

Nehemiah to Ecclesiastes

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NEHEMIAH

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Israel's History				
424 - 400 BC	Nehemiah 13 Chapters	Israel returns to build the Temple and the wall in Jerusalem	Nehemiah obtains permission to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. This is a fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy in Daniel 9:25-27.	In everything pray to God.	Jesus is the One who restores what is broken down

NEHEMIAH

1. Rebuilding the wall (Neh. 1–7)

Nehemiah gets permission to rebuild the wall in Jerusalem (Neh. 1–2)

City wall construction begins (Neh. 3)

Enemies threaten construction (Neh. 4)

Nehemiah alleviates pressure on the poor (Neh. 5)

The wall is completed despite the enemies' plots (Neh. 6)

Nehemiah numbers the people (Neh. 7)

NEHEMIAH

2. Remembering the law (Neh. 8–13)

Ezra reads the law to the people (Neh 8: 1–12)

Israel reinstates the Feast of Booths
(Neh. 8: 13–18)

Israel confesses sin and rededicates itself to God
(Neh. 9–10)

Census of the Jews in the land (Neh. 11–12: 26)

The people worship on the wall (Neh. 12: 27–47)

Nehemiah keeps aligning the people to God's
law (Neh. 13)

NEHEMIAH

In chapters 1-7, Nehemiah recounts the events of his temporary return to Jerusalem from Persia as governor. Nehemiah leads and directs the project; each family built the section of the wall directly in front of their houses, and with hard work, the wall was astonishingly completed within 52 days.

This method allowed the remnant to feel an identity and uniqueness in their part of repairing the walls of Jerusalem.

NEHEMIAH

Neh. 1: 3

3 They said to me, “The remnant there in the province who survived the captivity are in great distress and reproach, and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates are burned with fire.”

Neh. 5: 15-16

15 So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of *the month* Elul, in fifty-two days.

16 When all our enemies heard *of it*, and all the nations surrounding us saw *it*, they lost their confidence; for they recognized that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.

NEHEMIAH

Chapters 8-13 cover the time when Israel reestablished itself again as a nation, after the long period of the exile in Babylon.

Ezra led all the Jews in a renewal ceremony.

This incorporated a public teaching of the Law, in which it was read and explained. For example, the recognition of the Sabbath Day was reinstated.

They understood that if they were to survive they must remember and obey God's Laws.

NEHEMIAH

Neh. 8: 1

1 And all the people gathered as one man at the square which was in front of the Water Gate, and they asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses which the Lord had given to Israel.

Neh. 8: 8

8 They read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading.

NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah established policies and addressed the issue of mixed marriages, then condemns it. One of the main concerns was that the mixed marriage families were not teaching their children the Hebrew language, “*the language of Judah*”.

Neh. 13: 23-24

23 In those days I also saw that the Jews had married women from Ashdod, Ammon *and* Moab.

24 As for their children, half spoke in the language of Ashdod, and none of them was able to speak the language of Judah, but the language of his own people.

NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah was a contemporary of Ezra. While Ezra was a scribe and a priest, Nehemiah was neither. Rather, he was a cupbearer to king Artaxerxes (464-424 B.C.).

Nehemiah received a report from his brothers that Jerusalem was in bad shape. The people were in distress and reproach. The walls of Jerusalem were broken down and its gates were burnt with fire.

Nehemiah prayed. God listened.

NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah (his name meaning "comfort of Jehovah") wrote the history of his connection with the remnants which returned to Jerusalem. He followed Ezra by about thirteen years in going to Jerusalem, stirred through news he had received of the decayed condition of the city. God gave him favor with Artaxerxes, king of Persia. He obtained authority to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

A man of faith, energy and a capable administrator, he was able to organize the Jews to rebuild the wall and implored them to be willing both to work and to fight for God's interests in the city.

His firm decisions, his wise avoidance of the enemy's cunning snares, and his short, earnest prayers to God were inspiring to the Israelites.

NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah recorded the reconstruction of the wall of Jerusalem, Judah's capital city. Together, he and Ezra, who led the spiritual revival of the people, directed the political and religious restoration of the Jews in their homeland after the Babylonian captivity.

Nehemiah's life provided a fine study on leadership. He overcame opposition from outsiders as well as internal turmoil. He exercised his administrative skills in his strategy to use half the people for building while the other half kept watch for the Samaritans who, under Sanballat, threatened attack (Nehemiah 4–7).

As governor, Nehemiah negotiated peace among the Jews who were unhappy with Persian taxes. He exhibited a steadfast determination to complete his goals. Accomplishing those goals resulted in a people encouraged, renewed, and excited about their future.

NEHEMIAH

Under Nehemiah's leadership, the Jews withstood opposition and came together to accomplish their goal.

Nehemiah led by example, giving up a respected position in a palace for hard labor in a politically insignificant district.

He partnered with Ezra, who also appears in this book, to solidify the political, moral and spiritual foundations for the Israelites.

Nehemiah's humility before God (see his moving intercessory prayers in chapters 1 and 9) provided an example for the Jews.

He did not claim glory for himself but always gave God the credit for his successes.

NEHEMIAH

The book of Nehemiah reveals to us the kind of significant impact one individual can have on a nation.

Nehemiah served in secular offices, using his position to bring back to the Jews order, stability, and a proper focus on God.

God uses all manner of people, in all manner of places, to do all manner of work.

NEHEMIAH

God has placed you, as a Christian, where you are for a purpose. The attitude of a Christian should be one of thanks.

Col. 3: 17

17 Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah was a man of prayer and he prayed passionately for his people (Neh. 1).

His zealous intercession for God's people foreshadowed our great Intercessor, Jesus Christ, who prayed fervently for His people in His high-priestly prayer in John 17.

Both Nehemiah and Jesus had a burning love for God's people, which they poured out in prayer to God, interceding for them before the throne.

NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah spurred the Israelites to respect and love Scripture.

Nehemiah, because of his love for God and his desire to see God honored and glorified, led the Israelites towards the faith and obedience God had desired for them for so long.

NEHEMIAH

In the same way, Christians are to love and revere the truths of Scripture. They are to read, pray, ask for wisdom and understanding, meditate on Scripture day and night, and turn to it for the fulfillment of every spiritual need.

