

BIBLE MYSTERY AND BIBLE MEANING OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson 11

Poetical and Wisdom Books

Job • Psalms • Proverbs • Ecclesiastics • Song of Solomon

The Old Testament is a subdivision among the books shown to have four well defined parts; Law, History, Poetry and Wisdom Books, and Prophecy.

Background

These books classed as Poetical are found elsewhere in the Bible: i.e. Exodus 15:1-21; Judges: 5. They are of a category known as ancient Near East **wisdom literature**, writing that expands on man's desire to understand his true nature as a child of God. Questions and faith about God, our being, what is life, why is life, the nature of evil and suffering are deeply explored and realized in these books. These books, though being from the people of God, range from short insights of wisdom in Proverbs to the dialogue of Job, Job's friends, and God. They form an engaging conversation that teaches and enlightens the reader.

- **Job:** Job, though a God-fearing man, none the less has missed the mark and due to his making experiences terrible trials and sufferings, cry's out to God for an explanation. An easy and simplistic answer is not to be found and yet the answer lies within us. It teaches us that what appears to be a pebble requires the strength to move a mountain, in which Job becomes receptive to what God is rather than what he wants God to be.
- **Psalms:** A collections of prayers, songs, and poetry, many of them written by King David. The psalms cover a gambit of human emotion, from praise to doubt; repenting, and joy.
- **Proverbs:** Hundreds of short pieces of insight, clarifies the difference between wisdom and foolishness. Like the other wisdom books, Proverbs employs parallelism: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge / but fools despise wisdom and instruction." , a technique in which two phrases are matched or contrasted.
- **Ecclesiastes:** A challenging book in the sense that it has the appearance of being flat out cynical and fatalistic.. A "spice of life" reflecting on mankind's often over reacting self-centeredness of excluding God and ignoring the power of faith and prayer. i.e., *"'Meaningless! Meaningless!' says the Teacher. 'Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.'"* It is in deeper reflection to Truth and its Wisdom we see the paradox, its message is ultimately a positive one .Living in God Consciousness through Christ Mind provides a grounding for human life in God's abundance. There is no coincidence that this book comes after Job, Psalms, and Proverbs; as if to be a test to see if the reader has grasped the previous three books into their daily living. Life is filled with cynicism, of which we will hear but need not be a part of it..
- **Song of Solomon:** A unique and beautiful book. Song of Songs is a poetic dialogue about love, celebrating marriage and the gift of sexuality. To recognize love of Christ in this book is to realize the absolute truth. There is no separation. It is all of God and it is good and all is well.

The beauty of these books is enlightening and steadfast in the infinite love God has for man. It is an awakening into our own godliness. We are in the image and likeness; the heaven is within; the Christ is within! These books can be very challenging to read, and rightly so. We are meant to evolve, stretch, expand...and then extrapolate from it. We are infinite spiritual beings created in the

image and likeness. What does that mean? How well can we even begin to truly comprehend that statement, that Truth?

The clear narrations of such beauty comes from truth, the deep inner knowledge of God Mind. We see that despite the gap of time that separates us from ancient Israel, the Israelites struggled with the same faith issues that we do today. These Biblical historical books are not of the past or the future, or even the present. They are the infinite wisdom of the eternal moment. They asked tough questions about sin and suffering; they experienced joy and faith in God's love; they looked for God in all of life, in good and in bad times; they sometimes struggled with their faith and allowed despair to engulf them, and still they looked to God.

These wisdom books, with their stories and beautiful poetry, show us that God gives his kingdom freely to us. They provide answers and solutions to all our questions and prayers. No experience in our lives, whether great struggles or in the abundance of divine mind, we always dwell in the midst of God's love and understanding.

JOB

A story about the Law of Expression, Attraction, Resistance, and Faith.

The Book of Job includes the following cast of characters:

Job - The central character, his transition from a self-righteous concept of religion to awakening to his true innate self in Christ Consciousness.

God - Omniscient, Omnipotent, Creator of all Life.

The Accuser - Job's adversary Satan, who brings shadows and erroneous thoughts in the guise of disease and loss.

Eliphaz - Son of Esau, a friend of Job and his father. Oldest of the three friends, he speaks first. Though strong in God, he was not able to help Job. His thoughts were steadfast in knowing that a true cleansing, strength and supply must come from God. Eliphaz takes a gentler and calmer approach than the second and third friends.

