

## Poetry Books of the Bible

These books are the expressions and experiences of the inner life of true worshippers of God. Suffering, faith, praise, spiritual warfare, wisdom, values, hope, and divine, intimate love are the topics of these awesome books. True spirituality's manifestation is illustrated by these 5 poetic writings.

For us to grow a family that lives according to the Spirit of God, we must become familiar with these books, understand them, and internalize them to become our own. Only then will we see life as God sees with the faith and perspective of true worship.

### **Job:**

#### The Proving [and Purifying] of Genuine Saving Faith

— a Biblical Faith, the Kind that only comes from God  
— **the faith of Jesus Christ**

**For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written,**

**The just shall live by faith.** Romans 1:16, 17

Job said, "My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen You. Therefore I **despise myself** and **repent** in dust and ashes."

**Jesus said**, "If anyone comes after Me, let him deny himself (**despise myself**), pick up the cross (**repent**) and come after Me.

**"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."** Matt. 5:3

Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." 1:8

**The Lord considered Job faithful and blameless!**

**There is an enemy – an accuser who attempts to sift**

**The enemy is filled with cynicism and unbelief.**

"Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. "Have You not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? ...But stretch out Your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face."

#### **Thus came the trials of Job:**

- **The Sabeans attacked and carried off Job's sons and daughters. They also put the servants to the sword.**
- **The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and all the servants.**
- **The Chaldeans swept away all Job's camels and put the servants to the sword.**
- **A mighty wind collapsed the house of Job's eldest son and killed the rest of Job's sons and daughters.**
- **Job was afflicted with painful sores all over his body.**
- **God's silence.**
- **Isn't the culmination of these experiences exactly what God has experienced since the fall of man?**

**Job's expressions of faith in the**

<b>midst of his trials</b> Note how his faith was stretched to the breaking point. This is how his faith went from hearing to seeing! <b>Could the actual suffering experience itself be seeing God in Christ?</b>	<b>Observations of Real Faith at Work (Being Proved Genuine) - Fill in</b>
1. "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised." In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing. 1:21, 22	
2. "...shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said. 2:10	
3. When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes ...they saw how great his suffering was. 2:12, 13	
4. ...Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. He said, "May the day of my birth perish...I have no peace, no quietness; I have no rest, but only turmoil." 3:1-3, 26	
5. "If only my anguish could be weighed and all my misery be placed on the scales!...When I lie down I think, 'How long before I get up?' ...My body is clothed with worms and scabs, my skin is broken and festering...Remember, O God, that my life is but a breath...Therefore I will not keep silent; I will speak out in the anguish of my spirit, I will complain in the bitterness of my soul...What is man that You make so much of him, that You give him so much attention, that You examine him every morning and test him every moment?...If I have sinned, what have I done to You, O Watcher of men? Why have You made me your target? Chs. 6-7	
6. "Why do I put myself in jeopardy and take my life in my hands? Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him; I will surely defend my ways to His face...Can anyone bring charges against me? If so, I will be silent and die...summon me and I will answer, or let me speak, and You reply." 13:14, 15, 19, 22	
7. "God assails me and tears me in His anger and gnashes His teeth at me;...Men open their mouths to jeer at me; they strike my cheek in scorn and unite together against me. God has turned me over to evil men and thrown me into the clutches of the wicked. All was well with me, but He shattered me; He seized me by the neck and crushed me...again and again He bursts upon me; He rushes at me like a warrior... <b>even now my witness is in heaven; my Advocate is on high. My Intercessor is my Friend as my eyes pour out tears to God; on behalf of a man He pleads with God as a man pleads for his friend...</b> my spirit is broken, my days are cut short, the grave awaits me...Give me, O God, the pledge You demand. Who else will put up security for me?...my days have passed, my plans are shattered, and so are the desires of my heart." 16:9-14, 19-21; 17:1, 3, 11	
8. "Though I cry, 'I've been wronged!' I get no response; though I call for help, there is no justice. He has blocked my way...He has stripped me of my honor...He tears me down...His anger burns against me...My kinsmen have gone	

