

"Get Your Kicks"
on



A Series on the 66 Books of the Bible

With Pastor Dan Betzer
WEDNESDAYS, 7 PM

ROUTE 66
Session Number Four
Wednesday, January 8, 2014

1 Review:

2 Memory Lesson. Let's recite again the books we have studied so far:

3 TORAH or PENTATEUCH

- 4 • Genesis
- 5 • Exodus
- 6 • Leviticus
- 7 • Numbers
- 8 • Deuteronomy

9 THE HISTORICAL BOOKS

- 10 • JOSHUA
- 11 • JUDGES
- 12 • RUTH
- 13 • I AND II SAMUEL
- 14 • I AND II KINGS
- 15 • I AND II CHRONICLES
- 16 • EZRA
- 17 • NEHEMIAH
- 18 • ESTHER

19
20 The Old Testament is divided into FIVE segments:

- 21 1. The Torah
- 22 2. The Historical Books
- 23 3. The Poetic Books
- 24 4. Major Prophets
- 25 5. Minor Prophets

26
27 **THE BOOKS OF POETRY**

28
29

Here is a vital note: We have now studied seventeen books in the Old Testament. Everything else we read in the Old Testament actually took place within the confines of those first seventeen books. This will give you a time and place reference for the remaining books of the Old Testament.

30
31 While I have already labeled the next five books as "the books of Poetry," please don't
32 think of Robert Frost or Longfellow. "Poetical" doesn't fully describe these magnificent

1 masterpieces of God's Word. In fact, some parts of the Old Testament such as Isaiah
2 40-66 would just as easily classify as "poetic." Some writers have labeled these five
3 books as "books of wisdom." Those books are:

- 4 • Job
- 5 • Psalms
- 6 • Proverbs
- 7 • Ecclesiastes
- 8 • Song of Solomon

9
10 Let me briefly summarize each of the five books and then we will take them one at a time
11 as we have time.

12 13 JOB

14
15 Job lived in the time of the patriarchs, such as Abraham. He was a Godly man whom
16 God had richly blessed. Satan accused Job of serving God only because he was so
17 blessed. In other words, his motive was selfish. God allowed Satan to bring great loss
18 and sorrow into Job's life - yet still he remained faithful to God ALTHOUGH HE HAD
19 A LOT OF QUESTIONS. Three of Job's friends came to console him, probably doing
20 more damage than if they had just kept quiet. They told Job that his sufferings were
21 probably due to some secret sin in his life. "Why, God never allowed the righteous to
22 suffer," they said. Job tried to defend himself. The three friends each have three
23 rounds of faulty reasoning with Job answering each one separately. Then God Himself
24 broke into the "debate" from a whirlwind, declaring that Job was right, and commanded
25 the three "helpers" to bring an offering to the altar so that Job could pray for THEM!
26 Then God restored much more to Job than he ever had previously.

27
28 Both Ezekiel and James referred to Job as a real person:

29
30 Ezekiel 14:12-20

31 The word of the Lord came again to me, saying, [13] Son of man, when the land sinneth
32 against me by trespassing grievously, then will I stretch out mine hand upon it, and will break
33 the staff of the bread thereof, and will send famine upon it, and will cut off man and beast
34 from it: [14] Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver
35 but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord God.

36 [15] If I cause noisome beasts to pass through the land, and they spoil it, so that it be
37 desolate, that no man may pass through because of the beasts: [16] Though these three men
38 were in it, as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither sons nor daughters; they
39 only shall be delivered, but the land shall be desolate.

40 [17] Or if I bring a sword upon that land, and say, Sword, go through the land; so that I cut

1 off man and beast from it: [18] Though these three men were in it, as I live, saith the Lord
2 God, they shall deliver neither sons nor daughters, but they only shall be delivered
3 themselves.

4 [19] Or if I send a pestilence into that land, and pour out my fury upon it in blood, to cut
5 off from it man and beast: [20] Though Noah, Daniel, and **Job**, were in it, as I live, saith the
6 Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls
7 by their righteousness.

8
9 James 5:10-11

10 Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example
11 of suffering affliction, and of patience. [11] Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye
12 have heard of **the patience of Job**, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very
13 pitiful, and of tender mercy.

14
15 We do not know who wrote this marvelous story. It has been suggested by some scholars
16 that the writer was Moses. Other suggestions have included Ezra, Solomon, Job himself
17 and Elihu.

18
19 The story took place in "the land of Uz." With Job's wisdom, could he have been the
20 first "wizard of Uz?" (Sorry, just asking.) We don't know positively where Uz was
21 located. Good estimates put it somewhere between Mount Hermon and a location
22 several hundred miles east of Petra (in Jordan).

23
24 This book raises the age-old question of why good, righteous people sometimes suffer. It
25 was also written to rebuke the lying Lucifer's attempts to intimidate God's people. It
26 also speaks strongly to the issue of REPENTANCE. Job 42:5-6 **I have heard of
27 thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. [6] Wherefore I abhor
28 myself, and repent in dust and ashes.**

29
30 Jesus preached repentance. John the Baptist preached repentance. The Puritan fathers
31 preached repentance. All of our so-called righteousness is as filthy rags to God. We
32 need to live in a state of continual repentance and humility before God.