2 Tim. 3: 16-17

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

NEHEMIAH

Every Christian ought to have a genuine compassion for others who have a spiritual or physical need.

At times we may have to give up our own comfort in order to minister properly to others.

When we allow God to minister through us, even unbelievers will know it is God's work.

LESSONS IN NEHEMIAH

1. Pray to God.

Nehemiah received bad news from his brothers and some other men who had traveled to Jerusalem and back. They told him the walls were broken, the gates were burned and the people were in great trouble.

Nehemiah was heartbroken by this circumstance, but he didn't rage about it to others or jump immediately into action. Instead, he fasted and prayed.

Christians should use pray to communicate to God, the Father, through Jesus, in order to seek His help.

LESSONS IN NEHEMIAH

2. Align yourself with God.

One of the powerful messages of Nehemiah is how much you can accomplish when you align yourself with the will and plan of God.

Nehemiah and his followers did what seemed to be the impossible because they were doing what God had called them to do.

Christians should wake up each day and make the most of their time with others.

God is calling on Christians to do His will.

LESSONS IN NEHEMIAH

3. God's plans are bigger and better than you can imagine.

Nehemiah asked God to give him favor with the king. He then approached the king and asked to be allowed to go to Jerusalem and attend to the work of rebuilding the wall. The king granted his request and provided him with a wide range of resources, including letters documenting the king's support and items for rebuilding.

Christians should not be afraid to approach God with their requests.

Know that He will answer in His own way, but that He is capable of everything you could imagine and more.

LESSONS IN NEHEMIAH

4. God's plans are different for every person.

Just look at the two men who rebuilt the Temple and the wall around Jerusalem.

Ezra also has support from the king, but he came with many people who were ready to take up leadership roles under Ezra's guidance in reestablishing the Law.

Nehemiah started out with the support of a king, but led the people in rebuilding the wall.

Each man faced different challenges and was given unique resources.

Christians should not expect that God will do for you what He has done for others.

God doesn't treat His children as if they were all the same.

His plan for you is different. God's grace, given freely, is sufficient. What He provides to each person is unique.

LESSONS IN NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah is a book especially helpful to us in our own day and in our Christian walk of life.

It illustrates the fact that true devotedness to God on the part of His saints, and their purpose of heart to build a wall of separation from the world and its evils, will meet with bitter opposition from the enemy.

Man's faith is precious to God.

ESTHER

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Israel's History				
450 - 431 BC	Esther 10 Chapters	God's providence and protection	God focuses on a very special woman whom He uses to save her people. Esther is used by God to stop Haman's plot to destroy the Jews.	There is a purpose in God's Plan.	Jesus is the protector of His people

ESTHER

Ahasuerus holds a feast and selects Esther as his queen (Esther 1–2).

Haman plots to destroy the Jews.

Ahasuerus promotes Haman, who plots to kill the Jews (Esther 3).

Esther must risk her life to intercede for the Jews (Esther 4–5: 8).

Haman plans to kill Mordecai (Esther 5: 9–14).

Esther foils Haman's plan.

Ahasuerus has Haman honor Mordecai instead (Esther 6).

Esther intercedes for the Jews and Haman is killed (Esther 7).

Ahasuerus promotes Mordecai, who delivers the Jews (Esther 8).

Esther and Mordecai institute the feast of Purim (Esther 9–10).

ESTHER

The Book of Esther is a fascinating story of:

Faith

Courage

Conviction

Betrayal

Politics

Plots of genocide

ESTHER

The book of Esther is a drama about how two Jews risked everything to save their people.

The story is set in Susa, the capital of the Persian Empire. The Jews were taken from their land to live as captives in Babylon for 70 years. God (via the Persian King Cyrus) had brought a remnant of His people back to their homeland, but not everyone had returned. The Jewish people, including a woman named Esther and her cousin Mordecai, remained scattered across the Middle Eastern world.

Although the Jews were enjoying a time of restoration, there were still those who wanted them all dead.

ESTHER

The book of Esther was written to display the providence of God! When Esther was selected as queen, it was to save the lives of the Jewish people. In order to bring about their salvation, Mordecai had to be in the right place at the right time so he could hear about the plot to kill the king.

Esther 4: 14

14 “For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?”

ESTHER

While the primary purpose of the book of Esther was to relate the dramatic origins of the feast of Purim, a greater theme shines through the story.

The sovereignty and faithfulness of God is displayed in the book of Esther.

ESTHER

The book of Esther never mentions God by name. It deals exclusively with God's working through the lives of people.

It is the story of a Jewish girl who became the queen of Persia.

It is the story of a good man who was hated without cause.

It is the story of a wicked man whose schemes backfired.

It is an ancient account of how God saved the Jews from destruction.

The Jewish "Feast of Purim" celebrates the saving of the Jews by Esther.

ESTHER

The feast of Purim - The day of deliverance became a day of feasting and rejoicing among the Jews.

Exchanging gifts of food and drink with each other.

Donating to the poor.

Eating a celebratory meal with others.

Public recitation of the Scroll of Esther.

Praying and giving thanks to God.

ESTHER

Esther 8: 17

17 In each and every province and in each and every city, wherever the king's commandment and his decree arrived, there was gladness and joy for the Jews, a feast and a holiday. And many among the peoples of the land became Jews, for the dread of the Jews had fallen on them.

ESTHER

Esther means "I will be hidden," and the book deals with the Jews during the time of their captivity, outside their own land, hidden among the nations, yet cared for by God whom they had disobeyed.

These Israelites chose to remain in Persia despite the fact that God had opened the way for them to return to Jerusalem.

God's overruling hand of mercy and protection was seen here. It showed the children of Israel that God was still watching after them.

ESTHER

Esther herself may remind us of the beauty that God sees in His people.

Mordecai is a type of Christ when he protects the Gentile king from those who plotted his death.

Jesus extends to Christians the opportunity to have Eternal Life through His death on the cross.

ESTHER

In Esther, we are given a behind-the-scenes look at the ongoing struggle of Satan against the purposes of God and especially against His promised Messiah.

The entrance of Christ into the human race was predicated upon the existence of the Jewish race.

Haman plotted against the Jews in order to destroy them. Satan set himself against Christ and God's people.

