

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. Worshiping
5. Suffering
6. Assurance
7. Praise

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) calls us 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 focuses 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.

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

Psalms 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.

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

Psalms 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.

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

The psalmist initially feels that God has forsaken him, while facing great opposition, 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 Psalms 45: 6-7.

Psalms 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.

Psalms 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.

Psalms 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.

Psalms 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.

Psalms 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

The book thanks God for allowing us to express our deepest emotions to Him.

Psalms 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.

Psalms 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.

Psalms 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.

Psalms 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.

PSALMS

The book of Psalms provides words of encouragement and direction.

It is a book of poetry, inspired by God. It meets the deepest need of the human heart. “The Lord is near the brokenhearted” (Ps. 34: 18).

Psalms’ application is simple. The exhortation to “Praise the Lord” (Ps. 148: 1-4) should lead to the reader saying or singing, “Praise the Lord!”

PSALMS

Meditate on God's Word

The longest Psalms is 119. It speaks of the Psalmist's love for God's Word (Ps. 119: 97) and all that it is capable of doing.

Psalms 19 contrasts God's voice through creation (Ps. 19: 1-6), with his written instruction (Ps. 19: 7-8).

Psalms 1, the introduction to Psalms, tells us to meditate upon God's Word so that our lives will be fruitful, and "whatever (we do) prospers" (Ps. 1: 3)

After reading Psalms 1, the reader should accept it as their responsibility to meditate upon the rest of the book. If so, they will be blessed.

PSALMS

Life is hard, but God is good.

All of God's saints throughout the ages have dealt with difficulties to varying degrees. The saints who composed the Psalms were no exception.

They had enemies (Ps. 3: 7), they felt forgotten and anxious (Ps. 13: 1-2), dealt with lies and deception.

(Ps. 12: 1-4), and sensed that God had abandoned them (Ps. 22: 1).

There was no reason to stop praising. God is a deliverer (Ps. 37: 40) and he would be faithful. It is always right to praise Him (Ps. 52: 9).

PSALMS

Worship God and Pray.

Many psalms call God's people to worship. Among them are Psalms 29: "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name: worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness" (Ps. 29: 2),

The following Psalms also worship God: Psalms 103, Psalms 95-100, Psalms 134-135, Psalms 146-150.

Prayer is the explicit theme of Psalms 61: "God, hear my cry; pay attention to my prayer" (Ps. 61: 1),

Psalms 51: "Be gracious to me, God, according to your faithful love..." (Ps. 51: 1).

PSALMS

Psalms can function as a handbook to prayer.

Picking up a bible, opening it to Psalms, reading aloud slowly, setting your heart on God, will aid your prayer life immensely.

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

There is a Messiah coming.

Many Psalms are messianic in nature.

Psalms 22 offers a glimpse of Jesus on the cross: “they pierced my hands and my feet” (Ps. 22: 16).

Psalms 2, Psalms 24, and Psalms 72, among others, all point to a future king and kingdom.

PSALMS

God wrote pre-history into Psalms.

We realize that God planned for Jesus to enter history at a certain time and wrote about it hundreds of years before it happened.

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 instruction to live 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

In the Book of Proverbs, Solomon reveals the mind of God in matters high and lofty and in common, ordinary, everyday situations.

It appears that no topic escaped King Solomon's attention. Matters pertaining to personal conduct, sexual relations, business, wealth, charity, ambition, discipline, debt, child-rearing, character, alcohol, politics, revenge, and godliness are among the many topics covered in this rich collection of wise sayings.

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 outlined life for us, 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 “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

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

Pro. 12: 1

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

Pro. 13: 1

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

Pro. 15: 31

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

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

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

B. Spreads slander

Pro. 10: 18

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

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

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

E. Is easily angered and careless

Pro. 14: 16

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

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

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

H. Annoys others

Pro. 27: 3

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

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

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.

Godly wisdom is highly valuable and necessary for living a successful life (Prov. 1: 1-6; Prov. 2) and is available for anyone who seeks it.

PROVERBS

The recurring principle of the Book of Proverbs is that those who choose wisdom and follow God will be blessed in numerous ways:

With long life (9: 11)

Prosperity (2: 20-22)

Joy (3: 13-18)

The goodness of God (12: 21).

Those who reject Him will suffer shame and death (3: 35; 10: 21).

To reject God is to choose folly over wisdom and is to separate ourselves from God, His Word, His wisdom, and His blessings.

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.

Ecc. 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.

Ecc. 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.

Ecc. 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.

Ecc. 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.

Ecc. 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.

Ecc. 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.

Ecc. 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).

Ecc. 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.

Ecc. 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”;

Ecc. 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.

Ecc. 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.

Ecc. 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.

Ecc. 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

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

Ecc. 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

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

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

We all desire meaning in life. Often that search takes us along winding, up-and-down paths filled with bursts of satisfaction that shine bright for a time but eventually fade.

When we attempt to find meaning in the pursuit of pleasure, the commitment to a job, or through plumbing intellectual depths, we all eventually find in each of these pursuits a dead end.

ECCLESIASTES

Ecclesiastes shows us a man who lived through this process and came out on the other side with a wiser, more seasoned perspective.

When we're surrounded by the temptation to proclaim life's ultimate emptiness, we can find in Ecclesiastes a vision tempered by experience and ultimately seen through divinely colored lenses.

Life is destined to remain unsatisfying apart from our recognition of God's intervention.

It only remains to be seen whether or not we will place our trust in His sure and able hands.

ECCLESIASTES

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Ecc. 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.

The righteous are only those who are in Christ.

2 Cor. 5: 21

21 He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

ECCLESIASTES

God has placed the desire for eternity in our hearts.

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ECCLESIASTES

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

Ecc. 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.

Even if we could attain worldly wealth, without Christ we would lose our souls and what profit is there in that.

Every disappointment and vanity described in Ecclesiastes has its remedy in Christ, the wisdom of God and the only true meaning to be found in life.

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.