverance, prosperity, safety) of God.

Ps. 53 is the same as Ps. 14:1-7. The fool has said in his heart: There is no God...

*Ps. 54:6-7 Willingly, I will sacrifice to Thee; I will give thanks to Thy name...for He has delivered me from **all** trouble; and my eye has looked with satisfaction (NKJ-has seen its desire) upon my enemies.*

*Ps. 55 This psalm may have **been written at the time that King David fled from his son Absalom and Ahithophel's treachery.** Ahithophel had been David's trusted counselor but he became a traitor. II Sam.15 -17.*

Ps. 55:12-13 For it is not an enemy who reproaches me, then I could bear it... but it is you, a man my equal, my companion...

Ps. 55:16-18 As for me, I shall call upon God and the Lord will save me...He will redeem my soul in peace from the battle which is against me.

Ps. 55:22 Cast your burden upon the Lord, and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.

*Ps. 56 The Open Bible has this heading for Ps. 56: **A Mikhtam of David, when The Philistines seized him in Gath.** (See I Sam. 21). David was betrayed by Doeg the Edomite and fled from King Saul to Gath where he disguised his sanity for a short time.*

Ps. 56:3-4 When I am afraid, I will put my trust in Thee, in God, whose word I praise... What can mere man do to me? Vs 9 This I know, that God is for me.

*Ps. 57 The Open Bible says **this was written when David fled from Saul, in the cave.***

Ps. 57:2 I will cry to God Most High, to God who accomplishes all things for me. Vs. 7 My heart is steadfast, O God...I will sing, yes, I will sing praises...Vs.10,11 For Thy lovingkindness is great to the heavens, and Thy truth to the clouds. Be exalted above the heavens, O God, let Thy glory be above all the earth.

*Ps. 60 **Entitled: A Prayer for Deliverance.** David writes Vs. 11, 12 O give us help against the adversary, for deliverance by man is in vain. Though God we shall do valiantly, and it is He who will tread down our adversaries.*

Ps. 62:1-2 My soul waits in silence for God only, from Him is my salvation, He only is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be greatly shaken.

*Ps. 63 **A psalm of David when he was in the wilderness of Judah.** Vs:1 O God, Thou art my God; I will seek Thee earnestly; my soul thirsts for Thee, my flesh yearns for Thee, in a*

dry and weary land where there is no water... my soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness... I meditate on Thee in the night watches... my soul clings to Thee; Thy right hand upholds me.

Ps. 67 This is called the missionary psalm because David is aware of nations. Vs 1-4 God be gracious to us and bless us...that Thy way may be shown on the earth, Thy salvation among the nations. Let the peoples praise Thee, O God;... Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for Thou wilt judge the peoples with uprightness and guide the nations on the earth.

Ps. 68 This is a great psalm for the Warrior spirit among us. Vs. 1 Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered, and let those who fear (hate) Him flee before Him.

Ps. 68:17 The chariots of God are myriads, thousands upon thousands, The Lord is among them as at Sinai, in holiness

Ps. 68:21 Surely God will shatter the head of His enemies.

Ps. 68:32-34 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth... to Him who rides upon the highest heavens...Behold He speaks forth with His voice, a mighty voice. Ascribe strength to God... and His strength is in the skies. Even Job was able to see the hosts. Job 25:3 Is there any number to His troops? Dear warrior may the Lord open our eyes to see the hosts of heaven who are fighting for us. He is the Lord of Hosts! We conquer in His name and with humility. In judgment, He remembers mercy. So many need the light of the gospel in the face of Christ! Lord, give them dreams and visions. Ride on, Oh Lord of Hosts!

Doxology

Ps. 72:18-19 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone works wonders; And blessed be His glorious name forever; and may the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen, and Amen

Book III Ps. 73-89 (dates of compilation 970-10 B.C.)

Noteworthy Scriptures: Many of the following psalms were written by Asaph, one of the chief musicians.

Ps. 73:25 Whom have I in heaven but Thee, and besides Thee, I desire nothing on earth. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Ps. 75 Where does promotion come from? Vs. 6-7 For not from the east, nor from the west, nor from the desert (south) comes exaltation, but God is the judge; He puts down one, and exalts another.

Ps. 78 Asaph recounts Israel's history for the children's sake. Let us also remind our children of His mighty deeds. Vs. 4 We will not conceal them from our children, but tell to the generation to come the praises of the Lord...Vs.6-7 tell them to their children that the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, that they may arise and tell them to their children, that they should put their confidence in God and not forget the works of God. Because of Israel's disobedience: Vs. 60...He abandoned the dwelling place at Shiloh, the tent which He had pitched among men, and gave up His strength (the ark) to captivity and His glory into the hand of the adversary ...but chose the tribe of Judah,(Praise) Mount Zion which He loved.

During David's reign, God spoke prophetically that He had forsaken the ceremonialism of Moses tabernacle which was marked by ritual, candlesticks and incense. A sacrifice of praise was His desire rather than animals. *Ps. 50:13-14, Shall I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of male goats? Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and pay your vows to the Most High.* Also see Ps. 69:30-31. God wanted a new form of worship marked by exuberant praise, dance, clapping, shouting and worshipping Him with instruments and new prophetic songs.

Ps. 84 A psalm of Korah another musician. Vs. 5-7 *How blessed is the man whose strength is in Thee; in whose heart are the highways to Zion! (Praise) Passing through the valley of Baca (weeping) they make it a spring... they go from strength to strength; everyone of them appears before God in Zion.*

Ps. 84:11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord gives grace and glory; no good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Ps. 87:7 All my springs of joy are in You.