Haman was killed on the gallows he built for Mordecai. Christ used the cross, the very weapon that his enemy devised to destroy Him, as a means for salvation.

ESTHER

The cross, by which Satan planned to destroy the Messiah, was the very means through which Christ “having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross”.

Jesus disarmed the powers and authorities. He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. Just as Haman was hanged on the gallows he built for Mordecai, so the devil was crushed by the cross he erected to destroy Christ.

Col. 2: 13-15

13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

ESTHER

The Book of Esther shows the choice we make between seeing the hand of God in our circumstances in life and seeing things as merely coincidence.

God is the sovereign Ruler of the universe and we can be assured that His plans will not be moved by the actions of mere evil men.

ESTHER

Esther proved to have a godly and teachable spirit that also showed great strength and willing obedience.

Esther's humility was markedly different from the attitude of those around her, and this caused her to be elevated into the position of queen. She shows us that remaining respectful and humble, even in difficult, if not humanly impossible circumstances, often sets us up to be the vessels of untold blessings for both ourselves and others.

We would do well to emulate her godly attitudes in all areas of life, but especially in trials.

ESTHER

1. God works behind the scenes.

The main theme in the book of Esther is that God is working behind the scenes.

There was a divine purpose for all the decisions and details documented in this story, yet none of that becomes apparent until the end.

God was arranging all these “secular” events to bring about His divine purpose to save the Jews.

ESTHER

2. All things work together for good to those who love the Lord.

Things turned out really well for Mordecai and real poorly for Haman.

The text does not explicitly say that Mordecai loved God, but we do see him adopting his younger cousin when she lost her parents (Esther 2: 7), grieving and mourning at the news of the pending Jewish extermination (Esther 4: 1-2), exhorting Esther to intervene (Esther 4: 13-14), and fasting (Esther 4: 15-17).

Mordecai was not only used to save the Jewish people, but he also was promoted to a position of prominence in the Persian kingdom.

ESTHER

2. All things work together for good to those who love the Lord.

Esther 2: 7

7 He was bringing up Hadassah, that is Esther, his uncle's daughter, for she had no father or mother. Now the young lady was beautiful of form and face, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

Esther 4: 1-2

1 When Mordecai learned all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city and wailed loudly and bitterly.

2 He went as far as the king's gate, for no one was to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth.

Esther 4: 13-14

13 Then Mordecai told *them* to reply to Esther, "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews.

14 "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"

Esther 4: 15-17

15 Then Esther told *them* to reply to Mordecai,

16 "Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish."

17 So Mordecai went away and did just as Esther had commanded him.

ESTHER

3. The Jews, as God's people, were often persecuted.

A. Haman had an intense hatred for the Jews. He wanted to exterminate them. It was illogical and irrational. It was evil. It was only when Haman “learned of Mordecai’s ethnic identity” that “it seemed repugnant to (him) to do away with Mordecai alone. He planned to destroy all of Mordecai’s people, the Jews”.

Esther 3: 5-6

5 When Haman saw that Mordecai neither bowed down nor paid homage to him, Haman was filled with rage.

6 But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him *who* the people of Mordecai *were*; therefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, who *were* throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.

ESTHER

3. The Jews, as God's people, were often persecuted.

B. The law drawn up by Haman told the officials to “destroy, kill, and annihilate all the Jewish people — young and old, women and children”.

Esther 3: 13

13 Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces to destroy, to kill and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth *day* of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to seize their possessions as plunder.

ESTHER

4. Promotion comes from God.

Both Esther and Mordecai were promoted (Esther 2: 17; 8: 1-2). Neither individual, formally or informally, sought their position.

God orchestrated the events to put Esther and Mordecai in the places of prominence where they could be used by Him to accomplish His purpose.

ESTHER

Esther 2: 17

17 The king loved Esther more than all the women, and she found favor and kindness with him more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

Esther 8: 1-2

1 On that day King Ahasuerus gave the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews, to Queen Esther; and Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had disclosed what he was to her.

2 The king took off his signet ring which he had taken away from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

ESTHER

Life can be hard. Difficult times happen, and pain cannot be avoided.

When life doesn't make sense, do you turn to God or away from Him?

The book of Esther gives us an idea of what faith looks like when it's played out, and challenges us with the question: is my faith as evident as Esther's and Mordecai's? 47

ESTHER

Jesus called us “friends”, and the Spirit is our “Helper”.

John 15: 15

15 “No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.

John 14: 26

26 “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

Trust and obey, as Esther did. God will silently weave all events for His glory and for your good.

JOB

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Poetry				
unknown date approx 2100 BC	Job 42 Chapters	The righteous are purified by trials	God permits trials to purify Job. Three of his four friends give bad counsel to Job. Elihu gives sound advice. God restores Job's material wealth.	Suffering may come for a while, but at the end of suffering, God grants His favor and grace.	Jesus is the Mediator between God and man

JOB

In chapters 1-3, God tests Job's faithfulness through allowing Satan to attack him.

Through Job's trials, all is lost including his health, his wife even tells him to curse God and commit suicide, but he remains strong and faithful.

JOB

Job 1: 20-22

20 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped.

21 He said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, And naked I shall return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.”

22 Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.

JOB

In chapters 4-37, Job's friends give him plenty of bad advice, in rounds of discussion.

They mistakenly blame his sufferings on his personal sins rather than God testing and growing Job.

One of them was half-correct in that God wanted to humble him, but this was only a part of God's test.

JOB

In chapters 38-42, God speaks to Job and restores him.

God knows that Job has received incorrect guidance from his friends.

God fittingly declares that humans do not know everything. Then He humbles Job by asking a series of questions that could never be answered by anyone other than Almighty God.

God then brings him to an understanding that believers don't always know what God is doing in their lives.

God then blessed Job with twice as much as he had before his trials began.

JOB

Job (meaning "the cry of woe") is poetic. Job evidently lived about the time of Abraham.

Though the most righteous man on earth, he was allowed by God to suffer intensely under the hand of Satan.

His three friends assumed that to merit such suffering Job must have been guilty of flagrant hidden sin, and in their speeches, they seek, gently at first, then more cruelly, to extort some such confession from him. Job protests his own innocence and feels that God's dealings with him are without reason.

