

Life Lesson 102
Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, the Song of Solomon

Introduction

We've been exploring the poetry section of our Bible library for these past few weeks. We've studied the story-poem of Job about the way God purifies His people through troubles. We learned last week about the Bible hymn-book and prayer book, the book of Psalms.

Today we will look through the other three poetry books, which are Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon.

The Story

Proverbs are short, wise sayings. The book of Proverbs in our Bible are bite-sized pieces of wisdom from God. We should read Psalms as prayers *to* God. We should read Proverbs as instructions *from* God.

King Solomon wrote down most of the proverbs. He told why he wrote down these sayings. He said they were to make the simple people wiser, to help young people to grow up wise, and to give the wise people even more wisdom.

Proverbs 1:7 tells us the most important thing about wisdom. It says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

In other words, the first step to gaining true wisdom is to be saved. Those who aren't saved can't even begin to gain God's wisdom!

I hope you will read Proverbs often, with a heart surrendered to the Lord. If you study it and ask the Lord to teach you from it, you will become a truly wise person.

The fourth book of poetry is called Ecclesiastes, which means, "The Preacher." It was written down by King Solomon, also.

Ecclesiastes starts out with a very discouraged and unhappy story-poem. King Solomon tells of how he looked and looked for something to make him happy. He was always disappointed.

First he tried being smart. He thought that if he was smart he would be happy. Solomon was known as the wisest man on earth, but he still wasn't happy.

Then Solomon thought that being rich would bring him happiness. He gathered great riches and made great buildings and beautiful gardens. He had more silver and gold than anyone in the world. People came from near and far just to see his treasures. Do you think he was happy?

No, riches can never make a person truly happy. We see so many people today working and working, spending their whole life getting money because they think money will give them true happiness. How sad they are to find that they are wrong and their lives are wasted!

The book of Ecclesiastes tells more of Solomon's search for true joy, and of the disappointments he finds along the way. At last, at the end of the book, he tells the real purpose of life, "Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man."

Can you guess who wrote "The Song of Solomon?" That's easy – King Solomon wrote this book, too.

The Song of Solomon is a collection of love songs, or poems, written by Solomon to his wife. It shows us that husband and wives should love each other. It also gives us a picture of the way that God loves us.

This has been a very quick look through the poetry books. We have seen God's purpose in trials in the story-poem of Job. We have seen that the Psalms are to be our prayer-songs to

God. Proverbs are God's directions for us. Ecclesiastes tells us the true meaning of life. The Song of Solomon tells of God's love for us.

The Life Lesson

I hope you will read the books of poetry often. They are precious books, and books that especially speak to the hearts of God's people.

Review Questions

What are Proverbs?

Short, wise sayings, or bite-sized pieces of wisdom.

Who wrote down many of the proverbs?

King Solomon

Why did he write down the proverbs?

To make simple people wise, to help young people grow up wise, and to make wise people even wiser.

Who wrote down the book of Ecclesiastes?

Solomon

What does “Ecclesiastes” mean?

The preacher

Did money, power, learning, or fame make Solomon happy?

No, only serving God made him happy.

Who wrote down “The Song of Solomon?”

Solomon

What is the Song of Solomon about?

It is about love between a husband and wife, and God’s love for His people.