Ps. 89 Talks about God's covenant. Vs. 14-18 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Thy throne; lovingkindness and truth go before Thee. How blessed are the people who know the joyful sound!...by Thy righteousness they are exalted, for Thou art the glory of their strength and by Thy favor our horn is exalted, for our shield belongs to the Lord. Speaking of King David, God says: Vs. 28 My lovingkindness I will keep for him forever and My covenant shall be confirmed to him, so I will establish his descendants forever and his throne as the days of heaven.

Doxology

Ps. 89:52 Blessed be the Lord Forever! Amen and Amen

Book IV Ps. 90-106 (compiled until about 430 B.C.)

Noteworthy Scriptures:

Ps. 90 Composed by Moses. *As for the days of our life, they contain 70 years, or if due to strength 80 years.* This is what Moses observed. The people he was guiding were disobedient and reaping the fruit of their speech. *Num. 13:33 We became like grasshoppers, in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.* Warning: God said: *Num. 14:28 just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will surely do to you.* That generation was not allowed to enter the Promised Land. But in *Gen. 6:3 Then the Lord said, My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.* Shall we believe for this?

Ps.91 God's plan of protection. This should be read in its entirety. Vs.16... With long life I will satisfy him and let him behold My salvation.

Ps. 103 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. This psalm too is outstanding

Ministry (job) of angels: *Ps. 103:20 (1) Bless the Lord, (2) Perform (do KJV) His Word. (3) Heeding (obeying) the voice of His Word. (4) Serve Him, doing His will (KJV).* These words require us to speak His Word out loud which activates the angels. *Heb. 1:14 (Speaking of angels): Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?* We should be doing this often for ourselves and others who need help.

Ps. 104 The Lord's care over all His works. The language is lofty and picturesque throughout. The Hebrew writers had a gift for describing concepts and relationships in concrete, visual terms. Example: *Clothed with majesty, honor, light and splendor.* The high point is Vs. 24. *Oh Lord, how many are Thy works! In wisdom Thou hast made them all.*

Ps. 105 This psalm recounts the history of Israel like Ps. 78 but adds new facts: Vs.14-15 He permitted no man to oppress them, and He reproved kings for their sakes; "Do not touch My anointed ones, and do My prophets no harm." Vs. 37 Then He brought them out with

silver and gold, and among His tribes there was not one who stumbled (KJV) none feeble among His tribes.

This Scripture was very meaningful to me years ago, when I was concerned about going to teach English to this tribe in the jungles of Burma. After reading this verse, I thought how amazing it was that God cared for about 3 million Hebrews and they didn't get sick, only later when they were disobedient. He gave them water, manna and quail. Even their sandals did not wear out or their feet swell! If He did that for those people how much more blessed am I with antibiotics, shots, vitamins and the infilling of the Holy Spirit. He surely will take care of me and if I drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt me. (Mk. 16:18) He even helped me that I never saw a snake! We went several times and stayed months at a time for years. He is surely able to care for His servants!

Doxology

Ps. 106:48 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting, and let all the people say. "Amen" Praise the Lord.

Book V Ps. 107-150 (compiled until 430 B.C.)

Noteworthy Scriptures:

Ps. 107:20 He sent His word and healed them and delivered them from their destructions.

This verse became alive to me and was used to get me free from the allergy that plagued me when our family moved to the high desert of California. Dust was everywhere and my sinuses were agitated. A friend spoke healing at a prayer meeting at our house. I claimed it, was healed and testified of the healing. Soon afterwards the allergy came back worse than ever. I used this Scripture and agreement prayer from my husband, fighting the symptoms as soon as they appeared. Within a few weeks, I was totally healed using other Scriptures besides.

Ps. 107:41 He sets the needy securely on high away from affliction.

Ps. 108:13 Through God we shall do valiantly, and it is He who will tread down our adversaries.

Ps. 110:2 A Psalm of David: The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet." The Lord will stretch forth Thy strong scepter from Zion saying, "Rule in the midst of Thine enemies." Thy people will volunteer freely in the day of Thy power; in holy array...Thy youth are to Thee as the dew.

Hallelujah Psalms, 111-118

This group of psalms is generally short, vibrant, uplifting, and optimistic and focuses on God, not man or his problems.

Ps. 112:1-4 Praise the Lord! How blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. His descendants will be mighty on earth; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house and his righteousness endures forever. Light arises in darkness for the upright.

Ps. 113:9 He makes the barren woman abide in the house as a joyful mother of children. Praise the Lord!

Ps. 115:4-8 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands, they have mouths, but they cannot speak...eyes, but they cannot see; ears, but they cannot hear...cannot smell...cannot feel...cannot walk...Vs.8 Those who make them will become like them.

Ps. 115:16 *The heavens are the heavens of the Lord; but the earth He has given to the sons of men.*

Ps. 116: 15 Precious (costly) in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly ones. Ps. 72:14, Their blood will be precious in His sight. Deut 32:43 He will avenge the blood of His servants.

*Ps. 118:15-17 The sound of joyful shouting and salvation is in the tents of the righteous; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly; the right hand of the Lord is exalted...**I shall not die; but live, and tell of the works of the Lord.***

Ps. 119 *The longest psalm. Theme is: revive me. Sub theme is: I love Thy law.*

Ps. 119:11 Thy word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against thee.

Ps. 119:89 Forever, O Lord, Thy word is settled in heaven.

Ps. 119:105 Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.

Ps. 119:165 Those who love Thy law have great peace and nothing causes them to stumble. Don't take up offense. Forgive

Psalms of Ascents 120-134

This group of psalms was sung by pilgrims as they walked to Jerusalem three times a year for the annual festivals of Passover, Pentecost and the Feast of Tabernacles. Jerusalem is on a hill and there were certain stairs in the temple. There were 15 steps so one psalm could be sung on each step.

Ps. 121:1-2 I will lift up my eyes to the mountains...My help comes from the Lord...