<p>away; my friends have forgotten me...All my intimate friends detest me; those I love have turned against me. I am nothing but skin and bones...Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll...engraved in rock forever! <b>I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see Him with my own eyes – I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!</b> 19:7-11, 14, 19-20, 23-27</p>	
<p>9. "Look at me and be astonished; clap your hand over your mouth. When I think about this, I am terrified; trembling seizes my body." 21:5, 6</p>	
<p>10. "If only I knew where to find Him; if only I could go to His dwelling! I would state my case before Him and fill my mouth with arguments. I would find out what He would answer me, and consider what He would say...But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I will come forth as gold. My feet have closely followed His steps; I have kept to His way without turning aside...But He stands alone, and who can oppose Him? He does whatever He pleases...That is why I am terrified before Him; when I think of all this, I fear Him. God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me." 23:3-5, 10-16</p>	
<p>11. "As surely as God lives, who has denied me justice, the Almighty, who has made me taste bitterness of soul, as long as I have life within me, the breath of God in my nostrils, my lips will not speak wickedness, and my tongue will utter no deceit. I will never admit you (his friends) are in the right; till I die, I will not deny my integrity...But where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell?...God understands the way to it and He alone knows where it dwells, for He views the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens...then He looked at wisdom...confirmed it and tested it. And He said to man, 'The fear of the Lord – that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.'...How I long for the months gone by...when His lamp shone upon my head...But now they mock me, men younger than I...terrors overwhelm me; my dignity is driven away as by the wind, my safety vanishes like a cloud. And now my life ebbs away; days of suffering grip me. Night pierces my bones; my gnawing pains never rest...He throws me into the mud and I am reduced to dust and ashes. I cry out to you, O God, but you do not answer; I stand up, but You merely look at me. You turn on me ruthlessly; with the might of Your hand You attack me...Yet when I hoped for good, evil came;...Oh, that I had someone to hear me! I sign now my defense – let the Almighty answer me; let my accuser put His indictment in writing. Surely I would wear it on my shoulder, I would put it on like a crown...like a prince I would approach Him...if...if...then let briars come up instead of wheat and weeds instead of barley." The words of Job are ended.</p>	

## Truth from Elihu

“I am young in years...but it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding.” 32:6, 8

### The Gospel of Jesus Christ!!!

But I tell you, in this you are not right, for God is greater than man. Why do you complain to Him that He answers none of man's words? For God does speak – now one way, now another – though man may not perceive it... **Yet if there is an angel on his side as a mediator, one out of a thousand, to tell a man what is right for him, to be gracious to him and say, ‘Spare him from going down to the pit; I have a ransom for him’** – then his flesh is renewed like a child's; it is restored as in the days of his youth...Then he comes to men and says, ‘I sinned, and perverted what was right, but I did not get what I deserved. He redeemed my soul from going down to the pit, and I will live to enjoy the light.’ God does all these things to a man – twice, even three times – to turn back his soul from the pit, that the light of life may shine on him...so listen to me...Far be it from God to do evil, from the Almighty to do wrong...it is unthinkable that God would do wrong, that the Almighty would pervert justice...can he who hates justice govern? Will you condemn the just and mighty One? Is He not the One who says to kings, ‘You are worthless,’...who shows no partiality to princes...His eyes are on the ways of men...God has no need to examine men further, that they should come before Him for judgment. Without inquiry He shatters the mighty and sets up others in their places...but if He remains silent, who can condemn Him? If He hides His face, who can see Him? Yet He is over man and nation alike,...He does not answer when men cry out because of the arrogance of the wicked...I will ascribe justice to my Maker...He is wooing you from the jaws of distress to a spacious place free from restriction, to the comfort of your table laden with choice food...Beware of turning to evil, which you seem to prefer to affliction...How great is God – beyond our understanding!...At this my heart pounds and leaps from its place. Listen! Listen to the roar of His voice,...should He be told that I want to speak? Would any man ask to be swallowed up?...The Almighty is beyond our reach and exalted in power; in His justice and great righteousness, He does not oppress. Therefore, men revere Him, for does He not have regard for all the wise in heart? Selected verses from chs.33-37

### For Reflection: Read chs.38-42.

1. What are Job's areas of growth that the Lord points out?
2. What is the most significant theology being presented in Job?
3. How does the faith presented in this book bring clarity to the Biblical Worldview?
4. Why is Job's message crucial as we embark on a journey through the poetic section of Scripture?

