

# THE WHOLE BIBLE: 66 BOOKS IN 10 WEEKS

## Job – Song of Solomon

### INTRODUCTION TO PSALMS

- “Psalter,” an anthology of Israel’s songs | worship song book

### Importance of Singing

- singing, not ornamental, but central to Christian faith
- Augustine, “to sing is to pray twice”
- emotional depth | teaches us full range of Christian emotions

### Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

### Psalms in the Light of the Gospel

- 4 levels: David → Israel → Jesus → Church
- Jesus sang the Psalms | Mark 14:26
- on cross: Psalm 22, Psalm 31

### Features of Hebrew Poetry

- parallelism
- imagery

### Psalm 22

*TO THE CHOIRMASTER: ACCORDING TO THE DOE OF THE DAWN. A PSALM OF DAVID.*

- <sup>1</sup> My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?
- <sup>2</sup> O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,  
and by night, but I find no rest.
- <sup>6</sup> I am a worm and not a man,  
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.
- <sup>7</sup> All who see me mock me;  
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
- <sup>8</sup> “He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him;  
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”

- <sup>12</sup> Many bulls encompass me;  
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
- <sup>13</sup> they open wide their mouths at me,  
like a ravening and roaring lion.
- <sup>14</sup> I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart is like wax;  
it is melted within my breast;
- <sup>15</sup> my strength is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;  
you lay me in the dust of death.
- <sup>16</sup> For dogs encompass me;  
a company of evildoers encircles me;  
they have pierced my hands and feet –
- <sup>17</sup> I can count all my bones –  
they stare and gloat over me;
- <sup>18</sup> they divide my garments among them,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.
- <sup>19</sup> But you, O LORD, do not be far off!  
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

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### Introduction to Wisdom literature

- “wisdom” – skill in the art of godly living | largely ahistorical
- dealing with deep questions of life (philosophical orientation)
- Proverbs 1:7 – “the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge”
- wisdom is multi-dimensional and truths are held in tension
- wisdom is ultimately a person (1 Corinthians 1:24)

### INTRODUCTION TO PROVERBS

- 2 ways to live: wisdom and folly | personified by 2 ladies
- limits of human knowledge: “*trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.*” – Proverbs 3:5
- on complexity and paradox

### Proverbs 13:23

The fallow ground of the poor would yield much food, but it is swept away through injustice.

### Proverbs 23:20-21

<sup>20</sup> Be not among drunkards or among gluttonous eaters of meat, <sup>21</sup> for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and slumber will clothe them with rags.

## Proverbs 31

- <sup>10</sup> An excellent wife who can find?  
She is far more precious than jewels.
- <sup>11</sup> The heart of her husband trusts in her,  
and he will have no lack of gain.
- <sup>12</sup> She does him good, and not harm,  
all the days of her life.
- <sup>13</sup> She seeks wool and flax,  
and works with willing hands.
- <sup>14</sup> She is like the ships of the merchant;  
she brings her food from afar.
- <sup>15</sup> She rises while it is yet night  
and provides food for her household  
and portions for her maidens.
- <sup>16</sup> She considers a field and buys it;  
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
- <sup>17</sup> She dresses herself with strength  
and makes her arms strong.
- <sup>18</sup> She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.  
Her lamp does not go out at night.
- <sup>19</sup> She puts her hands to the distaff,  
and her hands hold the spindle.
- <sup>20</sup> She opens her hand to the poor  
and reaches out her hands to the needy.
- <sup>21</sup> She is not afraid of snow for her household,  
for all her household are clothed in scarlet.
- <sup>22</sup> She makes bed coverings for herself;  
her clothing is fine linen and purple.
- <sup>23</sup> Her husband is known in the gates  
when he sits among the elders of the land.
- <sup>24</sup> She makes linen garments and sells them;  
she delivers sashes to the merchant.
- <sup>25</sup> Strength and dignity are her clothing,  
and she laughs at the time to come.
- <sup>26</sup> She opens her mouth with wisdom,  
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
- <sup>27</sup> She looks well to the ways of her household  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
- <sup>28</sup> Her children rise up and call her blessed;  
her husband also, and he praises her:
- <sup>29</sup> Many women have done excellently,  
but you surpass them all.
- <sup>30</sup> Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,  
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
- <sup>31</sup> Give her of the fruit of her hands, / and let her works praise her in the gates.