Ps. 125:1-2 Those who trust in the Lord are as mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people from this time forth and forever.

*Ps. 126:5 Those who sow in tears, shall reap with joyful shouting. He who goes to and fro weeping, carrying his bag of seed shall indeed come again with a shout of joy, bringing his sheaves with him. **The missionary's and evangelist's promise!***

Ps. 127 The whole psalm is good about rest and children as a gift.

Ps. 132:13 The Lord has chosen Zion ...The church is Zion, so am I. Read the rest of His promises to us: Vs. 14-18 this is my resting place forever...bless her provision...enemies clothed with shame...

Ps. 139 A psalm of David telling how God's presence is everywhere. *Vs. 13 For Thou didst form my inward parts; Thou didst weave me in my mother's womb.... I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Vs. 15 My frame was not hidden from Thee, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth. Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance...See also Isa. 49:1, Jer. 1:5, and Gal. 1:15. There is no excuse for abortion. It is murder.*

David here is keenly aware of his own sinfulness. Let this be our prayer also. *Vs. 23 Search me O God, and know my heart, and see if there be any hurtful (distraction, pride, compromise) way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way. .*

Psalms 140-145 are written by David possibly while he was hiding from King Saul. All his words of praise are glorious.

Psalms 146-150 were composed by unknown authors.

Ps. 147:14-15 He makes peace in your borders; He satisfies you with the finest of the wheat. He sends forth His command to the earth; His word runs very swiftly.

Ps. 149:4 For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the afflicted ones with salvation. Praise brings vengeance on the nations. Vs.6-9 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two edged sword in their hand, to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishment on the peoples; to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute on them the judgment written, this is an honor for all His godly ones. Praise the Lord!

Ps. 150 is a complete praise psalm. See the words and instruments to be used. Praise God forever!

The Book of Psalms ends here.

PROVERBS

Introduction: The contents of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon are spoken of as the Wisdom Literature of the ancient Hebrew people. Other scholars have proposed that the Wisdom literature included Job and Psalms. For this study we will consider all five books to be called Wisdom literature. It is so amazing that these proverbs are useful for all people groups and all centuries. They are ageless words from God Almighty who created us in His image and knew what was best for our body, soul and spirit. The Word is like a manufacturer's handbook for smooth operation of the car he designed.

May these Words continually guide us into paths of righteousness and holiness. Now we have the Holy Spirit to help us be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. Father God is looking for a bride for His Son, one like Him. This book of Proverbs will help us be that bride if we let these words transform our soul and spirit.

Authors and dates of writing or compilation: most of the chapters were written by King Solomon around 950 B.C. The Hebrew people suggested that the **Song of Solomon was composed during Solomon's youth, Proverbs during his manhood and Ecclesiastes in his old age.**

King Solomon wrote chapters 1-22:16

Other wise men wrote chapters 22:17-24:34

King Hezekiah's men, 250 years later, compiled chapters 25-29

Agur, wrote chapter 30

King Lemuel wrote chapter 31

King Solomon presided over a school of wise men or sages and taught the people knowledge. (Ecc. 12:9). *I Kings 4:32 He (Solomon) also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005.*

Name: in Hebrew, Proverbs is MASHAL meaning "to be like or represent." A proverb uses a comparison or figure of speech to make a pointed observation. Example: *He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down and without walls. Prov. 25:28.* This book compares:

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Wisdom and folly | The righteous and the wicked | Pride and humility |
| Laziness and work | Justice and vengeance | Poverty and wealth |
| Friends and enemies | Love and lust | Anger and strife |
| Life and death | Masters and servants | Every aspect of human life |

Proverbs tells how to relate to God, parents, children, neighbors and government. It teaches one how to live skillfully in an ungodly age. It teaches us how to adorn the gospel. Proverbs is to the Old Testament as the book of James is to the New Testament. These proverbs are meant to encourage us in godliness, not so we can have houses full of money, a long life and no enemies. Wisdom is more precious than silver and gold; sometimes godly people die young and even David and Jesus had enemies. In God's eyes the wicked are the losers, no matter how successful they appear to be. Proverbs focuses primarily on this life, not the next. The New Testament focuses on the next life. God is looking at our heart. Do we really fear Him and want to please Him above all? This answer counts for eternity.

Compared to other religions, the book of Proverbs rests firmly on the conviction of a personal and holy God. Buddhism, which was birthed later in 563 B.C., was speculative philosophy. Even Confucius, in 551 B.C. based some of his theories on right and wrong, but not on Almighty God.

Setting: Solomon became king over all Israel succeeding his father, David, who was a warrior King. Solomon was a musician, poet, botanist, zoologist, businessman, administrator and King. Peace and prosperity had been established and the temple was being built. Solomon loved the Lord and went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices to the Lord. After he offered 1,000 burnt offerings on the altar, the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said; “*Ask what you wish me to give you.*” Solomon, in humility asked for wisdom to guide the people, which pleased the Lord so much, that the Lord gave Solomon not only wisdom, but riches and honor (I Kings 3:4-14). King Solomon’s wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the sons of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt (I Kings 4:30). Later, the Queen of Sheba came to visit him and was wondrously impressed.

Theme or key verses:

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge Prov. 1:7

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Prov. 9:10

The fear of the Lord is to hate evil. Prov. 8:13. Fear means godly reverence.

Literary style for Hebrew people: their writings were:

1. **Built around a thought pattern.** Hebrew poetry does not depend on rhyme or meter but is built around a thought pattern. The author has much liberty in terms of structure and length of line.
2. **Parallelism.** Often the second line repeats the truth of the first line. *Prov. 4:20 My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings.* Or the second line contrasts the first line. *Prov.4:18 The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn...The way of the wicked is like darkness.* Sometimes the second line explains the first line. *Prov.4:25 Let your eyes look directly ahead, and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you.*
3. **Figures of speech:** like hyperbole (exaggeration) and metaphors (where one thing is likened to another). Mostly used by King David in his psalms.