### Perfect Harmony with the New Testament!

“We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted,

**but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.”**

**2 Corinthians 4:8-10**

**“I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.”**

**Philippians 3:10, 11**

**Fresh insights into faith:**

## Psalms:

# The Heart of Worship: Faith, Warfare, and Praise

**The Mind of Messiah [Faithful and True]  
[Life through the Eyes of the Faithful One]**

“I pray also that the **eyes of your heart** may be enlightened in order that you may **know the hope** to which He has called you, **the riches** of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and **His incomparably great power** for us who **believe**. That **[POWER]** is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when

**He raised Him from the dead and seated  
Him at His right hand in the heavenly places**

far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the age to come.” Ephesians 1:18-20

Book 1	
1	The Way of Blessedness: Meditation on the Word of God
2	Kiss the Son, God's King: Trust and serve Him
3	Many enemies; I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people; ARISE, O LORD; SAVE ME, O MY GOD!
4	How long, O you sons of men, will you turn my glory to shame...love worthlessness and seek falsehood?...There are many who say, “Who will show us any good?” You have put gladness in my heart...I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.
5	In the morning I will direct it to You, and I will look up. For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, nor shall evil dwell with You...But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; in fear of You I will worship toward your holy temple...The Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man...for there is no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part is destruction; their throat is an open tomb...but let all those rejoice

	who put their trust in You;
6	O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger, nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are troubled...I am weary with my groaning...I drench my couch with my tears...Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity; For the Lord has heard the voice of my weeping...Let all my enemies be ashamed and greatly troubled...suddenly.
7	O Lord my God, in You I put my trust; save me from all those who persecute me...if I have done ...iniquity...repaid evil to him who was at peace with me...let the enemy pursue me and overtake me...lay my honor in the dust...Arise O Lord, in Your anger; Lift Yourself up because of the rage of my enemies...Behold the wicked brings forth iniquity...his trouble shall return upon his own head...I will praise the Lord according to His righteousness,”
8	O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth, who have set Your glory above the heavens!...what is man that You are mindful of him...for You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor...You have put all things under his feet...O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!
9	I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works...my enemies...shall fall and perish at Your presence...O enemy, destructions are finished forever!...the Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed...the nations have sunk down in the pit which they made...the wicked shall be turned into hell...for the needy shall not always be forgotten...Arise O Lord...put them in fear...that the nations may know themselves to be but men.
10	Why do You stand afar off, O Lord?...for the wicked boasts of his heart's desire; he blesses the greedy and renounces the Lord...his ways are always prospering; he sits in the lurking places of the villages...he has said in his heart, “God has forgotten...He will never see.” Arise O Lord!...But You have seen...You are the helper of the fatherless...The Lord is King forever and ever...You will prepare their heart; You will cause Your ear to hear, to do justice...that the man of the earth may oppress no more.
11	In the Lord I put my trust...For the Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright.
12	Help, Lord, for the godly man ceases!...The wicked prowl on every side, when vileness is exalted among the sons of men.
13	How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?...But I have trusted in Your mercy...I will sing to the Lord, because He has dealt bountifully with me.
14	The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good...Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When the Lord brings back the captivity of His people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.
15	Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle?...He who does these things shall never be moved.
16	Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust...You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
17	Hear a just cause, O Lord, attend to my cry; give ear to my prayer

	<p>which is not from deceitful lips...As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.</p>
18	<p>I will love You, O Lord, my strength...The pangs of death surrounded me...in my distress I called upon the Lord...then the earth shook...He bowed the heavens...The Lord thundered...He sent out His arrows...the foundations of the world were uncovered...He drew me out of many waters...He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me...For You will light my lamp...For by You I can run against a troop...leap over a wall. As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him...It is God who arms me with strength, and makes my way perfect...my feet like the feet of deer...He teaches my hands to make war...I have pursued me enemies and overtaken them...then I beat them as fine as the dust...the Lord lives! Blessed be my Rock!...Great deliverance He gives to His king...to David and his descendants forevermore.</p>
19	<p>The heavens declare the glory of God...the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;...let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.</p>
20	<p>May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble...now I know that the Lord saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven...Save Lord! May the King answer us when we call.</p>
21	<p>The King shall have joy in Your strength, O Lord; and in Your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice! You have given him his heart's desire, and have not withheld the request of his lips...Be exalted, O Lord, in Your own strength! We will sing and praise Your power.</p>
22	<p>My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, and from the words of My groaning?...A posterity shall serve Him. It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation, they will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, that He has done this.</p>
23	<p>The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want...surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.</p>
27	<p>The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?...One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple...Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!</p>
32	<p>Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered...Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; but he who trusts in the Lord, mercy shall surround him. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous; and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!</p>
40	<p>I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me, and heard my cry...Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. Then I said, "Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart."...Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; Let such as love Your salvation say continually, "The Lord be</p>

