

III. The Wisdom Books
August 2009

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A. Job

1. Theme: The righteous person in Christ suffers for his own good and the glory of God. God's purposes in your suffering are beyond comprehension.
2. Outline
 - a. The testing of Job (1 – 2)
 - b. False comfort by Job's three friends (3 – 31)
 - i. Eliphaz
 - ii. Bildad
 - iii. Zophar
 - c. Elihu's speeches (32 – 37)
 - d. God's speeches (38 – 42)
 - e. God's rebuke of Job's three friends and Job's restoration (42)

B. Psalms

1. Theme: The Psalms are a record of the joy and sorrow of God's people in response to their circumstances in life, which are providentially ordained.
2. Outline:
 - a. Book I: Psalms 1 – 41
 - b. Book II: Psalms 42 – 72
 - c. Book III: Psalms 73 – 89
 - d. Book IV: Psalms 90 – 106
 - e. Book V: Psalms 107 - 150

C. Proverbs

1. Theme: The beginning and first principle of knowledge, wisdom and instruction is the fear of the LORD.
2. Outline
 - a. Introduction: the book's title, purpose and motto (1:1-7)
 - b. Thirteen lessons on wisdom (1 – 9)
 - c. The first book of Solomon (10 – 22)
 - d. The book of the wise (22 – 24)
 - e. The sayings of the wise (24:23 – 34)
 - f. The second book of Solomon (25 – 29)
 - g. The sayings of Agur (30)
 - h. The sayings of Lemuel (31:1 – 9)
 - i. Appendix: the perfect wife (31:10 – 31)

D. Ecclesiastes

1. Theme: Life is *vanity* (like having the wind knocked out of you when you realize how sinful and fallen the world is) but is given meaning in the fear of the LORD, ultimately in Christ.
2. Outline
 - a. The vanity of merely human effort and experience (1 – 2)
 - b. Coming to terms with the laws that govern life (3 – 5)
 - c. No ultimate satisfaction in earthly goods and treasures (6 – 8)
 - d. God will deal with the injustices of life (9 – 12:8)
 - e. Conclusion: life in the light of eternity (12:9 – 14)

E. Song of Solomon

1. Theme: A love affair between man and wife typifies the love Christ has for His church.
2. Outline
 - a. Mutual affection of the lovers (1 – 2)
 - b. Mutual seeking and finding of the lovers (2 – 3)
 - c. Fetching of the bride, and the marriage (3 – 5)
 - d. Love scorned but won again (5 – 6)
 - e. The Shulamite as the attractively fair but humble princes (6 – 8)
 - f. Ratification of the love covenant in her home (8)