Bildad - A second friend, who attempts to help Job more about the outer formed world in his logic, bringing contention and strife to the conversation. He is more about appearances than Truth.

Zophar - A third friend who functions more from the subconscious. He is filled with panic and terror, a lowly plane based from fear.

Elihu - The young man whose true inner self is spirit, shows Job the way to God. It only through God that we find the way.

Outline of the Book of Job:

- I Prologue Ch. 1:1 - 2:13
- II Job's Dialogues with his Councilors 3:1- 31:40

- A. Job laments his condition. *"Truly the thing I fear comes upon me, and what I dread befalls me."* 3:1-26
- B. Eliphaz first charge: states that Job has sinned. Job replies a plea for pity. 4:1 -7:21.
- C. Bildad's first speech: calls on Job to repent. Job replies. 8:1-10:22
- D. Zophar first charge: declares that Job is being justly punished for his sins. Job's rebuttal. 11:1-14:22
- E. Eliphaz speaks a second time. Job reaffirms his Innocence. 15:1- 17:16
- F. Bildad speaks a second time. Job replies. 18:1-19:29
- G. Zophar final speech. Job replies. 20:1 -21:34
- H. Eliphaz final speech. "You will decide on a matter, and it will be established for you, and light will shine on your ways." Job replies with bitter complaints. 22:1- 24:25
- I. Bildad Final Speech. Job replies, stating: *"I hold fast my righteousness, and will not let it go; my heart does not reproach me for any of my days."* 25:1 - 31:40
- III Elihu's Monologue 32:1 - 37:24
- IV. God Speaks 38:1- 41:34
 - A. Interrogation with Job Face to Face 38:1- 41
 - B. Assertion of Omnipresence 31:9-30
 - C. Summary Question 40:1-2
 - D. Job's Reply 40:3-5
 - E. God's Questioning of Job Resumed 40:6-41:34
- V. Job's Confession 42:1-6
- VI. Epilogue 42:7-17

Job had come to an impasse; a time of great change. Often when we come to a point in our lives of great change it must be met. Until it is, there is much unrest and turbulence within. At a time such as this our Law of Expression can be quite muddled and even negative. We can end up feeling betrayed and forgotten by God because of the condition our Law of Attraction is functioning. It is a time of letting go of the old and embracing the new.

In this story of Job he needs to overcome his self-righteousness. It is within that he must seek the fountainhead of life for God's deep inner Knowledge into the Truth; the Christ Consciousness. The days of settling for a few outer acts in God's name had come to a close. Without realizing it, Job had evolved, but had not yet embraced his Christ self.

As a reminding note; we often refer to the Christ in Old Testament simply because the Christ in man was evolving in consciousness. The Christ has already been, eternally. Christ is but the expression of God as man. Without the evolution / involution, Jesus would not have come to be. In God there is perfect order. The more we embrace this Truth and become a witness onto our own selves, of the Christ self, the more we become in the image of God and less of animal (man).

The things that Job feared came upon him. Despite his devotion to the laws of God, he none the less lived in fear of evil / negativity (Reference Job, 3:25, 26). His three friends came to him to comfort and argue with him. They represent our outer thoughts of limitations, our Law of Resistance, and staying in our self-righteousness/ self-centeredness. The law of Resistance is a limited self-destructive expression induced by our error thoughts engulfed and as one with fear. We attach fear to our thoughts and then make manifest. This is duality. In God there is no fear. So therefore in Christ Consciousness there is no fear. In faith we can still move forward in God's perfect plans as we work on surrendering our fears over to God Mind. We do not need to act out on our negative thoughts and feelings. In faith we can move ahead letting as little negativity take place as possible as we let it go all together.

Elihu who was filled with the Holy Spirit, pure in thought and strong in faith. His consciousness is so strong that he can lift mankind's eyes back up into the Heavens and return to the Father's House. In this True Love, Wisdom, Harmony, and Grace, Job could hear the Truth of God. It was here that Job came to the Law of Forgiveness and then the healing began. He prayed not for himself but for his friends and his long reign of suffering left. *"Jehovah gave Job twice as much as he had before"* - Job 42:10.

It is in forgiving, truly forgiving, a great divine cleansing takes place. Like the flood in the day of Noah, everything is made fresh and new. The Christ Power simply and beautifully becomes, where there was once defects and shortcomings. It is here we enter into true peace, joy, and abundance, as Job had done.