	<b>magnified!" But I am poor and needy; Yet the Lord thinks upon me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God.</b>	
<b>41</b>	<b>Blessed is he who considers the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him and keep him alive, and he will be blessed on the earth; You will not deliver him to the will of his enemies...By this I know that You are will pleased with me, because my enemy does not triumph over me. As for me, You uphold me in my integrity, and set me before Your face forever. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.</b>	
<b>Book 2</b>		
<b>42</b>	<b>As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God...Why are you cast down, O my soul...for I shall yet praise Him, the help of my countenance and my God.</b>	
<b>45</b>	<b>My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition concerning the King; my tongue is the pen of a ready writer. You are fairer than the sons of men; grace is poured upon Your lips...Your throne, O God, is forever...You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You...the royal daughter is all glorious within the palace...she shall be brought to the King...I will make Your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore the people shall praise You forever and ever.</b>	
<b>62</b>	<b>Truly my soul silently waits for God; from Him comes my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation...my soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation...power belongs to God. Also to You, O Lord, belongs mercy; for You render to each one according to his work.</b>	
<b>63</b>	<b>O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water...the king shall rejoice in God; everyone who swears by Him shall glory; but the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped.</b>	
<b>72</b>	<b>Give the king Your judgments, O God, and Your righteousness to the king's Son...His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun. and men shall be blessed in Him; all nations shall call Him blessed...and let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.</b>	
<b>Book 3</b>		
<b>73</b>	<b>Truly God is good to Israel, to such as are pure in heart...it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all Your works.</b>	
<b>85</b>	<b>Lord, You have been favorable to Your land...mercy and truth have met together...truth shall spring out of the earth...righteousness will go before Him, and shall make His footsteps our pathway.</b>	
<b>87</b>	<b>His foundation is in the holy mountains. The Lord loves the gates of Zion...both the singers and the players on instruments say, "All my springs are in you."</b>	
<b>89</b>	<b>I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever... "I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: Your seed I will establish forever, and build up your throne to all generations...I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David: His seed shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before Me."</b>	
<b>Book 4</b>		
<b>90</b>	<b>Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth...from everlasting to everlasting,</b>	

	<b>You are God...and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us...establish the work of our hands.</b>	
91	<b>He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."</b>	
103	<b>Bless the Lord, O my soul,...forget not all His benefits: who forgives all your iniquities...heals all your diseases...redeems your life from destruction...crowns you with lovingkindness...satisfies your mouth with good things...The Lord has established His throne...and His kingdom rules over all...Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!</b>	
106	<b>Praise the Lord! Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord?...save us, O Lord, our God...to give thanks to Your holy name, to triumph in Your praise. Blessed be the Lord God is Israel from everlasting to everlasting! And let all people say, "Amen!" Praise the Lord!</b>	
<b>Book 5</b>		
107	<b>Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever...whoever is wise will observe these things, and they will understand the lovingkindness of the Lord.</b>	
110	<b>The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool." The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!</b>	
119	<b>MEDITATIONS on the EXCELLENCIES of the WORD of GOD</b>	
132	<b>Lord, remember David and all his afflictions...The Lord has sworn in truth to David... "I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body...His enemies I will clothe with shame, but upon Himself His crown shall flourish."</b>	
135	<b>Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord...Blessed be the Lord...</b>	
138	<b>I will praise you with my whole heart...the Lord will perfect that which concerns me...do not forsake the works of Your hands.</b>	
139	<b>O Lord, You have searched me and known me...see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.</b>	
143	<b>Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications!...In Your mercy cut off my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul; for I am Your servant.</b>	
144	<b>Blessed be the Lord my Rock, who trains my hands for war...</b>	
145	<b>I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever...my mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord...forever.</b>	
146	<b>Praise the Lord!...the Lord shall reign forever – Your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the Lord!</b>	
147	<b>Praise the Lord!...He has not dealt thus with any nation; and as for His judgments, they have not known them. Praise the Lord!</b>	
148	<b>Praise the Lord!...from the heavens...in the heights...all His angels...hosts...sun and moon...stars of light...heavens...waters...He has exalted the horn of His people, the praise of all His saints [CHRIST] – of the children of Israel, a people near to Him. Praise the Lord!</b>	
149	<b>Praise the Lord! sing to the Lord a new song, and His praise in the assembly fo saints...let the saints be joyful in glory...to execute on them [the nations] the written judgment – this honor have all His saints. Praise the Lord!</b>	

