

Ecclesiastes was probably written by Solomon and its theme is the meaninglessness of life without God. It is a very relevant book for our time as it explains the dissatisfaction with everything under the sun and points towards hope in God.

The writer describes life from two perspectives; life and the world without God and life and the world with God (though this emerges only periodically and in the conclusion).

Overview

1-6	The Vanity of life
7-12:7	How to live with meaninglessness
12:8-14	Conclusion

8. What things does the teacher try to give life meaning? Do they?

Study and learning, pleasure, laughter, entertainment, building projects, pleasure and possessions, toil and hard work
No they don't all a chasing after the wind.

9. Ecclesiastes is a picture of life without God, what is the teachers final conclusion?

Fear God and keep his commandments, because God will judge everything.

10. How would you use Ecclesiastes to share the gospel with someone?

Unit 1.5 Wisdom

Proverbs

1. What is wisdom?

Hebrew word for Proverb, 'Mashal', means a short pithy saying which expressed wisdom'. But in Proverbs what we have is God's wisdom, it shows that the wise man lives in the light of God's revealed will. Solomon was responsible for compiling it. Its underlying theme is found in 1:7, and 1:2-5 establish the purpose of the book. It does not have a distinct structure and one of the best ways to study it is by grouping proverbs together by theme (e.g. fear, anger, fool, friends, the tongue...)

Overview

Conduct appropriate especially for youth

1:1-6 Introduction

1:7-9:18 For Solomon (begin 'My Son...')

Conduct appropriate especially for mature years

10:1-19:26 By Solomon (contrasts good & evil, wisdom & foolishness)

19:27-24:32 For Solomon (6 addresses beginning 'My Son...')

Various comparisons, contrasts and descriptions

25:1-26:28 By Solomon (edited by Hezekiah's scribes)

27:1-29:27 For Solomon

30:1-33 By Agur

31:1-9 By mother of King Lemuel

31:10-31 The Virtuous Wife

2. Why is Proverbs written? (1:1-7)

to give understanding, wisdom and insight,
to give instruction on prudent behaviour
to do what is just, right and fair
so young have knowledge and discretion
increase wisdom of wise
to guide the discerning

3. What does it mean to fear God and why does it matter? (1:7, 10:27, 14:2;16;26-7, 15:16;33, 16:6, 19:23, 22:4, 28:14)

It is the beginning of knowledge, it brings long life, produces upright living, means ppl shun evil, is a refuge, turns from death, better than great wealth, is the result of being wise, enables us to avoid evil, leads to life & contentment untouched by trouble, produces humility, brings life, those who fear the Lord are blessed

Job

Job is thought to be the oldest book of the bible and its theme is the mystery of suffering. After Job's affliction his 3 friends ("comforters") argue that what happens is a direct result of whether you have pleased God or not, therefore Job must be evil. Job contends that is not the case, as we, the readers, learn from the prologue in ch 1-2.

The key to reading Job is to follow the arguments and recognise that it is not until the end that a godly perspective is brought on the subject.

Overview

1-2	Prologue; Job's afflictions
3	Job's lament
4-31	The debate (cycle = each friend speaks once and Job answers)
4-14	Cycle 1
15-21	Cycle 2
22-31	Cycle 3
32:-37	Elihu speaks
38-41:34	God speaks
42:1-6	Job responds to God
42:7-17	Epilogue

4. How do Job 1 and 2 help us understand the book and answer the question; why do good people suffer?

It is not because Job does something wrong.

It is a consequence of living in a fallen world, and being part of cosmic battle

Right response is not to curse God

All good comes from God (we live protected lives)

5. What part is played in the disasters Job experiences by: God

Sov he does not fail when we suffer.

Satan

Seeks to challenge God, accuses God's ppl

Uses evil men, nature, disease, but ltd in power

Man

Used by Satan

Are still responsible before God

Natural world

Disasters occur if God removes his staying hand

Sickness

Not an accident

God allows it, Satan uses it.

6. Ch38-42 What is the point of these chapters? How do they help Job and what is his response?

It is right perspective restored.

Suffering is not direct result of evil

Suffering is part of living in fallen world

Ecclesiastes

7. What is the main theme of the book? Where is it found?

Meaningless meaningless everything is meaningless