Psalms

The title Psalms is derived from the Greek word *psalmoi*; denoting a poem sung to the accompaniment by musical instruments. The Israelites of the day often set these words to stringed instruments and served as the temple hymnals and devotional guides.

The word *Selah* occurs seventy-one times in thirty-nine of the **Psalms** and three times in Habakkuk 3: altogether 74 times in the Bible. It is found at the end of Psalms 3, 24, and 46, and in most other cases at the end of a verse, the exceptions being Psalms 55:19, 57:3, and Hab. 3:3, 9, and 13. Often it has been referred to as a musical term for the musicians to rest or pause. Music being an expression of our being, the rest or pause would be significant to the words being sung; to contemplate on the words just spoken or sung. Rather than just saying them from sight or as part of a ritual, they allow a deeper more personal meaning and understanding to take place within our sub-conscious. Thus spending time in the silence of our Christ Mind becoming receptive to the divine wisdom of the Holy Spirit (Hearing the word of God).

i.e. One of the most spoken Christian prayers is from the New Testament; Matthew 6:9, coined The Lord's Prayer. We all come together and say it. How often though has each line really been contemplated / meditated on? Each line is deep in God Wisdom. Each line is well worth really spending time with.

Themes: Though a wide variety of themes, the most notable ones emphasize prayer, praise, and worship.

Authors: Though many are unknown and some are in doubt, seventy three Psalms are attributed to David. Other Psalms are attributed to Korah, Asaph, Heman, Ethan, Solomon, Moses, Haggai, Zechariah, and Ezra.

Time: Ranging from Moses to the Babylonian Captivity.

Structure: Each psalm represents a particular topic. They do not appear to be arranged in accordance to any particular point in time nor arranged in any discernable order.

The Book of Psalms covers the gambit of human nature and our struggle to understand ourselves, our faith, our Godliness, and our purpose. Whether through times of war, peace, worship, judgment, messianic prophecy, praise, or lament, mankind has turned to God.

In Hebrew the book became known as the Book of Praise-*Sepher Tehillim*- because almost every psalm somewhere within its lines praises God.

From the Book of Psalms are the second most quoted writings in the New Testament; the first being Isaiah.

***Some of the most popular Psalms**

1, 8, 19, 22-23, 24, 27, 28, 42:1-14, 46:1-11, 51, 84, 88, 90-93, 96, 100, 117, 119:1--16, 97-112, 136:1-26, 139, 148:1-14, 150

Proverbs

It is the intent to live life in God Consciousness through Christ Consciousness. To have a life filled with the seven inherences: Love, Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding, , Power, Life, and Joy. Wisdom is the key and Proverbs is God's Wisdom, not man's wisdom. It is not two different states of being. It is not about right or wrong or good or bad. There is no duality in God's Wisdom. There is no separation in God's Wisdom. There is only the Word and the Word is Good.

Proverbs helps us to evolve from a lowly state of the sub-conscious and its race mind (*ref: Divine Science, Its Principle and Practice*) awakening into our Christ Being. Man's wisdom can stem from pride, greed, procrastination, slothfulness, sexual misdirection, anger, rage, low self-esteem, and so on. Proverbs brings guidance and a clarity that lifts our eyes up into the Heavens of our true nature in God Mind, where we dwell in the House of the Lord. "Our Lord" is true power. There is no separation so the true power is within us. Christ Mind is God expressing as man. The reason why God gives us His / Her Kingdom so freely is because there is no separation. God is not mysterious. We say such things and minimize God's infinite and beautiful Perfection. We just don't understand. That is all there is to it. To open our eyes, to see, we must come to know with all our heart, mind, body, and soul; in other words our entire being, that not only do we dwell in the midst of God but the midst of God dwells within us . No more, no less.

Proverbs also offers wisdom concerning parent, children, neighbors, government, and so on. Often people get confused. They think or expect God to be offering / handing out divine promises and guarantees. That is not how the Principles of Life work. To function from illusions and error thoughts will, however, guarantee disappointment; and often God gets blamed for our own self-induced, self-centered ignorance. Instead, to live wisely in accordance to the laws and principles that are of God's Word, then blessings are the result. This sometimes or often is blown off as catching a break or being lucky. Since there is no separation, we can blindly stumble about in the Word, in our own self-made darkness, not knowing we are practicing the Word and so, calling that luck. Wisdom is the awareness of who we truly are and to embrace responsibly the power that is in us and of us, with the great divine authority of God Mind!