150	Praise the Lord!...in His sanctuary...in His mighty firmament...for His mighty acts...according to His excellent greatness!...with the sound of the trumpet...lute and harp...timbrel and dance...stringed instruments and flutes...loud cymbals...let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!	
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“I pray that out of His glorious riches

**He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being,**

***so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.”***

Ephesians 3:16-17a

**Synthesis:**

**When Christ dwells in us through faith [the mind and heart that meditates on His Word, responding to all of life faithfully, as modeled in the Psalms], we will be rooted and grounded in love [for true divine love meditates on God’s Word, God’s King, and God’s salvation] and be able to comprehend what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; and thus be filled with all the fullness of God.**

**This is where the power’s at! Living a life of love comes through a heart that is fully alive through faith, warfare, and praise [WORSHIP]. Only the heart that sees life as God sees (through Christ) is the heart truly alive! Raised [by resurrection power] to be one with Christ!**

**REFLECTION:**

**Compare and contrast your meditations with those in Psalms. Determine to learn faithful meditation, to think with a renewed mind that is in connection to the Head and the Body of Christ where love is not hypocritical but singularly authentic and powerful; where evil is overcome by good. (Rom.12)**

# Proverbs

## The Mind of Wisdom: Fearing God and Desiring Righteousness and Life

# The Treasure House of Biblical Values

### Conceptual summary:

Wisdom begins with a deep reverence for the Lord God. Wisdom is the culmination of knowledge, understanding, righteousness, justice, humility, and faithfulness. It results in truthfulness, purity, peace, prosperity, responsibility, and love. It involves the skills of discernment and discretion motivated by deep conviction for truth and grace to the glory of God.

**Key instructions: “My son, listen...., do not forget my teaching, keep my commands, do not forsake your mother’s teaching”**

Introductory lessons: (chs.1-9)		
<b>The Need for Wisdom/ the Supremacy of Wisdom [Creating a desire for the best]</b>		
Chapter	First and last verse	Prominent thought
1	The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel... But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil.	
2	My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you... But the wicked will be cut off from the earth, and the unfaithful will be uprooted from it.	
3	My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands... But the wise shall inherit glory, but shame shall be the legacy of fools.	
4	Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, and give attention to know understanding... Do not turn to the right or the left; remove your foot from evil.	
5	My son, pay attention to my wisdom; lend your ear to my understanding... He shall die for lack of instruction, and in	

	the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.	
6	My son, if you become surety for your friend, if you have shaken hands in pledge for a stranger... He will accept no recompense, nor will he be appeased though you give many gifts.	
7	My son, keep my words, and treasure my commands within you... Her house is the way to hell, descending to the chambers of death.	
8	Does not wisdom cry out, and understanding lift up her voice?... But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; all those who hate me love death.	
9	Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn out her seven pillars... But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of hell.	
What is the purpose of the first nine chapters?		
9/31 chapters (29%) spent on this purpose emphasize the importance of _____.		
<b>Formal instruction on wisdom (chs.10-31)</b>		
10	The proverbs of Solomon: A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is the grief of his mother... The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked what is perverse.	
11	Dishonest scales are an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is His delight... If the righteous will be recompensed on the earth, how much more the ungodly and the sinner.	
12	Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid... In the way of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death.	
13	A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke... The righteous eats to the satisfying of his soul, but the stomach of the wicked shall be in want.	
14	The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish pulls it down with her hands... The king's favor is toward a wise servant, but his wrath is against him who causes shame.	
15	A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger... The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is humility.	Correction
16	The preparations of the heart belong to man,	

	<p>but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord...</p> <p>The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.</p>	
17	<p>Better is a dry morsel with quietness, than a house full of feasting with strife...</p> <p>Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; when he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.</p>	
18	<p>A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment...</p> <p>A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.</p>	
19	<p>Better is the poor who walks in his integrity than one who is perverse in his lips, and is a fool...</p> <p>Judgments are prepared for scoffers, and beatings for the backs of fools.</p>	
20	<p>Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise...</p> <p>Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, as do stripes the inner depths of the heart.</p>	
21	<p>The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes...</p> <p>The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but deliverance is of the Lord.</p>	
22	<p>A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold...</p> <p>Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before unknown men.</p>	
23	<p>When you sit down to eat with a ruler, consider carefully what is before you...</p> <p>"They have struck me, but I was not hurt; they have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?"</p>	
24	<p>Do not be envious of evil men, nor desire to be with them...</p> <p>So shall your poverty come like a prowler, and your need like an armed man.</p>	
25	<p>v.2 – It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter...</p> <p>Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.</p>	
26	<p>As snow in summer and rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool...</p> <p>A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, and a flattering mouth works ruin.</p>	
27	<p>Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth...</p>	

