

**Be Wise, Understand the Will of the Lord**  
Overview of the Wisdom Literature: Job, Ps., Pr., Ec.

**- Part I: Job**

➤ **Intro:**

- **review last quarter's bible class material:** Overview of the Wisdom Literature: Job, Ps., Pr., Ec.
- **3 lessons:** Job, David, Solomon
- **thematic approach:** – **Be Wise, Understand the Will of the Lord**
- **Eph. 5:17** do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is (NKJ)
- **not cover all possible points, review a few, lessons for today**

➤ **Lessons about God and Satan from the book of Job**

- **Job 1:6-12** God's discussion with Satan

➤ - **Satan:**

- **knew who Job was**, details of his life, knew how to strike Job to create the biggest temptation
- **roamed the earth freely, had no power against people unless** given by God, knew Job, came into the presence of God (rf. Job 2:1-2)
- **same today?** seems the same for the most part, except may not come in presence of God

➤ - **God:**

- **God knows everything** about us, every intimate detail

- **Ps. 139:1-6** God knows everything about us

➤ - **gave Satan limited power** to bring tribulation (temptation) upon Job

- **same today?** yes, Satan has limited power from God to tempt us

- **1 Cor. 10:13** limited, not more than can bear, way of escape

➤ **Lessons from Job's trials**

- **Job 1:10-12** **Why did God allow Satan to afflict Job?** - prove point

- **sometimes God allows adversity to come into our lives for a greater good – not to chastise or punish**

➤ - **illus.: afflicted** for good of others, or for God to prove point to others – **Jesus, apostles, Rev.**

- **Rom. 15:2-3** **Jesus** afflicted for our good, not for His

➤ - **Rev. 19:7-9, 11-16, 19-21** early Christians afflicted to prove point to world, Jesus King of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus' kingdom is the only kingdom that will stand, must obey Jesus to be saved

➤ - **Ja. 5:11** **God blesses us richly, if we faithfully endure trials** – **earth, heaven with eternal life**

- **illus.: Job** was blessed with twice what he had, after trial over

➤ **Be Wise Like Job**

- **Job 1:1, 4-5** righteous, faithful, turned away from evil, diligent spiritual leader of family
  - **Job: served God with his wealth** rather than himself - not like rich young ruler, or rich man with Lazarus
  - we work at the same things today, as Christians – **priority?**
  
- - **Job 1:13-19; 2:7-8** Job's trials, **paint picture of severity, cf. to today**
  
- - **Job 1:20-22** Job's first reaction – not sin, be faithful in trials, trust God, worship, obey, humble
  - **Job's attitude:** naked came into world, naked return to God – Lord gives, Lord takes away
  - **our attitude today:**
    - **Same as Job? If it is the same** as Job. . . ? – worry, worldliness, materialism, seek first kingdom
- - **1 Tim. 6:6-10, 12a, 17, 18-19** godliness gain rather than \$, take nothing out at death, content, love of \$, fight of faith, eternal life, not conceited, fix hope on God, enjoy, generous, share, treasure in heaven
  
- - **Job 2:9-10** Job's second reaction
  - **Job's attitude:** shall we accept God from God and not accept adversity
  - **our attitude today:**
    - **Same as Job? If it is the same** as Job. . . ? – humble in adversity, happy, joyful
- - **Rom. 8:28; 5:3-5; Ja. 1:2-4** rejoice, personal good that comes from trials, afflictions, tribulation
  
- **Don't Make the Same Mistakes as Job** – learn from his mistakes
  - **Job listened to his friends and became insolent toward God**
    - **What would have happened if he wouldn't have listened to them?** poss. remained faithful, not sinned, just when he didn't listen to his wife – **today, peer pressure**
    - **Did Satan use Job's friends against him, by deceiving them and using them to deceive Job?** possibly
  - - **1 Pet. 5:8** Satan, prowling, roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour
  - - **1 Tim. 2:14** Satan used Eve to get to Adam – Eve deceived, then she caused the man to sin
  - - **2 Cor. 11:13-15** Satan uses servants disguised as servants of righteousness to deceive people
  - - **1 Cor. 15:33** not deceived, evil companions corrupt good morals – **warning to young, parents**
    - **illus.: Solomon** sought to please foreign wives, turned against God and worshiped idols
    - **illus.: Rehoboam (son)** listened to his friends, sought to please them, and lost the majority of the kingdom
  
- - **Job thought He was as smart as God, that He could understand God and His ways**
  - **Is. 55:8-9** God's ways and thoughts higher than ours
    - **we can't understand God through human wisdom, only God's word (1 Cor. 2)**
  - - **Ja. 4:6** God gives grace to the humble, not the proud
    - when Job repented and returned to God, God was gracious, blessed him abundantly
  
