

17 - Bible Overview

Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

Books of Bible:

The Law: *Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy*

These books cover creation, exodus from Egypt, wandering in the desert, and the laws God gave the people during this time to help them establish a government and build a nation.

History: *Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, and 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther*

These books describe the history of the nation of Israel and are divided into two sections: Pre-Exile and Post Exile.

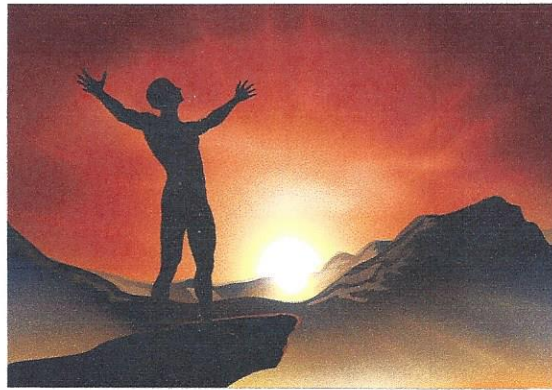
Pre Exile are *Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, and 1 and 2 Chronicles*. These detail entering the Promised Land and building the nation and finally becoming a monarchy.

Post Exile books are *Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther*. These books take place after Israel is conquered and the people are disbursed throughout other countries. Israel is left in ruins. *Ezra and Nehemiah* tell about the first groups of people to return to Israel. They rebuild the Temple and the walls around Jerusalem. *Esther* is a story about people who lived in exile in Persia and how Esther (an orphan Jewish girl) becomes Queen and saves the Jews from annihilation.

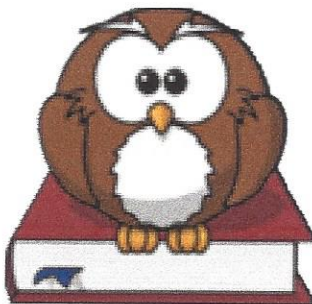
Last week we started a group of books that are Poetry. These books include: *Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs*. We looked at *Job* last week. This week we will cover *Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs*.

Psalms: A collection of 150 songs and poetry written by different people; however, the primary author was David. The longest Psalm is 119 and the shortest is 117. To get a feel of a Psalm read 117.

The Psalms emphasize worship, praise, God's power, sovereignty, and forgiveness. They also help us repent, be thankful, and grow in our faith. Many of them have been used in our hymns and contemporary music.



Proverbs: A collection of proverbs or sayings that emphasize how to live a righteous, godly, successful, and purposeful life. Solomon wrote almost this entire book. He asked God for wisdom when he became king and God granted his request. In this book Solomon imparts a lot of his wisdom. Read Proverbs 1: 1 -5. These verses explain the purpose of this book.



Ecclesiastes: This book was also written by Solomon. Proverbs was written when he was young. This book was written in his old age. Despite his wisdom, he lived a life apart from God and when looking back he was sad and depressed. He hoped this book would help us learn that life has no meaning if you don't love, obey, and follow God. Read Ecc. 12:13. This verse sums up the purpose of this book.



Song of Songs: This book tells about the love between a husband and wife. Some say it is only about a bride and groom. Some say it is an analogy of how God loves us (the church) like His bride.



DEVOTION

Proverbs talks a lot about being wise when choosing friends. Read the Scriptures below and follow the instructions.

Read Proverbs 16: 27-30: What four things does this verse tell us to avoid when choosing friends?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Read: Proverbs: 13:20 17:17; 19:22; 27:17

List at least four things these verses tell us make good friendships. Not only should we seek these in a friend, we should make sure we act this way in our friendships.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

PRAYER

Dear God, Thank you for the friends you brought into my life. Help me to always choose my friends wisely and help me a good friend to others. Amen.

My name is _____ . I am

_____ years old. I am walking through the Bible with

_____ on this date _____.

FOR A TODDLER

What you need: Nothing extra today

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There is a book in the Bible called Proverbs. It teaches us how to live a life that makes God happy. Some of this book talks about friends.

Can you name some of your friends? _____

The Bible says we should make friends who obey their parents and teachers, who tell the truth, who say nice and not mean things, and don't hurt others.

Point to the pictures of boys and girls who you would choose as friends.



Yelling at a friend



Being nice



Being disobedient



Sharing



Having fun

PRAYER

God, please help me to choose friends that will make you happy with me. Help me to be the kind of friend you want me to be. Amen.

My name is _____ . I am

_____ years old. I am walking through the Bible with

_____ on this date _____ .