

Job

In Job, Jesus is portrayed as My Redeemer

The key word of Job is “tried.”

Job 23:10, But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.



Job is no doubt one of the most wonderful poems ever written. Tennyson called it “the greatest poem, whether of ancient or modern literature.” The scene is laid in patriarchal days. This book may be one of the most ancient pieces of finished literature in existence. It is one of the oldest, if not THE oldest, books in the Bible.

It deals with the oldest problems. Among these is, “Why do godly people suffer?” This is the theme of the book.

The book should be read as a narrative.

Then we should study the problem of the book, “Why do the righteous suffer?”

1. The shallow view of Satan—that the children of God love and serve God only because it pays in riches and honor.
2. The false view of Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar—that the unrighteous suffer because of their sins and the righteous are rewarded.
3. Elihu had a better answer, but he was conceited.—He believed suffering was sent to keep us from sinning.
4. Jehovah explained to Job by revealing Himself to him—that when men see God something always happens. The godly are allowed to suffer that they may see themselves first. When we come to the end of ourselves, God can lift us up. Job was a good man, but he was self-righteous. In Job 29:1-25, we find the personal pronouns, “I,” “my,” and “me” 52 times! That reminds us of Romans 7.

The book well illustrates the text of Romans 8:28: ***And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.***

Psalms

In Psalms, Jesus is our All in All.

The Hebrew title of this book is, “Praise,” or “Book of Praises.”

It is the national hymnbook of Israel. There are 150 poems to be set to music.

The Psalms are full of Christ (His prophetic office, His priestly office; His kingly office; His sufferings; His resurrection). Jesus Himself sang these psalms.

The Psalms are divided into five books and seven genres:

1. Hymns—a call to worship, with a reason for worship and declaring God’s glory.
2. Laments (Petition Psalms)—pleas for help. End with worship or a vow to praise God upon deliverance.
3. Thanksgiving Psalms—open with a declaration of the psalmist’s intent to give praise. Concludes with praise.
4. Psalms of Confidence—the Psalmist asserts his trust in God’s goodness and power.
5. Psalms of Remembrance—prompted by either the exodus, or the Davidic covenant with promise of the Messiah.
6. Wisdom Psalms—language is similar to Proverbs. The subject is God’s wisdom displayed throughout the universe.
7. Kingship (Royal) Psalms—Extol God’s rule.

| | Book 1 | Book 2 | Book 3 | Book 4 | Book 5 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| | 1-41 | 42-72 | 73-89 | 90-106 | 107-150 |
| Total Psalms | 41 | 31 | 17 | 17 | 44 |
| Authorship | Mainly David | Mainly David & sons of Korah | Mainly Asaph | Mainly Anonymous | Mainly David or Anonymous |
| Predominant Divine Name | Yahweh (the “Lord”) | E/Elohim (God) | El/Elohim (God) | Yahweh (The “Lord”) | Yahweh (The “Lord”) |
| Frequent Topics | Humans and Creation | Deliverance and Redemption | Worship and Sanctuary | Desert and God’s Ways | God’s Word and Praise |
| Resemblance to Penteteuch | Genesis | Exodus | Leviticus | Numbers | Deuteronomy |

Special Features:

1. It is the Bible’s longest book and contains the Bible’s longest chapter (119), shortest chapter (117), and middle verse (118:8).
2. As the Hebrew songbook and devotional book, its spiritual depth and breadth make the psalms the most read and most treasured portion of the Old Testament by most believers.

3. "Hallelujah" (translated "Praise the Lord"), a Hebrew term universally recognized among believers, occurs 28 times in the Bible, 24 of which are in the Psalms.
4. No other Bible book so totally expresses the full range of human emotions and needs in relation to God and human life.
5. About half of the psalms involve prayers of faith in times of adversity.
6. It is the Old Testament book most frequently quoted in the New Testament.
7. It contains many "favorite chapters" of the Bible, such as Psalms 1,23, 24, 34, 37,84, 91, 103, 119, 121, 139, 150)
8. Psalm 119 is unique in the Bible in
 - a. Its length (176 verses)
 - b. Its majestic love for God's Word
 - c. Its literary construction involving 22 stanzas of eight verses, each, with every stanza beginning each of its verses with the same letter and each stanza using a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet as a memory aid (i.e., an alphabetical acrostic).
9. Its foremost literary feature is a poetic style called parallelism, involving rhythm of thought rather than a rhythm of rhyme or meter; this feature has enabled its message to be translated from one language to another without serious difficulty.

The Writings of Solomon

According to Jewish tradition, Solomon wrote the Song of Solomon (Song of Songs) during his younger years, Proverbs in his middle years and Ecclesiastes during the last years of his life.

Song of Solomon

In Song of Solomon, Jesus is the Lover of Our Souls.

It is believed that Solomon composed this song early in his life as the king of Israel, long before he had 700 wives and 300 concubines. It is thought that the Shulamite maiden was Solomon's first wife from his youth, before he became king. She was a common girl from the countryside, attractive and beautiful, to whom Solomon was deeply and emotionally committed as one would be to his first love and bride.

This book was inspired by the Holy Spirit and incorporated into the Scriptures to underscore the divine origin of the joy and dignity of human love in marriage.