God teaches man wisdom in suffering through Job.

JOB

Nobody has it better than Job:

He's righteous

He's rich

He has a big happy family

Things abruptly change. In one day, his children die when a building collapses, his employees are slaughtered, and his cattle are stolen. Then, painful boils break out on his skin. Job loses everything, and is left wondering why.

The answer: **Someone wants to prove that Job will curse God.** This is the central conflict of the book.

It's Job's test: will he abandon his faith or remain loyal to God?

JOB

1. An adversary attacks Job.

God tells Satan that Job is a blameless and upright man, but the Satan points out that God has already blessed Job abundantly.

Then Satan argues that Job is just returning the favor, and asserts that Job would turn on God if his blessings were taken away.

God gives Satan a chance to prove it, and he immediately rips everything he can away from Job.

But Job does not curse God.

JOB

2. Job mourns while his friends accuse him.

Job's three friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, come to comfort him, and Job begins to lament his loss to them.

Job's friends tell him that this suffering must be brought on by Job's sin, and he should repent. Job argues back that he has not incurred any punishment. Job wishes he could plead his case to God.

Still, Job does not curse God.

Job and his friends go back and forth three times on this issue, and then a young bystander named Elihu jumps in.

Elihu, a younger man, speaks truly for God such words that so affect Job's conscience that he has no answer. Elihu is a definite type of Jesus, the Interpreter of God's ways.

JOB

3. God Himself answers Job.

After Elihu weighs in, God speaks to Job. God challenges Job's understanding by reminding Job of His wisdom, sovereignty, and power.

God points to many marvels of creation which demonstrate that the Creator's wisdom is higher than man's conception, and that in comparison, man's wisdom is pathetic ignorance.

4. Job is restored.

When God finishes, Job humbly concedes that God's will is unstoppable, and repents. God also reprimands Job's friends for misrepresenting Him.

Finally, God restores Job: he becomes twice as wealthy, he again is blessed with children, and he dies at a ripe old age.

JOB

The book of Job helps us:

- a. Understand God
- b. Understand His creation
- c. Understand our relationship with Him
- d. Understand how we should respond to Him
- e. Understand that we are to submit to the hand of God.

JOB

Job is not said to be Hebrew.

Uz is not in the land of Israel.

Lam. 4: 21

21 Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, Who dwells in the land of Uz;

Jer. 25: 19-20

19 Pharaoh king of Egypt, his servants, his princes and all his people;

20 and all the foreign people, all the kings of the land of Uz, all the kings of the land of the Philistines (even Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron and the remnant of Ashdod), **60**

JOB

Job makes sacrifices on behalf of others There is no mention of Levitical priests nor God's covenant law with Israel.

Job 1: 5

5 When the days of feasting had completed their cycle, Job would send and consecrate them, rising up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings *according to* the number of them all; for Job said, "Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.

JOB

Job focuses on God's role as sovereign creator.

The book of Job attests to God's creative power, wisdom, and authority.

God made the universe, we can trust that He knows how to rule it.

JOB

God is in control.

He restricts Satan during Job's testing.

Job 1: 12

12 Then the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of the Lord.

Job 2: 6

6 So the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life."

JOB

Job serves as an example of how the righteous are not immune to suffering.

James 5: 10-11

10 As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

11 We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and *is* merciful.

1 Peter 5: 8-9

8 Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

9 But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

JOB

1. Job Suffered while Innocent.

Job did not commit any sin that led to his suffering. On the contrary, Job's suffering came about as God allowed Satan to test his faith.

God allowed Satan to attack Job spiritually, emotionally, and physically, but never to the point of death.

Job did not curse God, but the day that he was born.

Job 3: 1

1 Afterward Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his *birth*.

JOB

2. Job Questioned God

Job's communicated to God with his prayer that is deep, intimate, and honest.

Job 7: 19-20

19 "Will You never turn Your gaze away from me, Nor let me alone until I swallow my spittle?"

20 "Have I sinned? What have I done to You, O watcher of men? Why have You set me as Your target, So that I am a burden to myself?"

As Christians, we can talk to God through prayer about things going well in our lives, and also our troubles. 66

JOB

3. Job's Loved Ones Didn't Help

Job's wife was the first to reveal her lack of faith in God.

Job 2: 9

9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!"

Job's three friends bear witness to his suffering and gave Job bad advise.

JOB

4. Job Was Restored

Job gained more than he lost. He was restored in all aspects of his life: health, family, finances.

God showed Job favor as he remained faithful in his belief. God love for Job was always present.

God does not allow sorrow for the sake of suffering. He allows us to experience trials to make us better people and expose weak areas in our lives

JOB

5. Job Kept His Faith

Job prayed, struggled, and eventually overcame. He never stopped having a relationship with God. Nor did he curse God as his wife encouraged him to do in the second chapter. Job's steadfast faith offers proof that no matter life's

Whether Christians are spiritually, emotionally, or physically stricken, they can keep their trust in God. He will at some point deliver them from their troubles, and make them better from the experience.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER IN JOB

Job 14: 4

4 “Who can make the clean out of the unclean? No one!

Sin separates man from God.

The answer to Job’s anguished question is found in Jesus Christ. He has paid the penalty for our sin and has exchanged it for His righteousness, thereby making us acceptable in God’s sight.

Heb, 10: 14

14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER IN JOB

Job 14: 10

10 “But man dies and lies prostrate. Man expires, and where is he?”

God's grace provides eternal life in heaven through Jesus Christ.

Rom. 6: 23

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER IN JOB

Job 14: 14

14 “If a man dies, will he live *again*? All the days of my struggle I will wait Until my change comes.

We live again if we are in Jesus Christ.

1 Cor. 15: 54-57

54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, “Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;

57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

JOB

The Book of Job teaches us to trust God under all circumstances.

Our responsibility to God is to obey Him, to trust Him, and to submit to His will, whether we understand it or not.

PSALMS

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Poetry				
1410 - 450 BC	Psalms 150 Chapters	Worship	The book is divided into five sections each of which is written by a variety of authors. The book covers a wide range of praise, confession and adoration to God.	We can relate personally with God.	Jesus is our song in the morning and in the night

PSALMS

The Book of Psalms is about God.