Note worthy Scriptures: following is a list of “vitamins” to feed your spirit tasty food. Saying them out loud will bring new **LIFE** to you and keep you on the right path.

1:33 He who listens to Me shall live securely, and shall be at ease from the dread of evil. This is a very important Scripture to remember and claim for today's shakings in the economy and changing weather patterns. The enemy of our souls would want us to give in to fear. We can hear from the Lord since we are His sheep. He will warn us if we need to change a pattern of living. It is very necessary that we stay tuned to His Spirit during the day and night. He loves us and has great plans for our future. He will take care of His own!

3:5-10 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil. It will be blessing to your body and refreshing to your bones. This is another marvelous promise to personalize. This is a gem for all ages.

3:13-15 How blessed is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding, for its profit is better than the profit of silver, and its gain than fine gold. She is more precious than jewels and nothing you desire compares with her.

3:27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.

4:20-23 My son, give attention to my words, incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your sight; keep them in the midst of your heart, for they are life to those who find

them, and health to all their whole body. Watch over your heart with all diligence for from it flow the springs of life. This is an important promise to memorize and speak for your healing.

6:1-5 My son, if you have become surety for your neighbor, have given a pledge for a stranger, if you have been snared with the words of your mouth...Go, humble yourself, and importune your neighbor...deliver yourself. This means we should not co-sign a financial agreement with a stranger or a neighbor who is not godly.

6:6 Go to the ant, O sluggard, observe her ways and be wise...

6:16-19 There are six things which the Lord hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: 1. haughty eyes, 2. a lying tongue, 3. and hands that shed innocent blood, 4. a heart that devises wicked plans, 5. feet that run rapidly to evil, 6. a false witness who utters lies, 7. and one who spreads strife among brothers.

Chapter 7 tells us to keep His commandments and avoid the adulteress woman or any deceptive worldly system that would lure us away from our first love.

Chapter 8

8:1-3 Does not wisdom call and understanding lift up her voice...beside the way...beside the gates...at the entrance of the door, she cries out: to you, O men I call...

This chapter is outstanding because we can see that wisdom (figure of speech, which personifies another) who is calling beside the way and at the door is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. He is and was the embodiment of wisdom. *Col. 2:3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I Cor. 1:30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness, sanctification and redemption.*

8:22-30 The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old, from everlasting, I was established from the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth...before the mountains were settled, before the hills I was brought forth... When He established the heavens, I was there...Then I was beside Him, as a master workman; and I was daily His delight. We understand here that Jesus Christ was with the Father at the beginning of creation. Let us see also that through Jesus Christ the world was formed:

Col. 1:15-17 And He is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation (from the dead), for by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible... all things have been created for Him and by Him... and in Him all things hold together. See also John 1:10, Heb. 1:2.

Isn't it amazing how King Solomon, who lived around 950 B.C., had this revelation about wisdom, when He asked the Lord God for it, rather than riches and honor? King Solomon asked in humility. Is not wisdom available to us today? *Prov. 9:10 The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.* **Jesus is Wisdom and He lives in us – in the born again Christian. We need not ask for more wisdom, if we submit to Him. Let Him shine forth in humility and wisdom. Keep reading and studying the Word.**

8:12-19 I, wisdom dwell with prudence and I find knowledge and discretion. The fear of the Lord is to hate evil, pride and arrogance ... Counsel is mine... I am understanding, power is mine... I love those who love me and those who diligently seek me shall find me. Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold.

Chapter 9 speaks more about wisdom and the foolish woman.

Chapters 10 and 11 have many words about the blessings of the righteous. Let the Spirit guide you.

10:7 The memory of the righteous is blessed. One time Jack and I were in Rwanda and the Lord gave me this word about the memory of the righteous being blessed. Sometimes there can be undue remembrance of the war between the Hutus and the Tutsis. We said that we are one in Christ. With Him there is no race...*Gal. 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor freeman, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.* Let us press on to the goal in Christ Jesus to be conformed to His image by the power of His Spirit. Father God is looking for a suitable Bride for His Son.

10:19 When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise.

10:22 It is the blessing of the Lord that makes rich and He adds no sorrow to it.

10:30-31 The righteous will never be shaken... the mouth of the righteous flows with wisdom.

11:13 He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.

11:30 He who is wise wins souls.

Chapters 12 and 13

12:14 A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of his words.

12:22 Those who deal faithfully are His delight.

12:24 The hand of the diligent will rule.

13:4 The soul of the diligent is made fat.

13:13 The one who despises the word will be in debt to it.

13:20 He who walks with wise men will be wise. This verse is an encouragement to have godly friends as they will sharpen our discernment and help us avoid mistakes. Let us be submissive to one another. *Eph. 5:21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.*

Chapters 14 and 15 speak about giving to the poor, prayer, anger, righteousness, etc.

14:11 The tent of the righteous will flourish.

14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end is the way of death.

14:21 Happy is he who is gracious to the poor.

14:26 In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, and his children will have refuge.

14:29 He who is slow to anger has great understanding.

14:31 He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, but he who is gracious to the needy honors Him.

14:34 Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.

15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up strife.

15:8 The prayer of the righteous is His delight.

15:15 A cheerful heart has a continual feast.

15:25 He will establish the boundary of the widow.

15:33 Before honor comes humility.

Chapter 16-22:16

16:2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, but the Lord weighs the motives.

16:32 He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who captures a city.

17:9 He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter, separates intimate friends.

17:15 He who justifies the wicked and who condemns the righteous, both of them alike are an abomination to the Lord. May this be a warning in judging anything. Sympathy is the counterfeit for compassion. Jesus had compassion. Judge with God's wisdom.