However we do have the choice either to embrace this Truth and live practicing this Wisdom that is so beautifully revealed in Proverbs by those who lived. Or we can go forth foolishly following our own stubborn path filled with regret, pain, and destruction.

Most of this book was written by Solomon.. He was the pinnacle of Israel's wisdom and traditions. Its Hebrew title is called *Mishle Shelomoh*, meaning "Proverbs of Solomon". In Latin it is called *Liber Proverbiorum*, meaning "Book of Proverbs". The "Book of Proverbs" combines the words Pro (for) and Verba ("words"). It stands for the ability to describe and concentrate the meaning of many words into a few.

Themes: Proverbs has through time brought the Wisdom of God for achieving a successful life. Its principles are based on the Law of Moses, presenting them in an easy to understand way. The phrase *"the fear of the Lord"* appears more than a dozen time in Proverbs. The term is pinnacle to this book. The term however is widely misunderstood. Earlier in this lesson was explained the term *"The Lord"*. This represents power, ruler-ship, that is within us; the same power that is all about us. There is no separation. *Fear* means to be in awe. To be in awe, with the deepest respect, of the power that is in us and of us...and all about us. That deepest of respect is our divinity, to be in awe of our inherited power. To know this to practice this...that is Wisdom.

Authors: Solomon is credited with Proverbs 1-29 and Agar and Lemuel are credited with Proverbs 30 and 31.

Note: It was in the tenth century B.C. that King Solomon ruled. It was during King Hezekiah's rule (estimated: 715-686 B.C.) that his men compiled and edited many of King Solomon's Proverbs. This is briefly noted in Proverbs 25:1.

The Beginning of Knowledge

The Proverbs of Solomon the son of David, King of Israel

For learning about wisdom and instruction, for understanding words of insight, for gaining instruction in wise dealing, righteousness, justice, and equity; to teach shrewdness to the simple, knowledge and prudence to the young-Let the wise also hear and gain in learning, and the discerning acquire skill, to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles. - Proverbs 1:2-6

The Way of Wisdom

Proverbs 9

- 1 Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars:*
- 2 She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table.*
- 3 She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city,*
- 4 Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: as for him that wanted understanding, she saith to him,*
- 5 Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled.*
- 6 Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.*
- 7 He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked man getteth himself a blot.*
- 8 Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.*

- 9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.*
- 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.*
- 11 For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.*
- 12 If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself: but if thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear it.*
- 13 A foolish woman is clamorous: she is simple, and knoweth nothing.*
- 14 For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city,*
- 15 To call passengers who go right on their ways:*
- 16 Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: and as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,*
- 17 Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.*
- 18 But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell.*

Ecclesiastics

"Ecclesiastes," Greek word meaning "the preacher" ; here though we are looking at a preacher fed on gloom and doom, living in the duality of error thought, living in vanity apart from God. Here in this book is the key word: vanity.

A Book of Great Warning.

To feed from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.(*Genesis 2:17*) is to suffer; sending the message to the deepest depths of our subconscious; to express and make manifest from an imagination filled with only gloom and doom.

To create from rot will only manifest rot.

Bringing forth from the bottomless pit, smoke of a great furnace where the air and sun are darkened by human reason from the pit. From this state of mind our thoughts and ideas come out of that smoke and make manifest upon the earth. Like locusts and like scorpions, they give these thoughts and ideas great power (*Paraphrasing from Revelation 9:2-3*).

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity....What has been is what will be,

and what has been done is what will be done; there is nothing new under the sun.

--Ecclesiastes 1:2, 9

*“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. ‘Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.’”
(New International Version)*

And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

-John1: 5

We have a choice to dwell in the light or in the darkness. However we do not have a choice to dwell in darkness and express and be of the light. There are laws and there are principles.

This book clearly demonstrates that "spice of Life" created from man's darkness. Do we not see this attitude, this philosophy, this way of life, making manifest today? Why? Simply because we, the creative being of expression here on earth, expresses it. Not God! Man! Man in duality, in illusions of grandiose self-centeredness, eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. This is how we live without God. Though God is Omnipresent, we can blind ourselves from God's Love, Peace, Grace, Wisdom, and Mercy. Though it has been said over and over, it can never be said enough; **there is no separation**. To blind myself from God is to damn the I am of ourselves. It is throwing away the infinite Goodness, to cast out and discard that I am in the image and likeness of the infinite divine omnipresent source of intelligence, imagination, creativity, and love. In other words to choose sadness, anguish, misery, and depression over The Source that is freely giving us the kingdom of heaven and all its wealth and riches..

