

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

PERIOD FIVE

PROVERBS, ECCLESIASTES, SONG OF SOLOMON

LESSON 25

We want to learn about

PROVERBS -

- *Who wrote Proverbs*
- *Outline of Proverbs*
- *Some wise words to young men, all people and kings and rulers*

We want to learn about

ECCLESIASTES -

- *Who wrote Ecclesiastes*
- *Why it was written*
- *Outline of Ecclesiastes*
- *How to have a happy life*

We want to learn about

SONG OF SOLOMON -

- *A king's love for his bride*
- *God's love for Israel*
- *Christ's love for the church*

1. PROVERBS

A. Introduction.

A proverb is a wise saying which has been used for a long time.

The book of Proverbs has groups of short wise sayings. These wise sayings teach us how to live pleasing to the Lord. Some of these sayings are short stories.

Some sayings have two or more sentences. Some have only one sentence. The proverb in Proverbs 18:7 has two parts in the sentence. Each part says the same thing in a different way. Example: "*A fool is his ruin, and his lips are the snare of his soul*" (New American Standard Bible).

Some sentences say opposite things. Example: Proverbs 14:1 says, "*The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish tears it down with her own hands*" (New American Standard Bible).

Some proverbs tell us what to do. Others tell us what not to do.

B. The writers of Proverbs.

Most of the proverbs in the first 29 chapters were written by Solomon. Those in chapters 1 to 24 were put together first. Later, Hezekiah had his men collect more of Solomon's proverbs. These are found in chapters 25 to 29.

The proverbs in chapter 30 are more like stories. They were written by Agur. The proverbs in chapter 31 also are like stories. They were written by Lemuel. We do not know when Agur or Lemuel lived.

C. Outline of Proverbs.

- Introduction, Proverbs 1:1-6.
- Wisdom and foolishness, Proverbs 1:7 - 9:18.
 - People should want wisdom, Proverbs 1:7 - 2:22.
 - Wisdom gives blessing, Proverbs 3:1-35.
 - Wisdom gives other things, Proverbs 4:1-27.
 - Foolishness is dangerous, Proverbs 5:1 - 7:27.
 - Wisdom is like a person, Proverbs 8:1 - 9:18.
- Right and wrong living, Proverbs 10:1 - 22:16.
 - Right and wrong living, Proverbs 10:1 - 15:33.
 - Fearing and obeying the Lord, Proverbs 16:1 - 22:16.
- Words of the wise, Proverbs 22:17 - 29:27.

- The ways of wisdom and foolishness, Proverbs 22:17 - 24:22.
- Warnings against sin, Proverbs 24:23 - 29:27.
- Words of Agur, Proverbs 30:1-33.
- Words of Lemuel, Proverbs 31:1-31.

D. Lessons in Proverbs.

READ PROVERBS 1, 2, 3, 14, 15, 22, 23, 30, 31. READ the whole book of Proverbs if you can.

1. The opening.

Proverbs 1, verses 1 to 6 tell us why these proverbs were written.

Proverbs 1:3 tells us that proverbs teach us to be wise. They teach us what is right and honest. Proverbs help us to choose what is right. They teach us how to live good lives.

Proverbs 1:4 tells us that proverbs help people. The proverbs tell them how to be wise. All young people should read the book of Proverbs.

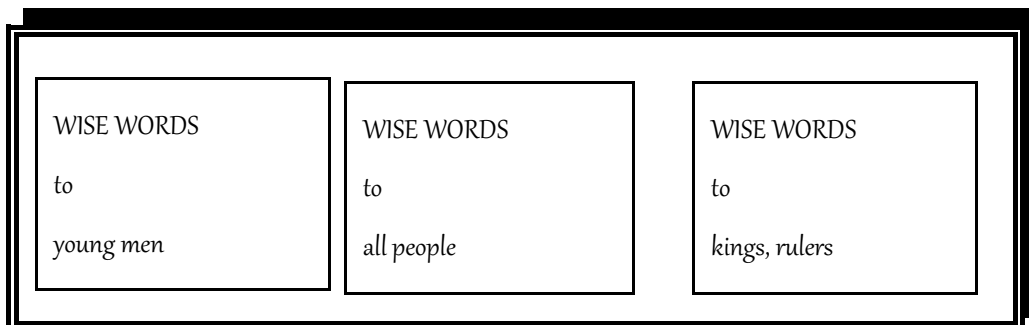
Proverbs 1:5 tells us a wise man will listen to proverbs. He will learn from them. The understanding man will go to them for help.

The book of Proverbs helps us today like it helped those who lived long ago.

2. The three most important parts.

What is the beginning of knowledge (Proverbs 1:7)?

What does a fool do (Proverbs 1:7)?



- **Wise words for young men**, Proverbs 1 to 10.

What should a young man do when sinners want him to do wrong (Proverbs 1:10)?