The abundance of references to God in the Psalms underscores the place of God in our singing. We come together to recount His mighty acts, to call upon Him in times of need, and to praise His name. God is our focus.

The Book of Psalms is part hymnbook, part prayer book, part wisdom literature, and part anthology of poems concerning Israel and God. Its subject matter is astonishingly broad.

Various writers inspired by God penned the Psalms. They are David, Asaph, Moses, Heman, Ethan and possibly other unknown.

Psalms

Major Categories

1. Wisdom
2. Nature
3. Words of God
4. Penitential
5. Worshiping
6. Suffering
7. Assurance
8. Praise
9. Royal

Psalms

God deserves praise.

God protects and rescues the righteous when they are in need.

God will bless the obedient and judge the disobedient.

God's revelation should be the foundation for worship.

Genuine worship entails a broad range of emotions that stem from experiences of life.

Psalms

Book One (Psalms 1–41) is mostly written by David, and focuses on God's ability to deliver those who fear Him. We see David pour out his heart to God, beg for protection, and ask for help against his enemies. This book has the feel of a one-on-one interaction with God. In Book One, we see *the Lord beside us* during times of trouble.

Book Two (Psalms 42–72) focuses on God as the mighty Judge and King. He is the executor of justice on all nations, and the rescuer of those who delight in Him. In Book Two, we see *the Lord going before us* to execute justice on His enemies.

Psalms

Book Three (Psalms 73–89) is mostly written by the sons of Asaph, a family devoted to leading the people in worship to God in His temple (1 Ch 25:1).

This book focuses on God's relationship with the whole nation of Israel, not just the psalmist. It emphasizes God's faithfulness—a faithfulness that spans generations.

In Book Three, we see *the Lord around us*, remaining faithful to His people through the generations.

Psalms

Book Four (Psalms 90–106) directs our eyes to the Lord who rules over all the earth. Several of these psalms begin with simply, “The Lord reigns,” or “Praise the Lord!” This part of Psalms shows *the Lord above us*, the kind and righteous God who deserves our worship and praise.

Book Five (Psalms 107–150), we are called to thank Him. He’s the Savior, deliverer, and God of all. In Book Five, we see *the Lord among us*, in His temple with his people.

PSALMS

The Book of Psalms is a collection of prayers, poems, and hymns that focus the worshiper's thoughts on God in praise and adoration.

Parts of this book were used as a hymnal in the worship services of ancient Israel.

The musical heritage of the psalms is demonstrated by its title. It comes from a Greek word which means "a song sung to the accompaniment of a musical instrument."

PSALMS

God is the same Lord in all the psalms.

We respond to Him in different ways, according to the specific circumstances of our lives. What a marvelous God we worship, the psalmist declares, high and lifted up beyond our human experiences but also close enough to touch and who walks beside us along life's way.

We can bring all our feelings to God—no matter how negative or complaining they may be—and we can rest assured that He will hear and understand.

The psalmist teaches us that the most profound prayer of all is a cry for help as we find ourselves overwhelmed by the problems of life.

PSALMS

The book of Psalms expresses worship.

Psalms encourages its readers to praise God for who He is and what He has done. The Psalms illuminate the greatness of our God, affirm His faithfulness to us in times of trouble, and remind us of the absolute centrality of His Word. As the Psalms present a clear picture of God lovingly guiding His people, the responses of praise and worship to God are never far from the psalmists' pens.

The portrayal of worship in the Psalms offers us glimpse after glimpse of hearts devoted to God, individuals repentant before Him, and lives changed through encounters with Him.

PSALMS

God's provision of a Savior for His people is a recurring theme in the Psalms. Prophetic pictures of the Messiah are seen in numerous psalms.

Psalm 2: 1-12 portrays the Messiah's triumph and kingdom.

Psalm 2 - Those who plot against God's elect incite God's wrath. The Lord, not human beings, anointed Israel's king and elected this nation for His plan of salvation.

Psalm 16: 8-11 foreshadows His death and resurrection.

Psalm 16 - The psalm praises the Lord for numerous earthly blessings but moves toward a climactic expression of hope for life in God's presence beyond the grave.

PSALMS

God's provision of a Savior for His people is a recurring theme in the Psalms. Prophetic pictures of the Messiah are seen in numerous psalms.

Psalm 22 shows us the suffering Savior on the cross and presents detailed prophecies of the crucifixion, all of which were fulfilled perfectly.

Psalm 22 - facing great opposition, the psalmist initially feels that God has forsaken him and is ignoring his prayers. After remembering God's faithfulness and deliverance, he believes that God will deliver him and commits himself to telling that message to others.

PSALMS

God's provision of a Savior for His people is a recurring theme in the Psalms. Prophetic pictures of the Messiah are seen in numerous psalms.

The glories of the Messiah and His bride are on exhibit in Psalm 45: 6-7.

Psalm 45 - The psalmist uses a royal wedding to portray our King, who is God, and the fulfillment of His kingdom in His Son.

PSALMS

God's provision of a Savior for His people is a recurring theme in the Psalms. Prophetic pictures of the Messiah are seen in numerous psalms.

Psalms 72:6-17, 89:3-37, 110:1-7 and 132:12-18 present the glory and universality of His reign.

Psalm 72 - Possibly a coronation psalm for Solomon, pleading for God's help. The psalmist realizes that even the best of the Davidic kings fell short of the ideal.

Psalm 89 - Speaks primarily of David, who enjoyed God's faithfulness (vs. 2, 24) and promises. Even when David sinned and felt the weight of God's Law (vs. 38–47), he still relied completely upon God. "How long, O LORD?" (vs. 46) easily comes to the lips of all who, because of their sins, have suffered under the weight of God's Law.

Psalm 110 - A royal psalm in which the Lord addresses the king. The world looks for the visible manifestation of God. David sees that manifestation prophetically in one of his future descendants: Jesus.

Psalm 132 - One of David's sons, the Anointed One, will be enthroned forever. He will clothe His people with righteousness and salvation. This psalm curses the enemies of God's Anointed, and He will "clothe [them] with shame" (v 18).

PSALMS

Thank God for allowing you to express your deepest emotions to Him.