17:22 *A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.*

18:10 *The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous runs into it and is safe.*

18:16 *A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before great men.*

18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

18:24 *There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*

19: 17 *He who is gracious to the poor man lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his good deed.*

20:7 *A righteous man who walks in his integrity, how blessed are his sons after him.*

21:1 *The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes.*

21:13 *He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor will cry himself and not be answered.*

22:1 *A good name is to be more desired than great riches, favor is better than silver and gold.*

Chapters 22:17-24:34 written by other wise men.

23:10-11 *Do not move the ancient boundary or go into the fields of the fatherless, for their Redeemer is strong, He will plead their case against you.*

23:22 *Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old.*

24:17-18 *Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles, lest the Lord see it and be displeased.*

24:23 *To show partiality in judgment is not good.*

24:29 *Do not say: "Thus I shall do to him as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work."*

Chapters 25-29 compiled by King Hezekiah's men 250 years later.

25:21 *If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.*

25:28 *Like a city that is broken into and without walls is a man who has no control over his spirit.*

26:2 So a curse without cause does not alight.

26:12 *Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.*

27:5-6 *Better is open rebuke than love that is concealed. Faithful are the wounds of a friend.*

27:17 Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

27:21 *A man is tested by the praise accorded him.*

28:1 *The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, but the righteous are bold as a lion.*

28:8 *He who increases his wealth by interest and usury, gathers it for him who is gracious to the poor.*

28:13 *He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper.*

28:17 *A man who is laden with the guilt of human blood will be a fugitive until death; let no one support him.* Let this be a warning to terrorists and murderers. Don't give them aid.

28:20 *A faithful man will abound with blessings, but he who makes haste to be rich will not go unpunished.*

28:26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but he who walks wisely will be delivered.

28:27 *He who gives to the poor will never want.*

29:18 Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained (perish) but happy is he who keeps the law. The Lord has given all of us a destiny, a purpose for living. There are many people

whom only you can reach because of your gifting and experience. By the grace of God, we have passed some tests. *II Cor. 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.* My husband and I have triumphed over malaria and loss of many goods but we have a destiny and will not retire until He calls us "home." He is worthy!

29:25 *The fear of man brings a snare but he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.*

Chapter 30 written by King Agur

30:1 Agur says he is more stupid than any man. What he writes is not good.

30:8 Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is my portion, lest I be full and deny Thee and say, "Who is the Lord?" , Or lest I be in want and steal. He lacks understanding. Let us believe for extra goods so we can share.

Chapter 31 written by King Lemuel speaks about the godly woman.

31:30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but the woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.

Suggested Topics: suitable for teaching and/or personal holiness, dedication.

Obedience to parents: 1:8-9; 6:20-21; 13:1; 15:20; 19:26; 20:20; 23:22; 28:24; 30:17

Adultery or fornication: 2:16-19; 5:3-20; 6:23-25; 7:6-27; 22:14; 23:27-28.

Evil company: 1:10-19; 4:14-19; 13:20; 24:12.

Falsehood: 6:17; 11:1-3; 12:13-14, 17-22; 14:5,25; 19:5-9; 20:17; 21:6; 26:24-28.

Laziness: 6:6-11; 12:24; 13:4; 15:19; 19:24; 21:25; 24:30-34; 26:13-16.

Long life: 3:16; 4:10; 10:27; 14:27; 28:16.

The mouth, tongue or words: too many references to count! One source said **56** proverbs speak of the tongue and **39** proverbs speak of the mouth of the fool. Many speak of anger which usually results in the use of the mouth.

Here are some additional topics with Scripture:

DISCIPLINE OF CHILDREN

13:24 He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently.

19:18 Discipline your son while there is hope, and do not desire his death.

22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.

22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will remove it far from him.

23:13 Do not hold back discipline from the child, although you beat him with the rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with the rod, and deliver his soul from Sheol.

29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.

29:17 Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; he will also delight your soul.

PRIDE

8:13 The fear of the Lord is to hate evil, pride and arrogance and the evil way.

11:2 When pride comes, then comes dishonor, but with the humble is wisdom.

13:10 Through presumption (pride) comes nothing but strife, but with those who receive counsel is wisdom.

16:18-19 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling. It is better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, then to divide the spoil with the proud.

18:12 Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, but humility goes before honor.

25:14 Like clouds and wind without rain, is a man who boasts of his gifts falsely.

26:12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

27:2 Let another praise you and not your own mouth, a stranger and not your own lips.

29:23 A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor.

Strong's concordance for pride: 1346 haughtiness, highness, pomp, swelling, arrogance.

Side effects of a person exalted in pride: this person often compares himself with others; this person suffers from jealousy, and impatience.

STRIFE

10:12 Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all transgressions.

15:18 A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but the slow to anger pacifies contention.

16:28 A perverse man spreads strife...

17:1 Better is a dry morsel and quietness with it than a house full of feasting with strife.

17:14 The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so abandon the quarrel before it breaks out.

17:19 He who loves transgression loves strife. (a quarrel, contention, debate).

20:3 Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, but any fool will quarrel.

22:10 Drive out the scoffer and contention will be out, even strife and dishonor will cease.

26:17 Like one who takes a dog by the ears is he who passes by and meddles with strife not belonging to him.

26:20 Like charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, so is a contentious man to kindle strife.

28:25 An arrogant man stirs up strife, but he who trusts in the Lord will prosper.

29:22 An angry man stirs up strife, and a hot-tempered man abounds in transgression

30:33 For the churning of milk produces butter...so the churning of anger produces strife.

Strong's concordance for strife: 4066 contention, a contest or quarrel, brawling, discord.

HEALING

3:7-8 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body and refreshment to your bones.