What does understanding do for a young man (Proverbs 2:11,12)?

What must we do if we want the Lord to guide us (Proverbs 3:5,6)?

- **Wise words to all people**, Proverbs 11 to 20.

What will a wise woman do (Proverbs 14:1)?

What will a foolish woman do (Proverbs 14:1)?

What does a man who gets angry quickly do (Proverbs 15:18)?

What should a man want more than riches (Proverbs 22:1)?

What will happen to a child who is taught to do right (Proverbs 22:6)?

How will discipline help a child (Proverbs 23:13,14)?

What does a fool do (Proverbs 29:11)?

What does a wise man do?

- **Wise words for kings and rulers.**

What should kings and rulers not use (Proverbs 31:4)?

2. ECCLESIASTES

A. Introduction.

Ecclesiastes means preacher.

Ecclesiastes tells us that the preacher was the son of David. The book tells us that he was also the king of Jerusalem. This makes us believe the preacher was Solomon. After reading Ecclesiastes, some think that the writer did not really know God. He was not happy with his life. We might ask, "Why would Solomon write a book like this?" In the last years of his life, Solomon turned to other gods. He turned away from God. This may be why he wrote the way he did.

Many people today feel the same as Solomon felt. They have worked hard. They have all they want in this world. Yet, they are not happy. People today still look for something to make them happy. READ ECCLESIASTES 2:1-14.

The words "vanity" and "vain" are used many times in this book. These words mean "There is nothing to live for. Everything is just like so much wind."

The words "under the sun" are also used. These words mean "on the earth".

B. Outline of Ecclesiastes.

- Introduction, Ecclesiastes 1:1-11.
 - The reason for writing, Ecclesiastes 1:1-3.
 - The things of life happen over and over again, Ecclesiastes 1:4-11.
- A look at the things in the world, Ecclesiastes 1:12 - 3:22.
 - Looking for wisdom of the world, Ecclesiastes 1:12-18.
 - Looking for the pleasures of the world, Ecclesiastes 2:1-11.
 - A wise man plans for tomorrow but does not know what will happen, Ecclesiastes 2:12-23.
 - The creation shows God's wisdom, Ecclesiastes 2:24 - 3:15.
 - People will have to give an answer to God, Ecclesiastes 3:16-22.
- A look at people's lives, Ecclesiastes 4:1 - 7:29.
 - The life of those oppressed (put-down) is hard, Ecclesiastes 4:1-16.
 - The life of the religious and rich is not satisfying, Ecclesiastes 5:1-17.
 - The life that makes a person happy comes from God, Ecclesiastes 5:18 - 6:12.
 - The suffering life can be made strong, Ecclesiastes 7:1-29.

- A look at wisdom, Ecclesiastes 8:1 - 12:1.
 - People know only what is in this life, Ecclesiastes 8:1-17.
 - People should be able to be happy in this life, Ecclesiastes 9:1-12.
 - People are helped by God's wisdom, Ecclesiastes 9:13 - 10:20.
 - Wise words to the young people, Ecclesiastes 11:1 - 12:1.
- A look at the end of life, Ecclesiastes 12:2-14.

C. Important in Ecclesiastes.

LIFE WITHOUT GOD IS VANITY	LIFE WITH GOD IS HAPPINESS
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READ ECCLESIASTES CHAPTER 12.

What are we to do (Ecclesiastes 12:1)?

What are we to do (Ecclesiastes 12:13)?

Why are we to do this (Ecclesiastes 12:14)?

We need God in our lives before we can be happy in this life. Life has no meaning without God. Jesus said in John 10:10, *"I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly"* (New American Standard Bible)

3. SONG OF SOLOMON

READ SONG OF SOLOMON.

The Song of Solomon is believed to be written by Solomon.

The Song of Solomon is also called the Song of Songs. This book is a story of a king's

love for his bride. He tells of his love for his bride and his bride's love for him. He tells of how his bride misses him when he is away. The end of the song tells how happy they are when they come together.

The Jewish people read this song during the Passover. The Jewish people see this song as a picture of God's love for the people of Israel. It also shows the love of the people of Israel for God. The Jews see the people of Israel as being God's wife, Isaiah 54:5,6.

The New Testament tells of the Church as being the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-27; 2 Corinthians 11:2). Song of Solomon could be a picture of the Church's love for Christ. The song could also be a picture of a Christian's love for Christ. There are many times when we, as Christians, feel Christ is far from us. We long for Him. When He shows Himself to us, we have great joy. We should look for the time when Christ will come to take us home to be with Him, Titus 2:13.

WORDS TO LEARN

1. knowledge - what a person knows.
2. opposite - very different; example- light is opposite to darkness.
3. oppressed - put down; when life is made hard.
4. proverb - a wise saying which has been used for a long time.
5. ruin - that which will destroy something or someone.
6. vain - is not worth anything, does not help.
7. vanity - that which is worth nothing.