## INTRODUCTION TO JOB

- deals with the question of suffering:
  - *what is the meaning of suffering? why does it happen?*
  - *did I do something to bring it to myself? where is God in all this?*
- seems in tension w/ Proverbs: “righteous will prosper, wicked will perish”
- but view of suffering is complex

### Job’s three friends: Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar

- articulate “retribution theology” – if you sin, you suffer | poor comfort

**Jesus is ultimate sufferer:** “my God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

## Job 38

- <sup>1</sup> Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:
- <sup>2</sup> Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?
- <sup>3</sup> Dress for action like a man;  
I will question you, and you make it known to me.
- <sup>4</sup> Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?  
Tell me, if you have understanding.
- <sup>5</sup> Who determined its measurements – surely you know!  
Or who stretched the line upon it?
- <sup>6</sup> On what were its bases sunk,  
or who laid its cornerstone,
- <sup>7</sup> when the morning stars sang together  
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

## Job 42

- <sup>1</sup> Then Job answered the LORD and said:
- <sup>2</sup> I know that you can do all things,  
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
- <sup>3</sup> Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?  
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,  
things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.
- <sup>5</sup> I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,  
but now my eye sees you;
- <sup>6</sup> therefore I despise myself,  
and repent in dust and ashes.

### Job’s foundational problem – assumes can understand | God in dock

- God reminds Job that Job is not God
- ultimately, Job gets no explanation – and Job is helped by this!

## INTRODUCTION TO ECCLESIASTES

- explores what life without God would look like
- provides negative contrast with Proverbs
- “James Dean” of Bible | Proverbs – eager, teacher’s pet | Job – tears
- highlights cruelty and injustice of this life | proverbs are not promises
- longing for final redemption of world
- resolution to mystery of Ecclesiastes is Christ

### Ecclesiastes 1

<sup>1</sup> The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher,  
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

<sup>3</sup> What does man gain by all the toil  
at which he toils under the sun?

<sup>4</sup> A generation goes, and a generation comes,  
but the earth remains forever.

<sup>5</sup> The sun rises, and the sun goes down,  
and hastens to the place where it rises.

<sup>6</sup> The wind blows to the south  
and goes around to the north;  
around and around goes the wind,  
and on its circuits the wind returns.

<sup>7</sup> All streams run to the sea,  
but the sea is not full;  
to the place where the streams flow,  
there they flow again.

<sup>8</sup> All things are full of weariness;  
a man cannot utter it;  
the eye is not satisfied with seeing,  
nor the ear filled with hearing.

<sup>9</sup> What has been is what will be,  
and what has been done is what will be done,  
and there is nothing new under the sun.

<sup>10</sup> Is there a thing of which it is said,  
“See, this is new”?

It has been already  
in the ages before us.

<sup>11</sup> There is no remembrance of former things,  
nor will there be any remembrance  
of later things yet to be  
among those who come after.

## INTRODUCTION TO SONG OF SOLOMON

- erotic love poetry of Bible
- celebration of the ecstasy and profound joy of sex
- takes us back to Eden – man and women both naked, felt no shame
- “I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine”
- ultimately about Christ and his church (Ephesians 5:32)

### Song of Solomon 7

<sup>6</sup> How beautiful and pleasant you are,  
O loved one, with all your delights!

<sup>7</sup> Your stature is like a palm tree,  
and your breasts are like its clusters.

<sup>8</sup> I say I will climb the palm tree  
and lay hold of its fruit.

Oh may your breasts be like clusters of the vine,  
and the scent of your breath like apples,

<sup>9</sup> and your mouth like the best wine.

### Song of Solomon 5:2-5

“Open to me, my sister, my love,  
my dove, my perfect one,  
for my head is wet with dew,  
my locks with the drops of the night.”

<sup>3</sup> I had put off my garment;  
how could I put it on?

I had bathed my feet;  
how could I soil them?

<sup>4</sup> My beloved put his hand to the latch,  
and my heart was thrilled within me.

<sup>5</sup> I arose to open to my beloved,  
and my hands dripped with myrrh,  
my fingers with liquid myrrh,  
on the handles of the bolt.