This book comes in two parts. It has an appearance of contradicting itself. However that is not at all what is going on in this book. There is no contradiction.

*Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself?
Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?
It is good that thou shouldest take hold of this; yea, also from this withdraw not thine hand: for he that feareth God shall come forth of them all.*

--Ecclesiastes 7:16-18

Ancient Hebrews had debated to whether such a pessimistic and negative book should be in the Bible. But there's no denying the truth in this book of how man lives without God even if there is much worldly wealth and worldly success. Power, popularity, prestige, pleasure; none of these things can fill the empty vacuum but God Mind through Christ Consciousness. It is not even enough to honor God, but to know God, the God Self. *Be still and know that I AM God.* -Psalm 46:10

Author: King Solomon (though there has been debates to whether his work was edited by others)

Theme: Man's reasoning

Outline:

I. The Vanity: The Preachers Accounting of Godless Expression Made Manifest 1:1-4:16

A. All is Vanity 1:1-2

B. Proof of this Theme 1:3-3:22

1. The cycle of limited thinking (like produces like) 1:3-11

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2. The failure of self-righteous wisdom.	1:12-18
3. Failure of pleasures and outer accumulation to satisfy	2:1-11
4. Failure of self-righteous wisdom and folly	2:12-26
5. Everything has its time	3:1-22
C. Oppression • Consumption • Vanity under the Sun	4:1-16
II. Faith and Discipline in the Light of all Experiences	5:1-10:20
A. Outer praise without action is dead	5:1-8
B. An evil under the sun and its futilities	5:9-6:12
C. The common sense in God's Wisdom and their values	7:1-8:17
D. Wisdom and death	9:1-18
E. Danger of folly	10:1-20
III. The Conclusion	11:1 -12:14
A. The best thing possible to the natural man	11:1-10
B. Necessity of being in awe of God	12:1-4

Songs of Solomon

The divine bridegroom.

Solomon's love for the Shulamite maiden.

This book is the expression of pure marital love as ordained by God. God's Love for us is incomprehensible. It is deeper than our greatest love for another and for life itself. God's love is not derived of emotion, but flows from the infinite changeless character of all life in creation. In love itself we find unconditional acceptance, and we find our best friend.

Most of us know the hymn: What a Friend We Have in Jesus. It is in Christ Consciousness we come closer to this divine beauty of Love Supreme; giving and receiving in the infinite devotion of God's Love for us, for all of LIFE. As the Bible promises us, God will always love us. For God is Love and Life is God.

...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. -Hebrews 13:5

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. -James 1:17

Love is a commitment to the absolute wellbeing of another person. We dwell in the midst of God's perfect changeless Love.

It truly is an unspiritual mind that cannot comprehend the Songs of Solomon for its beauty of man and woman as one; as life as one; as God as One; in Christ as One. Love is Holy. It is part of our expression in all forms of life. The bond between a man and women is a Holy Bond. It is an ascetic mind that would denounce such beauty. It is a choice. To be devoted only to God for all the right reasons is also Holy Love. One is not right and the other wrong. This is duality and that is error thoughts from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. To know are way is a blessed thing. To be guided by the Holy Spirit is Love Supreme. To not shallow ourselves in the paths of others demands but to live in the depths of God's Love and Blessings which are already at work within us all.

Excerpts from Songs of Solomon

I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me.- 7:10

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned.- 8:7

This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem. -5:16

I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine: he feedeth among the lilies. -6:3

Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits. -4:16

Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame. -8:6

Assignment

1. Why do you think these books are in the order that they are in?
2. Explain the Law of Resistance and its importance to all the other laws.
 - a. Why did Job suffer?
 - b. How do all the characters in the Book of Job play a part within our own selves?
3. Pick two *Psalms from the list mentioned in this lesson and rewrite them metaphysically and mystically in your own words.
4. In Proverbs 9 The Way of Wisdom, why do you think the first three are spoken in the feminine (She)?
 - a. What is your interpretation of this Proverb?
 - b. Select another Proverb and give your interpretation of it.
5. Read Ecclesiastics 1. Write your thoughts about it.
6. Read Ecclesiastes 7. Write your thoughts about it.
7. Select two excerpts from the end of the Songs of Solomon lesson; meditate on them and write your own personal revelations.