4:20-22 My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your sight; keep them in the midst of your heart, for they are life to those who find them and health to all their whole body.

10:11 The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life...

12:18... the tongue of the wise brings healing.

16:24 Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

PROSPERITY

3:9-10 Honor the Lord from your wealth, and from the first of all your produce; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.

10:4 Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

10:22 It is the blessing of the Lord that makes rich. and He adds no sorrow to it.

11:24-28 There is one who scatters, yet increases all the more... The generous man will be prosperous and he who waters will himself be watered...He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like the green leaf.

13: 11 Wealth obtained by fraud dwindles, but the one who gathers by labor increases it.

13:21-22 Adversity pursues sinners, but the righteous will be rewarded with prosperity. A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, and the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.

15:6 Much wealth is in the house of the righteous...

22:4 The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honor and life.

22:9 He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor.

ECCLESIASTES

Introduction: This book is a look at life from the viewpoint of the natural man. Everything is found to be vanity, emptiness apart from God. Power, popularity, prestige, pleasure – nothing can fill the God shaped void in man’s life but God Himself. Wisdom is seeing life from God’s perspective. The end of this book ends on a high note pointing to God as the source of all meaning in life. Vanities, the author infers, can be overcome by remembering and fearing God.

Name: In Hebrew Ecclesiastes is “qoheleth” meaning “preacher” or “speaker before an assembly”.

Author: King Solomon probably wrote this in his later life. When he wrote the Song of Songs he worshipped God as the Creator “Elohim” referring to plants, animals and people. In his Song, the love of God is deeply expressed. In this book of Ecclesiastes, he philosophizes over his life. He didn’t have the close relationship it seems, that his father David did when he tended flocks, worshipped and trusted his life to God, the “Covenant Maker.” However, we all remember his great humility when the Lord appeared to him and asked what he wanted (II Chron. 1:10, I Kings 3:7-9).

Solomon was busy for seven years overseeing the construction of the temple and placing all the furniture and the ark in proper position in the inner sanctuary. During the dedication of the temple, the glory of the Lord descended in a cloud with fire (II Chron. 5:13-14). Solomon’s prayer, as he stood before the altar was outstanding (II Chron. 6:14-42). The nation of Israel enjoyed unprecedented prosperity. Solomon was the wisest, richest, most influential King in Israel’s history. Even the Queen of Sheba, when she came to visit was astounded at the magnificence of the kingdom noticing that God loved Solomon and that his people were exceedingly blessed (II Chron. 9:8).

However, years passed and Solomon did not continue this close dependence or worship of the Lord. The Lord was angry with Solomon for his foreign wives and for allowing them to worship idols (I Kings 11:1-13). His wives turned his heart to worship their gods also, and to break God’s covenant. The reason Solomon lost much of the wisdom expressed in Proverbs is because he committed four sins expressly forbidden the kings of Israel (Deut. 17:14-19). He multiplied horses, wives, gold and silver and he didn’t read the law of the Lord all the days of his life. In contrast to King David, Solomon gave no confession of sin. The penalty was that the kingdom was torn from him and given to his servant!

Date or time this book was written: around 950 B.C.

Key word: vanity.

In Hebrew vanity is “hebel” meaning “breath of emptiness.” This word vanity was used 37 times and “under the sun” 29 times. *I Cor. 15:58* “*be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is **not in vain in the Lord.***” Neither was Solomon’s toil in vain. One outside wall of his temple still stands in Jerusalem where countless pilgrims have prayed over the centuries. So too, we all remember what the Lord said to Solomon: *II Chron. 7:14* *If My people...*

Theme: Fear God, keep His commandments, Ecc. 12:13.

Solomon experienced:

Fame, I Kings 10:6-7; Writing, I Kings 4:32; Horse power, I Kings 4:26. Read Ecc. 2. He tried pleasure, laughter, mental stimulation, wine, building projects, wealth, livestock, music, sex, nature, and labor, finding none of these things fulfilling. Yet, in his reflections he still gives us some outstanding gems.

Gems from Ecclesiastes:

1:9 *So, there is nothing new under the sun.*

2:26 *For to a person who is good in His sight, He has given wisdom, knowledge and joy, while to the sinner, He has given the task of gathering and collecting so that he may give to one who is good...*

3:1-8 *There is an appointed time for everything...every event under heaven.*

A time to give birth and a time to die

A time to plant, and a time to uproot what is planted

A time to kill, and a time to heal

A time to tear down, and a time to build up

A time to weep, and a time to laugh

A time to mourn, and a time to dance

A time to throw stones, and a time to gather stones

A time to embrace, and a time to shun embracing

A time to search, and a time to give up as lost

A time to keep, and a time to throw away

A time to tear apart, and a time to sew together

A time to be silent, and a time to speak

A time to love, and a time to hate

A time for war and a time for peace

3: 11 *He has set eternity in their hearts. (Each person desires to know about eternity.)*

4:9-10 *Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor, for if either of them falls the one will lift up his companion.*

4:12 *A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart (broken).*

5:1 *Guard your steps as you go to the house of the Lord and draw near to listen.*

5:4 *When you make a vow to God, do not be late in paying it.*

5:10 *He who loves money will not be satisfied with money*

5:12 *The sleep of the working man is pleasant...*

5:15 *As he had come naked from his mother's womb, so will he return.*

5:19 *...rejoice in his labor, this is the gift of God.*

7:1 *A good name is better than a good ointment.*

7:2 *It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting.*

7:10 *Do not say, "Why is it that the former days were better than these?"*

8:6 *For there is a proper time and procedure for every delight...*

8:11 *Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil.*

8:12 *Still I know it will be well for those who fear God, who fear Him openly.*

10:1 *Dead flies make a perfumer's oil stink, so a little foolishness is weightier than wisdom and honor.*