- **end Part I:**
  - **be wise like Job, but learn from his mistakes** – always humble yourself before God
    - **be wise, understand the will of the Lord** – obey God, serve Him faithfully
  - **inv.: if you will humble yourself** today, He will give you grace - **inv.**

## Part II: David (Psalms)

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### ➤ Lessons from the Psalms:

- **Praise God everyday, in everything you do (Ps. 100)**
  - **R- Ps. 100** – **why we should praise God / who should praise God**
  - **vs. 1-2** what we should do – **verbalize, actions, attitudes** – **serve**
  - **vs. 3** why – what should we know – **Lord is God**
  - **vs. 4** how will we enter - church, kingdom, heaven – **thanksgiving, praise**
  - **vs. 5** why have this attitude upon entering – **Lord good, lovingkindness, faithful**
- **sing, song from Ps. 100:**
  - **# 47** “God Is So Good” – all verses

- - **The Lord is our Shepherd (Ps. 23) – eternal and worldly significance**
  - **Ps. 23**
  - **vs. 1** significance of God as our shepherd regarding the topic of His guidance? – shall not want
    - the shepherd guides / the sheep voluntarily follow – our part? – e.g., parents, elders
    - **If we follow God as our shepherd, what confidence do we have in earthly life and eternal life?**
  - **vs. 2** God as shepherd feeds and gives peace
    - feeds us – **physical, spiritual**
    - gives us peace: quiet waters - He quiets the waters - He does not lead us to a place of wild confused water
  - **vs. 3** God as shepherd restores and guides
    - restores soul: from sin to what it should be – **salvation**
    - guides in paths of righteousness: guides how to be in right relationship with him – **word, providence**
    - for His name's sake: to honor Himself and the manifestations of His power
  - **vs. 4** God is our shepherd at death – **death, situations that can result in death**
    - at death He still shepherds us – helps
    - fear no evil: in situations that can result in death, in death itself
    - because God is our shepherd
      - rod: used to chasten, so confident living right, saved, going to heaven (Heb. 12) – **comfort**
      - staff: used to guide and save from trouble – **comfort**
  - **vs. 5** blessings we have with God as our shepherd
    - prepare table before enemies: gives us peace and glory even before our enemies – peace to confront with confidence
    - anoint head with oil: daily enjoyment of blessings
    - cup overflows: it's not only full but overflowing, God gives His blessings in abundance
  - **vs. 6** God's goodness and mercy (lovingkindness) as our shepherd
    - with God as our shepherd, we have His goodness and mercy at all times – **earth, heaven**
    - result: dwell in house of Lord forever – **church, heaven**
  - **application, Christian – Jesus:**
    - **Jn. 10:11** Jesus is the good shepherd - laid down life for the sheep
    - **1 Pet. 5:2, 4** Jesus is Chief Shepherd, elders shepherd
    - **Rev. 7:17** Jesus will lead us and heaven, be our shepherd in heaven
  - **sing, song from Ps. 23**
    - # 364 "The Lord My Shepherd Is" - all verses

- - **Jesus reigns as God's anointed (Ps. 2) – we must obey and worship Jesus**
  - **Ps. 2**
  - **vs. 1-3 world against God and Jesus**: Jews tried to kill him numerous times, eventually did by provoking the Romans – **today, church and Christians**
  - **vs. 4 God scoffs at them – insight into God's mind**
  - **vs. 6 God installed Jesus as King – King of kings, Lord of lords**
  - **vs. 7 Jesus is God's Son, begotten – significance – Jn. 3:16**
  - **vs. 8-9 God gave the nations to Jesus (King and Lord), break them with a rod of iron**  
**Satan's temptation on mountain, give kingdoms if worshiped him**
    - **Rev. 2:27; 19:15** Jesus rule with a rod of iron
  - **vs. 10-12** worship and obey Jesus, or be destroyed – **Rev. 1-19** Christians persecuted by world but blessed of God – **Rev. 20-21** Christians rewarded greatly but world punished severely
  - **sing, song from Ps. 2:12**
    - # 326 "Trust And Obey" - first and last verse
  