33 34 The Amazing Scene in Heaven

35
36 Job 1:6-8

37 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the
38 Lord, and Satan came also among them. [7] And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence
39 comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the
40 earth, and from walking up and down in it. [8] And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou
41 considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an

1 **upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?**

2
3 *“Now this is the scene in heaven. The sons of God, His created intelligences, come*
4 *before Him. I must confess I know very little about them. I think they are numberless,*
5 *as numberless as the sand on the seashore, which means you and I cannot count them.*
6 *And they are not human beings; they do not belong to our race. Yet these are God’s*
7 *created intelligences and they are responsible creatures They must come to God as a*
8 *matter of regular routine. But there is also something here that is rather shocking. We*
9 *are told that “Satan came also among them.” Satan must also make a report.”*

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11
12 Satan is “miffed.” A human being is driving him crazy. That person is Job, a Godly
13 fellow in the Land of Uz. Satan challenged God: “Sure that fellow Job serves You
14 because You have blessed him over and over. But You take all that from him and he will
15 curse you.” Job 1:12 **And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in**
16 **thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the**
17 **presence of the Lord.**

18
19 In a short time, Job lost his children, his wealth and then his very health. About the only
20 thing he did not lose was his wife who didn’t help the situation with her snarl: Job 2:9
21 **Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and**
22 **die.** Oh yes, Job retained his integrity. Note his response to her: Job 2:10 **But he**
23 **said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we**
24 **receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job**
25 **sin with his lips.**

26
27 How often do we grieve God by the things we say. We sin with our lips.

28
29 So there is the setting for this book. The rest of it tells the story of three of Job’s friends
30 who come to comfort him, but actually tear him apart with false assumptions. The story
31 ends with Job’s receiving back from God far more than he ever lost: Job 42:12-17
32 **So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen**
33 **thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand**
34 **she asses. [13] He had also seven sons and three daughters. [14] And he called the name**
35 **of the first, Jemima; and the name of the second, Kezia; and the name of the third,**
36 **Keren-happuch. [15] And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters**
37 **of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren. [16] After this**
38 **lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons’ sons, even four**
39 **generations. [17] So Job died, being old and full of days.**

40
41 (This latter fact clearly places Job back in the time of the great patriarchs.)

PSALMS

1
2
3 Our present General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, Dr. George O. Wood, has
4 written an outstanding two-volume work on the Psalms, A PSALM IN YOUR HEART. I
5 recommend these books to you, available from the Gospel Publishing House. I want to
6 use Dr. Wood's preface to open our discussion. It has helped me, and I pray it will assist
7 your understanding as well.

8
9 *As a younger Christian, I did not like the Psalms - except for a few of the most well-*
10 *known ones.*

11
12 *I figured God had no business letting David write Scripture. More psalms (73 to be*
13 *exact) are ascribed to David's authorship than any other. I couldn't understand why the*
14 *words of a man who committed murder, adultery, and made a mess of his family life*
15 *should be used for worship, spiritual instruction, and encouragement.*

16
17 *But I was not the only person with a low opinion of David. His brothers didn't think*
18 *much of him (I Samuel 17:28), nor did the giant Goliath (I Samuel 17:43-44). His wife*
19 *despised him in her heart (2 Samuel 6:16) and his own son tried to kill him and usurp his*
20 *throne (2 Samuel 15). At the beginning even the prophet Samuel would have overlooked*
21 *him for selection as king, but the Lord prepared Samuel for meeting David by saying,*
22 *"The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward*
23 *appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." (I Samuel 16:7) And God, from start to*
24 *finish, accorded David the highest of designations: "I have found David son of Jesse a*
25 *man after my own heart (Acts 13:22; I Samuel 13:14).*

26
27 *The psalms of David do show us his heart, as the other psalms reveal also the inner life*
28 *and attitude of writers moved upon by the Holy Spirit. So also God sees the insides of*
29 *you and gives you grace when others look only at your external person and stand over*
30 *you in criticism and judgment.*

31
32 *You will value the Psalms most when you experience a season of pain, misunderstanding,*
33 *or deep need—for the greater part of the Psalms reverberate with cries for God to help in*
34 *desperate times.*

35
36 *I found myself in such a place several years ago. In those moments of hope abandoned*
37 *the Lord met me in the Psalms. I had been surface reading a psalm a day. In my second*
38 *journey through Psalms - at Psalm 24 - I felt an urging from the Spirit to do more than*
39 *read a Psalm daily. I felt impressed to take the time early each morning to journal*
40 *through Psalms.*

