



Themes and Threads of the Holy Bible: The Writings (Job – Song of Songs)

Job

Author: Believed to be Job or Elihu

Theme: Faith amidst suffering

Pain (Job 1:1-2:13)

Forsakenness (Job 3:1-37:24)

God's Voice (Job 38:1-41:34)

Restoration (Job 42:1-17)

Key Verses:

“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” (Job 1:21b-22).

“Though he slay me, yet I will hope in him” (Job 13:15a).

“I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted” (Job 42:2).

Street Smarts for The Restoration Road

Are you suffering and blaming God? In the heat of the trial, praise the LORD. Seek His design for your life. Ask how He can use your pain for a purpose, your test for a testimony, your mess for a message of restoration to others in need of the same.

Psalms

Authors: David (73), Asaph (12), Sons of Korah (9), Solomon (2), Ethan (1), Moses (1)

Date: 1440 BC to 586 BC

Theme: *Psalms* means a song accompanied by a stringed instrument sung to God. It is praise to God.

The Psalms were used by the Levites to sing day and night to God.

The Psalms are the New Testament's most frequently quoted Old Testament book.

The Psalms were sung by Jesus while suffering on the cross.

The Psalms are organized in five books, similar to the book of Matthew.

Book One: Promises (Psalms 1-41)

Book Two: Petitions (Psalms 42-72)

Book Three: Power (Psalms 73-89)

Book Four: Protection (Psalms 90-106)

Book Five: Praises (Psalms 107-150)

Key Verses:

“Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain” (Psalm 127:1a).

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23-24).

“Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD” (Psalm 150:6).

Street Smarts for The Restoration Road

Where do you go with your emotions? In times of intense fear, anger, sorrow, or joy, what becomes the target of your feelings? Too often we direct them toward a bottle, a body, a substance, or an obsessive activity that destroys the soul. More than three thousand years ago, the psalmists recognized the significance of taking our emotions to God. Whether in confession or heartfelt worship, each of the Old Testament's 150 Psalms features an emotional encounter with the Creator, recognizing that only He satisfies the soul. It's no wonder that David, Moses, Solomon, and other writers discovered satisfaction in writing and singing their

emotions to God. Commit to reading through the Psalms, by reading three chapters a day for the next fifty days. Be prepared for God to renew your heart.

Proverbs

Author: Solomon (partially assembled by Hezekiah, Agur, Lemuel)

Occupation: King of Israel

Origin: Jerusalem, Israel

Date: 970-930 BC (Hezekiah 715-686 BC)

Theme: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Proverbs 1:7)

Audience: Emerging Leaders

Language: Hebrew

Characteristics:

Proverbs (*mashal*): Generally true most of the time

Parallelisms: (1) Synonymous (compares similarities), (2) Emblematic (enlightens: one line illumines another), (3) Antithetical (contrasts), (4) Synthetic (stair steps: next line continues the thought)

Source: Solomon from God

Purpose: Wisdom (*chokmah*, God’s righteousness combined with street smarts) for Conflict (*con* meaning “together” and *fliegre* meaning “to strike;” two objects attempting to occupy the same space at the same time)

Use: Training Leaders

- I. Introduction (Proverbs 1:1-7)
- II. Ten Appeals (Proverbs 1:8-7:27)
- III. Seven Calls (Proverbs 8:1-9:18)
- IV. Solomon’s 375 Sayings (Proverbs 10:1-21:31)
- V. 30 Sayings of the Wise (Proverbs 22:1-24:34)
- VI. Hezekiah’s 125 Sayings (Proverbs 25:1-30:33)
- VII. Virtuous Woman Discourse (Proverbs 31:1-31)

Key Verses:

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Proverbs 1:7).

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding” (Proverbs 9:10).

Street Smarts for The Restoration Road

Read a chapter a day in Proverbs corresponding with the date of the month. You will read through the book twelve times a year. Each day, pray for wisdom and apply God’s truth to your schedule and tasks.

Ecclesiastes

Author: Solomon

Date: 935 BC

Theme: The Meaning of Life

Futility (Ecclesiastes 1:1-2)

Fallen World (Ecclesiastes 1:3-12:8)

Father of All (Ecclesiastes 12:9-14)

Key Verses:

“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

Street Smarts for The Restoration Road

God is always faithful, but we are not. That’s why we need Christ to pursue life with God, bringing us in *communion* with Him (Ecclesiastes 3:11) and *community* with others (Ecclesiastes 4:12). Christ never fails. Surrender to Him whatever you are holding back. He will make you new, again.

Song of Songs, or Song of Solomon

Author: Solomon

Date: 970 BC

Theme: Love between a husband and wife, as well as God and His people

Courtship (Song of Songs 1:1-3:5)

Marriage (Song of Songs 3:6-5:1)

Conflict from Separation (Song of Songs 5:2-6:13)
Resolution of Love (Song of Songs 7:1-8:14)

Street Smarts for The Restoration Road

How does your spouse desire to be loved? Are you pursuing him or her at the soul level in the manner he or she desires most? What could you do, today, that would best communicate God's love for your husband or wife?