	You shall have enough goats' milk for your food, for the food of your household, and the nourishment of your maidservants.	
28	The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion... When the wicked arise, men hide themselves; but when they perish, the righteous increase.	
29	He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy... An unjust man is an abomination to the righteous, and he who is upright in the way is an abomination to the wicked.	
30	v.2 – Surely I am more stupid than any man, and do not have the understanding of a man... For as the churning of milk produces butter, and wringing the nose produces blood, so the forcing of wrath produces strife.	
31	v.2 – What, my son? And what, son of my womb? And what, son of my vows?... Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.	

**Reflection assignment:**

1. Formulate a list of values from each chapter and email to me.
2. In light of this book's teachings, with regards to education, what should be one primary component of our teaching?

# Wisdom is living righteously with [God and Man]

**“...Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness, and redemption.” 1 Corinthians 1:30**

## Ecclesiastes

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# Vanity vs. Value

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## Can true value be found in this life?

**Key phrase: “...under the sun...”**

**Disclaimer:** All of the observations and conclusions are coming from the “...under the sun...” perspective, meaning without consideration of that which is above the sun; i.e. utilizing humanistic philosophy rather than divine revelation.

**What is the purpose of life? What is its meaning (value)?**

**Overview:**

The Preacher uses the “observation and induction” method and concludes that God’s commandments are to be obeyed because life’s meaning [ascertainment of its value] is only experienced when people live according to His Word.

- **Primary theme: Neither accomplishments or things have any lasting value.**
- **Secondary theme: enjoy life and things with the knowledge that God will require an accounting. He will ask...**

## WHAT PROFIT IS THERE?

**IDENTIFYING VALUE:**

**“What profit has the worker from that in which he labors?”**

**“What does man gain from all his labor at which he toils under the sun?”**

***“Meaningless! Meaningless! Utterly meaningless!”***

King Solomon devoted himself to study and explore by wisdom all that is done under heaven...

- The king tried pleasure...
- He undertook great projects...houses, vineyards, gardens, parks, reservoirs...
- He bought slaves, grew slaves, amassed silver and gold, acquired singers and a harem...
- He denied himself nothing and refused his heart no pleasure...
- His heart took delight...yet...found everything to be a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.
- “...I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind.”
- “And I saw that all labor and all achievement spring from man’s envy of his neighbor. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.”
- A man toiling alone, his eyes not content with his wealth, asking, “For whom am I toiling and ...depriving myself of enjoyment?” This too is meaningless.

- Displeasure with leadership, this too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.
- Insatiable appetite for money and wealth is meaningless.
- Wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner or wealth lost through misfortune is meaningless.
- A man comes and goes with no [real] gain since he toils for the wind. All his days, he eats in darkness, with great frustration, affliction and anger. This too is meaningless.
- God gives a man wealth, possessions and honor, but...does not enable him to enjoy them, and a stranger enjoys them instead. This is meaningless, a grievous evil.”

**“Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.”**

### **Some things are better than others but...**

- A man can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without Him, who can eat or find enjoyment?
- “I know that nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives, and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor – it is the gift of God.”
- “Then I realized that it is good and proper for a man to eat and drink, and to find satisfaction in his toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given him – for this is his lot. Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work – this is a gift of God.
- “So I perceived that nothing is better than that a man should rejoice in his own works, for that is his heritage.”
- “Two are better than one...A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”
- “Better a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king who will be admonished no more.”
- A good name is better than fine perfume, and the day of death better than the day of birth.
- It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of every man; the living should take this to heart.
- Sorrow is better than laughter, because a sad face is good for the heart. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of pleasure.
- It is better to heed a wise man’s rebuke than to listen to the song of fools.
- **Wisdom is better than folly. Light is better than darkness. A wise man has eyes while the fool is blind.**

**BUT THE SAME FATE OVERTAKES THEM BOTH.**

**The king hated life because all his work had to be left to one who came after.**

- **“For who knows what is good for a man in life, during the few and meaningless days he passes through like a shadow? Who can tell him what will happen under the sun after he is gone?”**

As the saying goes, it’s not over till it’s over.

But what happens when it's over?