1 *My personal study of Scripture has always included the outside resources such as Bible*
2 *dictionaries, concordances, commentaries – but this time I felt constrained not to rely on*
3 *any assistance except my own written interaction. Sometimes I would journal several*
4 *hours daily other times less—but I noticed I always came away encouraged. Often the*
5 *good feeling lasted just a few moments, but as I continued week after week, God moved*
6 *more blue skies and sunshine hours into my life. David and the other Psalmists had*
7 *spoken to me, through the Holy Spirit because they knew deep pain that often there are no*
8 *quick answers or speedy changes in our external circumstances. I would come to know*
9 *that truth also.*

10
11 *By allowing the Psalms to help me gain perspective on my most personal needs, I was*
12 *permitting the Holy Spirit to speak God’s truth into my life. I would have drowned in the*
13 *depression of my own feelings. I needed truth from outside my unreliable and wildly*
14 *oscillating emotions to provide stability, balance and hope.*

15
16 Like Dr. Wood I personally have conflicting emotions about David. However one of the
17 Psalms in particular speaks to my heart:

18
19 Psalm 139:1-24

20 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.

21 **O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. [2] Thou knowest my downsit-
22 ting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. [3] Thou compass-
23 est my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. [4] For there is not a
24 word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. [5] Thou hast beset me
25 behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. [6] Such knowledge is too wonderful
26 for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. [7] Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or
27 whither shall I flee from thy presence? [8] If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there:
28 if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. [9] If I take the wings of the morning,
29 and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; [10] Even there shall thy hand lead me, and
30 thy right hand shall hold me. [11] If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the
31 night shall be light about me. [12] Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night
32 shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. [13] For thou hast
33 possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. [14] I will praise thee;
34 for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul
35 knoweth right well. [15] My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in
36 secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. [16] Thine eyes did see
37 my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written,
38 which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. [17] How
39 precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! [18] If
40 I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still
41 with thee. [19] Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye**

1 **bloody men. [20] For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy**
2 **name in vain. [21] Do not I hate them, O Lord, that hate thee? and am not I grieved**
3 **with those that rise up against thee? [22] I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them**
4 **mine enemies. [23] Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my**
5 **thoughts: [24] And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way**
6 **everlasting.**

7
8 Some years ago, I had the pleasure of spending time with American astronaut Jim Irwin,
9 ne of only twelve human beings to ever walk on the moon. He told me how strongly he
10 felt the presence of God on the moon! That's what David said in Psalm 139, although
11 he never was off the earth surface. He said, "If I take the wings of the morning and
12 dwell in the uttermost part of the sea....thou art there!"
13

14
It is interesting that Colonel Charles Lindbergh (who loved Maui and was buried there) designed his own gravestone. On it he quoted that passage, he who was the first man to fly solo across the Atlantic ("If I take the wings of the morning....") and "dwell in the uttermost part of the sea" – the waves of the Pacific Ocean lapping against the shore just a few feet from his grave. I have visited that grave on three separate occasions and it always moves me greatly.

15
16
17 **PROVERBS**
18

19 The Book of Proverbs is one of the "poetic" books - or books of wisdom. King Solomon
20 was the writer of three of those five books: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon.
21 There is a wealth of practical wisdom contained in Proverbs.

22
23 Solomon was brilliant. 1 Kings 4:32 **And he spake three thousand proverbs: and**
24 **his songs were a thousand and five.** Think that through: he wrote over a thousand
25 songs and we have but one, which we will study a bit later, Song of Solomon.

26
27 So what is a proverb? A proverb is a saying that conveys a specific truth in a pointed
28 and pithy way. One commentator has pointed out that a proverb is a short sentence
29 drawn from long experience.

30
31 The key verse in my opinion is Proverbs 1:7: **The fear of the Lord** (full submission to
32 the will of God) **is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and**
33 **instruction.** A rather often-seen bumper sticker declares, "Wise Men Still Seek Him."
34

1 Some observations on Proverbs:

- 2
- 3 • These proverbs are God's wisdom, articulated through Solomon (and several
4 others). They are not man's brilliance.
 - 5
 - 6 • Each proverb is clear and easy to understand. Each one is practical. You don't
7 have to be a Rhodes Scholar to comprehend what the Holy Spirit is conveying to
8 you.
 - 9
 - 10 • I like what Jack Zavada observes: "Like the rest of the Bible, Proverbs points to
11 God's plan of salvation, but perhaps more subtly. This book showed the
12 Israelites the right way to live, God's way. As they put this wisdom to use, they
13 would have demonstrated qualities of Jesus Christ toward each other.
 - 14
 - 15 • The Proverbs are timeless - just as practical now as they were when written around
16 900 B.C.
 - 17

Memory:

**Genesis / Exodus / Leviticus / Numbers / Deuteronomy / Joshua / Judges / Ruth /
I and II Samuel / I and II Kings / I and II Chronicles / Ezra / Nehemiah / Esther /
Job / Psalms / Proverbs**

18
19
20
21
22 Next week, I want to take more time with Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon. I
23 encourage you to read both of these rather small books before next week.
24
25
26
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34