11:1 *Cast your bread on the surface of the waters, for you will find it after many days.*

12:1 *Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come...*

12:7 *The dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.*

12:13-14 *Fear God and keep His commandments ...for God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.*

SONG OF SOLOMON

Introduction: This book is addressed to the believer. It must be read with the Spirit not with the natural mind. It is a prophetic song which the Lord is emphasizing in these last days to prepare His bride for His soon return. The last day's message is for repentance, and holiness, but the bride is also an emotional person who needs to know that he/she is loved. Warriors need to feel loved, appreciated, and accepted by their Commander-in-Chief. This book also deals with the spirit of rejection which is so prevalent today. In reading this book, one will notice a progression in love by the maiden in which she falters, is confused, but grows to show a mature love. We should all be able to identify with this progression. The groom, in contrast, is constant in His love for her, but sometimes He requires her to seek Him more diligently as her love matures.

Author and date: Solomon as a young man wrote the song around 965 B.C.

Setting: the land of Israel. Solomon loved nature and investigated plants, animals, the heavens and wholly enjoyed what the Lord had made. In this drama he includes all kinds of trees, flowers, fruits, birds and other animals, winds, mountains, wilderness and sounds. One can almost feel his delight.

Theme: love

Typology: God's love for Israel
Christ's love for me

Christ's love for the Church
Love in marriage

Characters in the song/poem:

1. King Solomon represents Jesus or God the Father.
2. The Shulamite maiden represents the Church or me.
3. Daughters of Jerusalem represent others in the church who may or may not have a personal relationship with the King.
4. Watchmen represent religious people who beat her and take her shawl.

Survey Showing Progression in love:

- **Initial love:**

Chapter 1:2-2:7. 1:2 *May he kiss me with the kisses of his mouth.* The mouth refers to the Word of God. How much we need the words of His mouth! *For your love is better than wine.* There is nothing in the world that can replace this deep yearning for fulfillment other than knowing we are loved by our Creator. Nothing and no one can fill this vacuum. The maiden has a desire for intimacy and the desire to be drawn to Him and to run together. May this be our deepest desire. God's **eternal purpose** since creation is not only to redeem mankind from his sins but He wants to have a spotless bride for His Son. During this study pray to receive the revelation that **we** are the inheritance that the Father has promised the Son. The Father calls us the inheritance prepared as the Bride destined for His Son. Eph. 1:18 *I pray that the eyes of your heart be enlightened...what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.* Will He not prepare us if we are willing and hungry?

1:3 *Your name is like purified oil.* The maiden recognizes that the King is mighty and when she looks at herself, she says: vs. 5 *"I am black but lovely."* When we look at ourselves in the natural, we know that we had this sin nature which was replaced with His Divine nature at Calvary. When we receive Him, He gives us His righteousness. The maiden feels she has failed because she has not taken care of her vineyard. Let us resist the desire to disconnect from the body of Christ because of our shame or weakness. He says to her: vs. 8 *"Most beautiful among women, go forth on the trail of the flock (stay connected to other sheep) and pasture your young goats (those unsaved or young ones looking to you) by the tents of the shepherds."* (Serve the body where there are other true but imperfect shepherds. Submit to them.)

The king then responds saying: 1:9-11 *"To me, my darling, you are like my mare among the chariots of Pharaoh (strong). Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments...and we will make for you ornaments of gold..."*

She responds in love vs. 12-14. Then He says that her **eyes are like doves eyes representing singleness of vision.** Doves have no peripheral vision that is why they turn their heads back and forth. May it truly be that we have singleness of vision. The maiden and the king enjoy the banqueting table. They both exchange loving compliments. He calls her "darling" and "beautiful" several times in the first and second chapters.

- **Faltering love:**

Chapter 2:8-3:5 The maiden says, *"Listen! My beloved! Behold he is coming, climbing on the mountains"* (mountains of difficulty). 2:10-13 *"Come along!"* He says while proclaiming how lovely and beautiful she is. Even though she falters in following her Beloved, He continues to fully accept her. From 2:14, He loves her voice and form. Note in vs. 15 *the little foxes that are ruining the vineyards.* This represents the little sins in our lives, which can ruin our fruit. This can also represent compromise and mixture that keep us distracted and without quality time with our Beloved. In vs. 17, she says, *"Turn my beloved and be like a gazelle...on the mountains of Bether."* "Bether" represents separation. She is immature but still loves him.

In Chapter 3:1-5, the maiden dreams that she was separated from her Beloved so she decides to go looking for him. This separation is very typical in our walk with the Lord. The cares of the world keep us away from Him. We need to make a conscious effort to seek Him out. He wants us to seek Him first. Do we want His presence and favor more than anything else? The maiden soon finds Him and holds on to Him. Then He says 3:5 *"I adjure you. O daughters of Jerusalem...that you will not arouse or awaken my love, until she pleases."* Mike Bickle and Watchman Nee say that this speaks of a special season of alone time in which we will be refreshed by the Word and the Spirit. The Spirit Filled Life Bible (NKJV) says that the word *she* is *it*, which signifies that chastity before marriage is the meaning here.

- **Growing love: The wedding procession:**

Chapter 3:6-4:5 *Wilderness* in 3:6 always speaks of trials and hardships. It could also signify that the bride is coming out of the kingdom of darkness because we

notice that there will be some warfare. In 3:7 the sixty men surrounding the travelling couch represent the need for spiritual warfare. The enemy of our souls knows that when we decided to be united with our Beloved that we will enter into an awesome union and he will be defeated. We put on the full armor of God (Eph. 6:11-17). From 3:6, *I brought him to my mother's house*. Mother speaks of the Church, or the place of fellowship where we are nourished. Mother is also spoken of in 3:11, *his mother has crowned him on the day of his wedding and on the day of his gladness of heart*. The bystanders gaze on King Solomon. Father God rejoices when we promise to commit ourselves to His Son. The angels also rejoice and they fight for us. Heb 1:14 *Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?*

In chapter 4, the groom again praises the bride's beauty and her "dove's eyes." Her teeth signify her ability to eat the Word, her neck speaks of her will or determination, and her breasts – the ability to feed others.