What will happen under the sun after we are gone?

What we leave behind is a strong indicator of our value and our values.

**Only God knows for certain what will remain; it is what He does. What God does lasts; what God creates and / or redeems has true value.**

- “He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.”
- “I know that whatever God does, it shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, and nothing taken from it. God does it, that men should fear before Him.”
- **True value is found in being in right relationship to God and each other.**
- **True value must be determined by the end result, the final end result.**
- **Obedience to God results in gain / increase of life [love] experienced in relationships that continues without end.**

The author implies what is found on these pages is the extent of what can be known without revelation from above the sun. Human wisdom, using what can be observed and experienced, can only know and conclude that all is vanity and meaningless except for obedience to God.

**Everything under the sun is vanity;  
Thus obey God's commandments [for they come  
from above the sun.]**

Life experience verifies the truths proclaimed in the Scriptures. When we act according to God's commandments, it results in peace and order, a place where love is experienced and thus life is generated and sustained [true value]. When we act against God's commands, bonds are broken, trust is lost, and wrath and destruction are the final results [worthlessness].

*Without the One who is above the sun, all is vanity. All is meaningless! Ultimate value and*

*meaning cannot be found in things under the sun.*

*Reflection question for the week:*

*In light of God's truth, how can we bring true value and meaning into our teaching / parenting? What must be the primary and essential core of our interaction with children? Without which all becomes vanity and meaningless.*

Reflection prompts:

Looking ahead to the New Testament...

Searching for real value...? Someone has said,  
“ I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”

Check out how the Apostle Paul put it...

“But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of **Christ**. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing **Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain **Christ** and be found in Him...I want to know **Christ** and the power of His **resurrection** and the fellowship of sharing in His **sufferings**, becoming like Him in His **death**, and so, somehow, **to attain to the resurrection from the dead.**”

**SONG OF SONGS: The Best of All Songs!**  
*The Glory of Wedded Love:*  
*Intimacy of those married in heart, soul, and body*

Key word: **“LOVE”**

In this literary masterpiece, the glorious beauty and intimacy of covenant love is expressed through Oriental and Semitic poetry.

**The TRIPLE QUEST:**

1. **Identifying the Desired One**
2. **The Quest for openness**                      How wide...
  - a. Honesty
  - b. Integrity
  - c. Sincerity
  - d. Genuineness
  - e. Earnestness
  - f. Unpretentiousness
  - g. authenticity
3. **The Quest for mutuality**                      How long...
  - a. Understanding
  - b. Sympathy
  - c. Empathy
  - d. Compassion
  - e. Consideration
  - f. Affinity
  - g. Support
4. **The Quest for oneness**                      How high...
  - a. Togetherness
  - b. Union
  - c. Fusion
  - d. Intimacy
  - e. Agreement
  - f. Peace
  - g. Harmony
5. **Achieving what was sought after**                      How deep...
  - a. Faith [that arises out of being true]
  - b. Hope [that grows out of understanding]
  - c. Love [that creates the everlasting bond]

**Is the Love of Christ!!!**

**Song of Songs:**

(This introduction was taken from *The J. Vernon McGee Electronic Bible Study Library*)

**“The Glory of Wedded Love”/ Holy Communion of Christ and His Church**

The Song of Songs is a parabolic poem (of a parable nature). Interpretation is very significant. In the context of the entire canon of Scripture, it sets forth the following themes:

1. The glory of “wedded love”, declaring the sacredness and beauty of the marital relationship; affirming that marriage is a divine institution. Some of the language may appear explicit and its interpretation vulgar, but when it is compared to other oriental poetry, it is indeed tame and lacks the splash of color and extravagant terms which characterize oriental poetry (e.g. Persian poetry). This book sets forth the heart of a satisfied husband and a devoted wife.
2. The love of Jehovah for Israel. The prophets spoke of Israel as the wife of Jehovah. (Hosea 1:19, 20)
3. Christ and the Church. The church is the bride of Christ (2 Cor.11:2, Eph.5:27, Rev.21)
4. The communion of Christ and the individual believer.

“The Song of Solomon tests the spiritual capacity of the reader.”