- - **God expects us to understand His word (Ps. 119) – rf - Eph. 5:17 (understand and thus obey)**
  - **What do these verse teach about understanding God's word?**
    - **vs. 34** one who understands God's word is one who observes it with all heart - **rf. Eph. Eph. 5:17**
    - **vs. 144** must understand word to live eternally
  - **What do these verse teach about studying God's word?**
    - **vs. 15** meditate, think about word - use to direct life
    - **vs. 16** our delight, love, joy must be in God's word - **cf. 2 Th. 10** love the truth (**Jn. 17:17**)
    - **vs. 97** love God. word, law - **cf. Gal. 6:2; 2 Th. 2:10**
  - **What do these verses teach about how God's word can keep us from sinning?**
    - **vs. 11** if God's word is your treasure, heart, not sin – **How keep from sinning?**
    - **vs. 133** walk by God's word, sin not have control over us - put to death, baptized
    - **vs. 128** love God and word, hate (abhor) sin - **cf. Rom. 12:9; 1 Th. 5:21-22**
  - **sing, song from Ps. 119**
    - # 459 "The Precious Book Divine" - first and last verse
    - or #500 ""Give Me The Bible" - first and last verse

- - **What should we understand about God? (Ps. 19)**
  - **Ps. 19**
  - vs. 1-2 heavens reveal God's work and glory - **what way, how** - **Rom. 1:18f; Acts 17:24-27**
  - vs. 7-11 **List the things revealed about God and His law. What does each mean?**
    - vs. 7 law of Lord perfect / restores soul
    - vs. 7 testimony of the Lord is sure / makes the simple wise
    - vs. 8 precepts of the Lord right / rejoicing the heart
    - vs. 8 commandment of the Lord pure / enlightening the eyes
    - vs. 9 fear of the Lord clean / enduring forever
    - vs. 9 judgments of the Lord are true, righteous altogether
    - vs. 10 more desirable than gold / sweeter than honey
    - vs. 11 by them warned / keeping them is great reward
  - vs. 14 **What did David ask for in this verse? Should we ask for the same today?** (yes)
    - that words and thoughts be acceptable to God - **law**
    - God is rock and Redeemer - **Christ**
  - **sing, song from Ps. 19**
    - # 439 "Psalm 19" - first and last verse

➤ **Invitation:**

- **Forgiveness (Ps. 32)**
  - **Ps. 32:1-2** blessed if forgiven
  - **Ps. 32:3** if not confess sin, waste away
  - **Ps 32:5** we should pray and confess our sin to God
  - **Ps. 32:10-11** life will be better if we do – eternal life, obey
- **inv.:** God's commands to be saved, if not a Christian / commands if Christian and in sin

➤ **End Part II:**

- **Be Wise, Understand the Will of the Lord – obey God, serve Him faithfully**
- **inv.:** obey gospel, and defeat your Goliath

**Part III: Solomon (Proverbs, Ec.)**

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➤ **Lessons from Proverbs**

- **Pr. 1:7-10** young people, listen to parents and avoid sinners – **what Solomon didn't do**
- **vs. 7** **Why is fear of the Lord the beginning of knowledge?** reverence for God results in diligent study to learn His will to obey and serve Him – **diff between wise and fool**
- **vs. 8-9** parents teaching, graceful wreath and ornaments around child's neck
- **1 Tim. 2:9-10** godliness, inward adornment better than outward adornment – **young: dating and attraction**
- **vs. 10** **What should we do when sinners entice?** not consent, refuse – **just say no**
- **Ja. 4:7** resist the devil, don't give in – **resist by submitting to God**
  
- - **Pr. 4:1-7** young people, hold fast and keep parents' commandments
- **vs. 1** young people, listen to parents instruction
- **vs. 4** hold fast and keep commandment, live
- **Pr. 3:1-10** blessings from obeying parents in the Lord
- **vs. 2** peace, longevity of life
- **vs. 4** result: favor and good reputation with God and man
- **vs. 5-7** basic principles of living
- **vs. 8, 9-10** benefits of living this way
- **vs. 6** acquire wisdom and it will watch over you – protect, keep safe, eternal life
- **Ja. 3:13, 17-18** result: best life today, eternal life
- **vs. 7** **What is the beginning of wisdom?** know that you need it, and acquire it

➤ - Pr. 4:10-27 keep yourself pure

- vs. 10-19

- What results from following the “way of wisdom”? (vs. 11)

- vs. 10 years of life be many (Eph. 6:3)

- vs. 12, 19 steps not impeded, not stumble (2 Pet. 1:8-11)

- vs. 14-15 not enter way of the evil and wicked – avoid it, not even pass by it (1 Th. 5:22)

- vs. 16 do good toward others - not loose sleep because want to harm others (1 Cor. 13:4-8, 13)

- vs. 17 godly, peaceable - not wicked and violent

- vs. 18 shining light that grows brighter (Matt. 5:14-16)

- vs. 20-27

- When we walk in the “way of wisdom”, what do are heart, mouth, eyes, and feet do?