Psalm 1 - The first psalm shows us the destiny of both the righteous and the wicked. The wicked will, at the final judgment, find themselves alienated from God and, ultimately, inheritors of eternal damnation. No one is exempt from this most frightening fate. God has provided the way of righteousness.

Psalm 150 - A tenfold “hallelujah!” in the heavens and in the place of worship, with every musical instrument; everything that breathes should praise the Lord because of His mighty deeds and His “excellent greatness”!

PSALMS

Psalms 1: 1 -6

1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.

3 He will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

4 The wicked are not so, But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.

5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish.

PSALMS

Psalms 150: 1-6

1 Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty expanse.

2 Praise Him for His mighty deeds; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness.

3 Praise Him with trumpet sound; Praise Him with harp and lyre.

4 Praise Him with timbrel and dancing; Praise Him with stringed instruments and pipe.

5 Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with resounding cymbals.

6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!

PSALMS

If you are hurting, use Psalms 13 as a guide and write your own lament to God.

Psalm 13 - In moments of fear and frustration, our prayers can easily slip into blaming God for our problems.

Asking “How long, O LORD?” (v 1) is okay.

The psalm ends with confidence in the Lord.

PSALMS

Psalms 13: 1-6

1 How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me?

2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul, *Having* sorrow in my heart all the day? How long will my enemy be exalted over me?

3 Consider *and* answer me, O Lord my God; Enlighten my eyes, or I will sleep the *sleep of* death,

4 And my enemy will say, “I have overcome him,” *And* my adversaries will rejoice when I am shaken.

5 But I have trusted in Your lovingkindness; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

6 I will sing to the Lord, Because He has dealt bountifully with me.

PSALMS

If you are rejoicing, meditate on Psalms 30 and echo the praise found there.

Psalm 30 - David summarizes his feelings and God's response in v 5.

Trusting in God's deliverance, David knows that the sorrow he feels will be replaced with joy as God comforts him.

PSALMS

Psalms 30: 1-12

1 I will extol You, O Lord, for You have lifted me up, And have not let my enemies rejoice over me.

2 O Lord my God, I cried to You for help, and You healed me.

3 O Lord, You have brought up my soul from Sheol; You have kept me alive, that I would not go down to the pit.

4 Sing praise to the Lord, you His godly ones, And give thanks to His holy name.

5 For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime; Weeping may last for the night, But a shout of joy comes in the morning.

6 Now as for me, I said in my prosperity, “I will never be moved.”

Psalms

7 O Lord, by Your favor You have made my mountain to stand strong; You hid Your face, I was dismayed.

8 To You, O Lord, I called, And to the Lord I made supplication:

9 “What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise You? Will it declare Your faithfulness?”

10 “Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me; O Lord, be my helper.”

11 You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have loosed my sackcloth and girded me with gladness,

12 That *my* soul may sing praise to You and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever.

PSALMS

In the Psalms, we find Jesus Christ's own feelings, in concern for the glory of God and for the blessing of souls; in suffering as the lowly Man of sorrows, as persecuted by men; in suffering the anguish of the cross, the forsaking of God; in the joyous results of that cross; of anger; against the wickedness of man. To consider His feelings is a balm for the feelings of our own hearts.

The Psalms are written from a Jewish point of view, and the blessing of Israel, together with her afflictions, sorrows, and chastening, is most prominent in the book.

PROVERBS

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Poetry				
971 - 686 BC	Proverbs 31 Chapters	Godly wisdom	This book is about practical wisdom. It provides counsel and guidance for righteous living.	Wisdom comes from living righteously.	Jesus is our wisdom

PROVERBS

Proverbs is known for short instructions for living an effective life.

Proverbs emphasizes:

- a. Listening to those who have gone before you, such as parents, teachers and older people.
- b. Display humility.

PROVERBS

Proverbs is also poetic book, written by King Solomon in his younger years, a book of wise instruction in reference to every department of personal life and conduct.

Its warnings against evils are accompanied by instruction as to the means of avoiding these evils.

It presents things in their true light, so that the reader may form a proper and clear judgment.

It goes to the root of matters and shows the motives that produce certain actions, thus exposing the reader the actual workings of his own heart.

It deals with the thoughts, the mouth, the lips, the tongue, the ear, the eye, the hand, the foot, as all connected with the conduct of the individual.

It shows faithfully the results of thoughts, words, or actions, good or bad; that is, the reaping of what is sown.

It teaches that only the true knowledge of the Lord Himself can preserve the soul in ways of truth.

PROVERBS

**In the first several chapters of Proverbs,
Solomon personifies “wisdom”.**

Depicting “wisdom” as a woman.

In all her glory as well as the inverse...

PROVERBS

1. Choose wisdom! (1–9)
 - a. The excellence of wisdom (1–4)
 - b. Drawbacks of folly (5–7)
 - c. Wisdom calls (8–9)
2. Wisdom vs folly (10–18)
3. Life principles (19–24)
4. Wickedness, righteousness, and similarities (25–29)
5. Misc. advice (30–31 (An illustration of the life of one who has found wisdom))

PROVERBS

The book of Proverbs was written to make it's readers wise.

This wisdom, though, is not just an accumulation of knowledge and information, it is applied knowledge, centered around the fear of the Lord.

Pro. 3: 7

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and turn away from evil.

PROVERBS

It is a recognition that God has set certain parameters in the world.

If we live His way, the way of wisdom, we will be blessed and successful. If we reject the way God has delineated life should be, we will become foolish and hurt ourselves and others.

Pro. 10: 27

27 The fear of the Lord prolongs life, But the years of the wicked will be shortened.

PROVERBS

The book of Proverbs is a source of practical wisdom for living a life that pleases God.

It covers so many topics, there is not a situation in life that cannot be addressed by at least one of these proverbs.

Taking to heart, its instruction will result in healthier relationships, honest and productive business dealings, rewarding community experiences, and a moral life.

PROVERBS

Pro. 1: 1-7

1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:

2 To know wisdom and instruction, To discern the sayings of understanding,

3 To receive instruction in wise behavior, Righteousness, justice and equity;

4 To give prudence to the naive, To the youth knowledge and discretion,

5 A wise man will hear and increase in learning, And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel,

6 To understand a proverb and a figure, The words of the wise and their riddles.

7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

PROVERBS

The theme of wisdom and its necessity in our lives finds its fulfillment in Christ. We are continually exhorted in Proverbs to seek wisdom, get wisdom, and understand wisdom.