**Outline:**

- I. Drama opening: In the hill country of Ephraim...
- II. A love scene in the palace
- III. The Bride dreams of the Bridegroom
- IV. The love song of the Bridegroom
- V. The Bride goes looking for the Bridegroom
- VI. The Bride glorifies the Bridegroom
- VII. The Beauty of the Bride and the Bridegroom
- VIII. Wedded Love: No Higher Possession

<b>Song of Songs: <i>What does it mean?</i></b>			
<b>Objective of this exercise: to gain a realization and appreciation of the depth and power of Solomon’s poetic language, i.e. his magnificent choice of imagery</b>			
<b>Imagery</b>	<b>Imagery Research</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
lily of the valleys 2:1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A true lily is never dormant . . . it must be considered and treated as a living perennial plant.</li> <li>• ...special care must be taken to keep them fresh and moist.</li> <li>• ...mere words are such an inadequate medium for describing such a plant!</li> <li>• ...see for yourself how lovely and varied and colorful they are. Was there ever anything so white and pure and regal as the Trumpets . . . or the deep gold and chartreuse and melon of the flouncy-petaled Aurelians! Notice the bright sparkling colors of the freckled-faced Asiatics . . . and the sequin-studded satiny crimson of the Auratum Hybrids. Smell the heavenly fragrance ..... ummmmmmm..... wouldn't you love to have a garden full of lilies!</li> <li>• They bloom over a long period too . . . even all winter under glass! With the long blooming season and the diversity of shapes, sizes, colors, and types you will <i>never</i> discover all their secrets. They will never bore you.</li> <li>• Lilies are prolific too.</li> <li>• Lilies mix very well with most garden flowers . . . perennials as well as annuals. The slender stems do not take up much room, and the gorgeously fragrant blooms are displayed up above the lower companion plants. Unless a plant is particularly greedy or invasive, it may happily share the same garden as your lilies.</li> <li>• You see, lilies are not like other bulbs . . . like tulips or daffodils . . . they cannot be lifted and shuffled around willy-nilly. Lily bulbs must be protected from drying out at all times</li> <li>• there is one thing you must know . . . probably no other</li> </ul>	Beloved	Identified by the beauty of true divine love...

	condition is more important to the well-being . . . even the very <i>life</i> of your lilies than DRAINAGE. Lilies MUST HAVE GOOD DRAINAGE!!! It is rule No. 1 for success with lilies . . . also Rule No. 2, No. 3, No. 4 and No. 5!		
Apple tree (among the trees of the forest) 2:3		Lover	Source and bearer of good fruit
Banquet hall 2:4a		Place of celebration and feasting	Marriage Supper of the Lamb
Banner 2:4b		Love	Identity proclaimed
Raisins and apples 2:5		Source of strength and health	Facetious comparison for a cure for love-sickness
Gazelles and does 2:7		Basis for a charge (admonition)	
Gazelle or young stag 2:9a		Lover	
Wall, windows, lattice 2:9b,c		Lover's location (from where He speaks)	
Winter, rains 2:11			
Flowers, season of singing, cooing of doves 2:12			
Fig tree forms its early fruit; blossoming vines spread their fragrance 2:13a			
Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one 2:13b		Beloved	
Dove in the clefts of the rock...hiding places...2:14a		Beloved	
Show me your face, let me hear your voice 2:14b		Beloved	
Foxes that ruin our			

vineyards 2:15			
Until the day breaks and the shadows flee...2:17			

“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you **love** one another.” Jn.13:35  
 “My command is this: **Love** each other as I have **loved** you.” Jn.15:12  
 “...do you truly **love** Me more than these?...do you truly **love** Me?...Do you **love** Me?” Jn.21:15-17  
 “And now I will show you the most excellent way...If I speak...but have not **love**...I can only  
 a...gong...or a...cymbal...If I have the gift...if I have faith...but have not **love**, I am nothing. If I  
 give...but have not **love**, I gain nothing.”  
 “...Everyone who **loves** has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not **love** does not know God,  
 because **God is love**.” 1 Jn. 4:7, 8

# LOVE...

is patient  
 is kind  
 is not envious  
 is not boastful or proud  
 is not rude  
 is not self-seeking  
 is not easily angered  
 does not keep a record of wrongs  
 does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth  
 always protects  
 always trusts  
 always hopes  
 always perseveres  
 never fails

is perfection [not lacking in anything; complete]  
 is maturity and clarity and fullness of vision and knowledge  
 is the greatest gift of all!!!

1 Cor.13

**Reflection for a lifetime:** What does Song of Songs reveal to us about the love that binds those in covenant? How does the New Testament add to our understanding of this love? Why is this love the one gift we must possess? What makes divine, covenantal love so glorious? How does this book serve as an endcap to the poetry section of the canon?