- vs. 21-23 heart: keep wisdom in heart, they are life, they are health for body, springs of life flow from heart

- vs. 24 mouth: put away deceitful and devious speech

- vs. 25 eyes: look straight ahead, not look upon or distracted by sin (Heb. 12:1-2)

- vs. 26-27 feet: watch path of feet, all ways established, not turn right or left, turn away from evil



- - **Pr. 31:10-31** **worthy / virtuous woman** – picture of super woman perfection, that no one woman can obtain?
  - **vs. 10** worth far more than jewels – ??? self-worth, husband and family attitude toward
    - **Eph. 5:29** husband, nourish and cherish
  - **vs. 11** husband trust in her, will lack no gain – ??? value to self, husband, family - profit \$
  - **vs. 12** good, not evil - not criminal, abusive, harmful – ??? peace, comfort, enjoy, spiritual
    - **Pr. 21** not contentious woman whom men try to escape
  - **vs. 13-15** frugal, diligent, initiative, ingenious – ??? work in the home, attitude of family toward
    - **vs. 15** manager of household
    - **Tit. 2:5** “workers at home” *the (watch or) keeper of the house keeping at home and taking care of household affairs*
  - **vs. 16-18, 24** deal maker, wheeler dealer (esp. Asian culture where dicker for everything), strong, no lack of \$ so her lamp does not go out – ??? trust of husband with family resources, confidence
    - learning curve, mistakes
    - **vs. 18** good self image – needs control over life and job, not micro managed – Beth checkbook
  - **vs. 19** not too proud to do manual labor, things world thinks to be lesser jobs – humble, contrite
    - **distaff**: a staff for holding the flax, tow, or wool in spinning
  - **vs. 20** benevolent
    - **Acts 9:36-37, 39** Tabitha – effect on family, others
    - **illus.:** Sam Bunn
    - allocation of family resources to benevolence – time, \$, energy
  - **vs. 21-22** physical provisions for family – not afraid - family attitude toward - self image
    - shopping, frugal
  - **vs. 23** because of her work, husband is known and esteemed – successful
    - behind every good man there is a good woman – successful
    - not every woman is strongest, each as limitations (+/-)
      - accentuation the positive and help with the negatives
    - **prospective marriage**: seek a woman who can help you with your desires and aspirations - not all can
    - **currently married**: seek to do the things capable with wife’s help - not things wife incapable of helping with
  - **vs. 25** strength, dignity, positive about the future – not negative, rise above adversity, leader, trust in God
  - **vs. 26** speaks wisdom, speaking in a virtuous manner – **Col. 4:6** gracious speech seasoned with salt
    - teach children, friends, neighbors
    - **1 Pet. 3:1-2** the world’s Bible – conduct
  - **vs. 27** not idle, lazy, involved in sins of idleness
    - **1 Tim. 5:9-13** e.g., sins of idleness
  - **vs. 28-31** praised for her godly, virtuous, manner of life
    - **1 Pet. 3:1-6** godly (virtuous woman) NT

- **Don't Make the Same Mistakes as Solomon – learn from his mistakes**
  - **don't put people before God:** disobeyed God and had many wives - 700 wives, 300 concubines
    - **1 Jn. 2:15-16** all three lusts applicable to Solomon
- - **don't practiced idolatry to please others:** wives
  - **Col. 3:5** any time we put something (someone) before God, idolatry
  - **we must please God first, not please others unless it is in accord with God's will – friends, dating, spouse, boss, teach, co-workers**
  
- **Be Wise Like Solomon**
  - **2 Ch. 1:6-13** ask for wisdom over riches
    - **Ja. 1:5** pray for wisdom – **what are you praying for? wisdom, riches, health**
- - **Ec. 1:2-3** all aspects of life are vain without God – **your philosophy of life? - what's most important?**
  - **Mk. 8:36** “For what does it profit a man to **gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?**”
- - **Ec 1:4-11** keep the right perspective
  - **What is the value of worldly accomplishments and accumulating material wealth, in light of the world as it will exist thousands of years from now?** – who will remember you a thousand years from now
  - **What is the value of striving for worldly fame, if you do not spend eternity in heaven?**
    - **Lk. 12:13-21** parable of the rich fool, his life was required that night
- - **Ec. 12:1** remember God in days of youth, life short, become feeble and die soon – **no regrets**
  - **special things God does through young people. . . .**
- - **Ec. 12:13-14** seek God, keep commandments, judgment
  - **this is all that matters in life, from a man who found out first hand**
  
- **Series Summary / Inv.**
  - **Solomon: fear God, keep His commandments, prepare for judgment**
  - **inv.:**