Proverbs also tells us—and repeats it—that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Pro. 1:7; 9:10).

Our fear of the Lord's wrath and justice is what drives us to Christ, who is the embodiment of God's wisdom as expressed in His glorious plan of redemption for mankind.

PROVERBS

In Christ, “in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Col.2: 3). We find the answer to our search for wisdom, the remedy for our fear of God, and the “righteousness, holiness and redemption” that we so desperately need (1 Cor. 1: 30).

The wisdom that is found only in Christ is in contrast to the foolishness of the world which encourages us to be wise in our own eyes.

Proverbs also tells us that the world’s way is not God’s way (Pro. 3: 7), and leads only to death (Pro. 14: 12; 16: 25).

PROVERBS

1. Seek godly wisdom.

This is the exhortation from the very first chapter, both from parents (Pro. 1: 8), and from wisdom herself (Pro. 1: 20, 33).

Pro. 1: 8

8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction And do not forsake your mother's teaching;

Pro. 1: 20

20 Wisdom shouts in the street, She lifts her voice in the square;

Pro. 1: 33

33 "But he who listens to me shall live securely And will be at ease from the dread of evil."

The innumerable number of proverbs in this book is also an indirect call for the pursuit of wisdom.

These proverbs are meant to be read, considered, meditated upon, applied, and read again.

PROVERBS

2. Fear the Lord.

A. True wisdom is associated with the “fear of the Lord”.

Pro. 1: 7

7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Pro. 9: 10

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

There will be consequences for the man or woman who lives their life apart from wisdom. To fear these consequences is to fear the Lord.

PROVERBS

2. Fear the Lord.

B. The Lord, Himself, created the world through wisdom.

Pro. 3: 19

19 The Lord by wisdom founded the earth, By understanding He established the heavens.

PROVERBS

2. Fear the Lord.

C. The one who fears the Lord will have a “strong confidence” and will be considered a “fountain of life”.

Pro. 14: 26-27

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

27 The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, That one may avoid the snares of death.

PROVERBS

3. *Be teachable.*

There's a lot to learn in the book of Proverbs!

A. In order to gain wisdom, one must have a heart that is willing to learn and accept God's truth.

Pro. 1: 28-33

28 “Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently but they will not find me,

29 Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the Lord.

30 “They would not accept my counsel, They spurned all my reproof.

31 “So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way And be satiated with their own devices.

32 “For the waywardness of the naive will kill them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them.

33 “But he who listens to me shall live securely And will be at ease from the dread of evil.”

PROVERBS

3. *Be teachable.*

B. Over and over again, the reader is exhorted to “Listen”

Pro. 1: 8

8 Hear, my son, your father’s instruction And do not forsake your mother’s teaching;

C. “Accept my words”

Pro. 2: 11

11 My son, if you will receive my words And treasure my commandments within you,

D. “Don’t forget my teaching”

Pro. 3: 1

1 My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments;

PROVERBS

3. *Be teachable.*

E. “Pay attention”

Pro. 4: 20

20 My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.

F. “Listen closely”

Pro. 5: 1

1 My son, give attention to my wisdom, Incline your ear to my understanding;

PROVERBS

3. *Be teachable.*

G. There are many proverbs which encourage a willingness to listen to instruction, among them are:

Pro. 11: 14 Where there is no guidance the people fall, But in abundance of counselors there is victory.

Pro. 12: 1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, But he who hates reproof is stupid.

Pro. 13: 1 A wise son *accepts his father's* discipline, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

Pro. 15: 31 He whose ear listens to the life-giving reproof Will dwell among the wise.

32 He who neglects discipline despises himself, But he who listens to reproof acquires understanding.

Pro. 19: 20 Listen to counsel and accept discipline, That you may be wise the rest of your days.

PROVERBS

4. *Don't be foolish.*

As much as Proverbs advocates acquiring wisdom, it warns against living like a fool.

A fool:

A. Brings destruction through his speech

Pro. 10: 14 Wise men store up knowledge, But with the mouth of the foolish, ruin is at hand.

B. Spreads slander

Pro. 10: 18 He who conceals hatred *has* lying lips, And he who spreads slander is a fool.

PROVERBS

4. *Don't be foolish.*

A fool:

C. Loves shameful conduct

Pro. 10: 23 Doing wickedness is like sport to a fool, And so *is* wisdom to a man of understanding.

D. Displays his stupidity

Pro. 13: 16 Every prudent man acts with knowledge, But a fool displays folly.

E. Is easily angered and careless

Pro. 14: 16 A wise man is cautious and turns away from evil, But a fool is arrogant and careless.

PROVERBS

4. *Don't be foolish.*

A fool:

F. Doesn't want to learn, but only wants to share his opinions

Pro. 18: 2 A fool does not delight in understanding, But only in revealing his own mind.

G. Doesn't learn from his mistakes

Pro. 26: 11 Like a dog that returns to its vomit Is a fool who repeats his folly.

H. Annoys others

Pro. 27: 3 A stone is heavy and the sand weighty, But the provocation of a fool is heavier than both of them.

PROVERBS

4. *Don't be foolish.*

A fool:

I. Trusts in himself

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

J. Lacks self-control

Pro. 29: 11 A fool always loses his temper, But a wise man holds it back.

PROVERBS

Proverbs is profitable unlike any source of information.

Proverbs teaches us how to fear the Lord and live properly.

It teaches us how to apply knowledge to all of life's situations.

ECCLESIASTES

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Poetry				
940 - 931 BC	Ecclesiastes 12 Chapters	Life without God is empty	This is the result of Solomon's quest for meaning in life during a period of his life when he was away from God. His conclusion is that life is empty apart from God.	Life, to have meaning, must be lived in the Fear of God.	Jesus is our meaning of life

ECCLESIASTES

The book of Ecclesiastes never mentioned the writer. Nevertheless, Solomon was the author of Ecclesiastes. We can conclude this with the following verses.

He was a son of David and a king.

Ec. 1: 1

1 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

He ruled all of Israel in Jerusalem.

Ec. 1: 12

12 I, the Preacher, have been king over Israel in Jerusalem.

He was a wise man of great renown.