1. It is the only book in the Bible that deals exclusively with the unique love of a bride and bridegroom. Throughout it describes courtship and married love, especially the bliss of newlyweds.

2. It is a unique literary masterpiece full of discreet but sensuous imagery, primarily drawn from the world of nature. The various metaphors and descriptive language portray the emotion, power and beauty of romantic and wedded love, which was pure and chaste.
3. It is one of a small number of Old Testament books that are neither quoted nor alluded to in the New Testament.
4. It is one of the two books in the Old Testament (*Esther*) that do not explicitly mention God in the text.

New Testament Fulfillment

1. Song of Songs—Song of Solomon—prefigures a New Testament theme revealed to the writer of Hebrews, “*Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure*” (Heb. 13:4). Christians should enjoy romantic love within the bonds of the marriage relationship.
2. Many interpreters see the book as an allegory between Christ and His bride—the Church. The New Testament itself does not use the writings in this manner. Yet, Christ’s love for the Church is described in terms of the marriage relationship.

Proverbs

In Proverbs, Jesus is our Wisdom.

The first seven verses provide the book’s title (*v. 1*), purpose (*vv.2-6*), and motto (*v. 7*).

The unifying theme of Proverbs is “wisdom for right living,” a wisdom that begins with humble submission to God and then flows to every area of life.

The wisdom of Proverbs:

1. Teaches concerning the family, youth, sexual purity, marital faithfulness, honesty, hard work, generosity, friendship, justice, righteousness and discipline.
2. Warns about the folly of sin, strife, dangers of the tongue, foolishness, alcohol, gluttony, lust, immorality, falsehood, laziness and wrong company.
3. Contrasts discretion and folly, the righteous and the wicked, pride and humility, laziness and diligence, poverty and wealth, love and lust, right and wrong, and life and death.

Special Features:

1. Wisdom, rather than being tied to intelligence or vast knowledge, is directly related to “the fear of the Lord.” The “wise” are those who know God and obey His commands. The fear of the Lord is a recurring emphasis in the book.

2. Much of the wise counsel presented in Proverbs is in the format of a father's godly advice to his young son or sons.
3. It is the most thoroughly practical book in the Old Testament, as it touches on a broad range of basic principles for right relationships and behavior in everyday life—principles that are applicable to all generations and cultures.
4. Its practical wisdom, godly precepts and basic life principles are conveyed in short, pungent statements that are easily memorized and remembered by youths as guidelines for their lives.
5. The family occupies a place of pivotal importance in Proverbs, even as it did in God's covenant with Israel. Sins that violate God's purpose for the family are especially exposed and warned against.
6. Prominent literary features of the proverbs are their prolific use of vivid, figurative language (e.g., similes and metaphors), comparisons and contrasts, concise precepts, and repetition.
7. The wise wife and mother portrayed at the book's end (chapter 31) is unique in ancient literature in terms of the high and noble manner in which a good woman is viewed.
8. Wisdom exhortations in Proverbs are the Old Testament forerunner to the many practical exhortations in the New Testament letters.

New Testament Fulfillment

The wisdom of Proverbs finds its ultimate expression in Jesus Christ, someone "greater than Solomon" (*Luke 11:31*), who "has become for us wisdom" (*1 Cor. 1:30*) and "in whom are hidden away the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (*Col. 2:3*).

Ecclesiastes

In Ecclesiastes, Jesus is the End of All Living.

The accumulative effect of Solomon's spiritual decline, idolatry and life of self-indulgence left him at the end disillusioned with pleasure and materialism as a way to happiness.

This book records his cynical reflections about the futility and emptiness of seeking happiness in life apart from God and His Word. He had experienced wealth, power, honor, fame and sensual pleasure—all in great abundance—yet they added up in the end to emptiness and disillusionment:

1:2, "Meaningless! Meaningless!...Everything is meaningless!"

His primary purpose in writing Ecclesiastes may have been to share his regrets and his firsthand testimony with others before he died, especially with young people, so that they would not make the same mistakes he had. He establishes forever the utter futility of basing one's values in life on earthly possessions and personal ambition.

Though young people should enjoy their youth (11:9-10), it is more important to commit themselves to their Creator (12:1) and to resolve to fear God and keep His commandments (12:13-14).

1. Ecclesiastes is an intensely personal book, with the author frequently using the personal pronoun "I" throughout the first ten chapters.
2. Through the underlying pessimism of the author, the book reveals that life apart from God is unpredictable and filled with meaningless (the word "meaningless" occurs 37 times).
3. The heart of Solomon's advice in the book occurs in the last two verses, "*Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man*" (12:13-14).

In several ways, this book prepared the way for New Testament revelation in reverse order. Its frequent references to life's futility and death's certainty prepare the reader for God's answer to death and judgment—eternal life through Jesus Christ. Since the wisest man in the Old Testament was unable to find satisfactory answers to life's problems through his pursuit of self-centered pleasure, wealth and accumulated knowledge, we must look for answers in One whom the New Testament says is "*greater than Solomon*" (Matt. 12:42), even Jesus Christ, "*in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*" (Col. 2:3).