- **Transforming love:**

Chapter 4:6-7:9 The maiden says, 4:6 *"I will go my way to the mountain of myrrh."* "Myrrh" speaks of death, burial or death to self. This can be compared to a deeper commitment which each of us needs to make in our relationship with our Beloved. At this point, the Beloved says that she is 4:7 *altogether beautiful my darling and there is no blemish in you*. Nevertheless, she is still encouraged to: 4:8 *Come with me*. From **4:9**, *You have made my heart beat faster, my sister, my bride. You have made my heart beat faster with a single glance of your eyes*.

From 4:12-14, The garden, filled with spices represent the nine fruits and gifts of the Spirit which the groom saw in her. They could also represent the promises of God planted in the garden of our heart.

From 4:15, *You are a garden spring, a well of fresh water, and streams flowing from Lebanon*. One year I was in Africa for a few weeks with my husband and felt very dry emotionally. This Scripture came alive to me.

From 4:16, *Awake, O north wind, and come, wind of the south; make my garden breath out fragrance*. These winds represent more trials which she is willing to endure because of her love for him.

From 5:2, The bride has another dream of separation in which she, I believe, hesitates in answering her Beloved's knock and when she gets up to answer the door, He has left. (Other authors do not see her as hesitant). She dresses and goes out to search for Him. She calls for Him but He does not answer. The watchmen struck her, wounded her, and took away her shawl. This signifies persecution. She encounters the daughters of Jerusalem and describes her Beloved to them. In 5:16, *He is wholly desirable*.

Because of this beautiful description, the daughters of Jerusalem want to search for him also. Are we the people who love His presence and who long to be with Him? The maiden then remembers that he pastures his flock among the lilies. He is the Good Shepherd. Lilies refer to those who are pure in heart. She finds him and he extols her beauty again (6:4-10, 7:1-9).

From 6:4, *You are as beautiful as Tirzah, my darling, as lovely as Jerusalem, as awesome as an army with banners*. Others later said that she was, 6:10, *as awesome*

as an army with banners. The maiden (us) is still not mature yet but her Beloved and the others said she was *awesome as an army with banners.* What a thrill this must be to our hearts! The maiden had won the victory over her own heart and over compromise. We have the victory in Him the One who loves us in spite of our immaturity.

- **Mature love:**

Chapter 7:10-8:14. In 7:10 she now is assured of His love for her and says, “*I am my beloved’s and his desire is for me.*” In Hebrew, “desire” means “stretching out after, a yearning, a longing, in the context of love and joy.” Then **she says to him, because she knows his heart:** “*Come, my beloved, let us go out into the country. Let us spend the night in the villages...there I will give you my love.*” She knows he is always on the move, and she wants to go with him wherever he goes. This Scripture speaks to me every time I read it. Even though at this time in my life, I have gone overseas with my husband 70 times and now enjoy staying home, I realize He wants me to go again. I know His heart: it is always for the lost and those yearning to find Him wherever they may be. Am I still willing to be inconvenienced for Him? Will I give up my comforts? Do I really love Him? Father God gave His Son who gave His all. He wants a bride like His Son. Our sacrifice is so very little compared to what He did for us. What awaits us is glorious—time with Him in eternity.

The field of service begins in our family, job, church and neighborhood. It is where God has placed us for the time being. Villages speak of the small out of the way places where Jesus has an inheritance and desires to build His church. *Budding vines* have not yet borne fruit which speak of different people and ministries that need maturity and the witness that they too are an inheritance for the Son.

From 8:5, *Who is this coming up from the wilderness leaning on her beloved?* They are now one.

From 8:6, *Put me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm...* She is speaking to her Beloved. We know He never forgets us but we often need to be reminded and helped to have our heart sealed only for Him with no distractions.

Also from 8:6, *...for love is as strong as death, jealousy is as severe as Sheol; its flashes are flashes of fire.* The Holy Spirit is the all consuming fire. We should want this fiery zeal to consume us and not be diminished by circumstances. The Spirit will help us when this is our deep desire.

From 8:7, *Many waters (difficulties) cannot quench love, nor will rivers overflow it.* It is priceless but freely given from above.

Mike Bickle, of the International House of Prayer, heard the audible voice of the Lord in 1988 saying: He would release grace to walk in Song 8:6-7 across the body of Christ worldwide. The Lord is a jealous God and will pursue us until He has all our heart. Salvation is not enough. He wants us to receive His full love and give it back to Him as a Bride fit for His Son.

From 8:8, *We have a little sister...* This refers to the immature believer who needs help.

From 8:14, she says: “*Hurry my beloved.*” May we also be eager to be with the Lover of our soul, yet seeking fellowship and service wherever He calls us.

Resource books:

Song of Songs by Watchman Nee

The Secret of the Stairs by Wade Taylor

Union and Communion by Hudson Taylor

The King's Song for the Weary Warrior by Grace Tuls, free download from

www.remoteareaministries.org. This book was written as I studied to teach in the jungles of Burma years ago. It covers some of our experiences including Jack's brush with death from malaria.

Passion for Jesus by Mike Bickle

Song of Love by Gwen Shaw

Song of the Bride by Jeanne Guyon

The best book, I Grace, recommend is *The Song of Songs* by Mike Bickle, free to download at www.Mikebickle.org from International House of Prayer, Kansas City, Missouri. He goes into great detail which would encourage you mightily.

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