Ec. 12: 9-10

9 In addition to being a wise man, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge; and he pondered, searched out and arranged many proverbs.

10 The Preacher sought to find delightful words and to write words of truth correctly.

ECCLESIASTES

Solomon, inspired by God, declared the results of all human wisdom, of earthly advantages and aspirations, of indulgence in everything that wealth and wisdom could procure which might show fair promise of producing utmost happiness on earth.

There is an emptiness in Ecclesiastes that comes from not having a relationship with God.

ECCLESIASTES

The first seven chapters of the book of Ecclesiastes describe all of the worldly things “under the sun”.

The Preacher tries to find fulfillment in the following:

A. He tries scientific discovery.

Ec. 1: 10-11

10 Is there anything of which one might say, “See this, it is new”? Already it has existed for ages Which were before us.

11 There is no remembrance of earlier things; And also of the later things which will occur, There will be for them no remembrance Among those who will come later *still*.

ECCLESIASTES

The Preacher tries to find fulfillment in the following:

B. He tries wisdom and philosophy.

Ec. 1: 13-18

13 And I set my mind to seek and explore by wisdom concerning all that has been done under heaven. *It* is a grievous task *which* God has given to the sons of men to be afflicted with.

14 I have seen all the works which have been done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and striving after wind.

15 What is crooked cannot be straightened and what is lacking cannot be counted.

16 I said to myself, "Behold, I have magnified and increased wisdom more than all who were over Jerusalem before me; and my mind has observed a wealth of wisdom and knowledge."

17 And I set my mind to know wisdom and to know madness and folly; I realized that this also is striving after wind.

18 Because in much wisdom there is much grief, and increasing knowledge *results in* increasing pain.

ECCLESIASTES

The Preacher tries to find fulfillment in the following:

C. He tries pleasure.

Ec. 2: 1

1 I said to myself, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure. So enjoy yourself.” And behold, it too was futility.

D. He tries alcohol.

Ec. 2: 3

3 I explored with my mind *how* to stimulate my body with wine while my mind was guiding *me* wisely, and how to take hold of folly, until I could see what good there is for the sons of men to do under heaven the few years of their lives.

E. He tries architecture.

Ec. 2: 4

4 I enlarged my works: I built houses for myself, I planted vineyards for myself;

ECCLESIASTES

The Preacher tries to find fulfillment in the following:

F. He tries to acquire property.

Ec. 2: 7

7 I bought male and female slaves and I had homeborn slaves. Also I possessed flocks and herds larger than all who preceded me in Jerusalem.

G. He tries luxury.

Ec. 2: 8

8 Also, I collected for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I provided for myself male and female singers and the pleasures of men—many concubines.

ECCLESIASTES

The Preacher turned his mind towards different philosophies to find meaning, such as materialism, and even moral codes (including chapters 8-9).

Ec. 2: 19-20

19 And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the fruit of my labor for which I have labored by acting wisely under the sun. This too is vanity.
20 Therefore I completely despaired of all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun.

He found that everything was meaningless, a temporary diversion that, without God, had no purpose or longevity.

ECCLESIASTES

Chapters 8-12 of Ecclesiastes describe the Preacher's suggestions and comments on how a life should be lived.

He comes to the conclusion that without God, there is no truth or meaning to life. He has seen many evils and realized that even the best of man's achievements are worth nothing in the long run.

ECCLESIASTES

He advises the reader to acknowledge God from youth and to follow His will.

Ec. 12: 1

1 Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, “I have no delight in them”;

Ec. 12: 13-14

13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, *is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.*

14 For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

ECCLESIASTES

Ecclesiastes gives Christians a chance to see the world through the eyes of a person who, though very wise, is trying to find meaning in temporary, human things. Most every form of worldly pleasure is explored by the Preacher, and none of it gives him a sense of meaning.

In the end, the Preacher comes to accept that faith in God is the only way to find personal meaning. He decides to accept the fact that life is brief and ultimately worthless without God. The Preacher advises the Christian to focus on an eternal God instead of temporary pleasure.

ECCLESIASTES

Ecclesiastes offers the Christian an opportunity to understand the emptiness and despair that those who do not know God grapple with.

Those who do not have a saving faith in Christ are faced with a life that will ultimately end and become irrelevant. If there is no salvation, and no God, then not only is there no point to life, but no purpose or direction to it.

In Christ, life is but a shadow of the glories to come in a heaven that is only accessible through Him.

ECCLESIASTES

For all of the vanities described in the Book of Ecclesiastes, the answer is Christ.

God judges the righteous and the wicked.

Ec. 3: 17

17 I said to myself, “God will judge both the righteous man and the wicked man,” for a time for every matter and for every deed is there.

In Christ all sinners are reconciled to God.

2 Cor. 5: 17-19

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

18 Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

ECCLESIASTES

For all of the vanities described in the Book of Ecclesiastes, the answer is Christ.

God has placed the desire for eternity in our hearts.

Ec. 3: 11

11 He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.

God has provided the Way to eternal life through Christ.

John 3: 16

16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

ECCLESIASTES

For all of the vanities described in the Book of Ecclesiastes, the answer is Christ.

We are reminded that striving after the world's wealth is vanity and it does not satisfy.

Ec. 5: 10

10 He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance *with its* income. This too is vanity.

Without Christ we would lose our souls.

Mk. 8: 36

36 “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?”

ECCLESIASTES

Christians don't live in the same world as the Preacher's.

Christians have something he didn't experience: the continuous indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

ECCLESIASTES

The Preacher lived in a world where God worked behind the scenes and judged everyone.

Ec. 12: 13-14

13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, *is*: fear God and keep His commandments, because this *applies to every person*.

14 For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

ECCLESIASTES

God is at work in us every single day. The world may be a messed up place, but if Christ is in us, we always have hope.

Col. 1: 25-27

25 *Of this church* I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the *preaching* of the word of God,

26 *that is*, the mystery which has been hidden from the *past* ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints,

27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

ECCLESIASTES

Every material thing “under the sun” considers things from an earthly viewpoint.

Jesus provides a superior purpose that will provide satisfaction to the heart of man.

That is God’s grace and mercy to give man eternal life through Jesus Christ.