

What is the Bible? - Proverbs to Song of Songs

Proverbs

Theme: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge" (Proverbs 1:7 NIV1984)

- I. The call to follow true wisdom (Proverbs 1-9)
- II. Selected proverbs (Proverbs 10-31)

Time: c. 950 B.C.

Author: Solomon and others

Messianic Promises: possible Proverbs 8:22-31

Well-known Verses: Proverbs 3:5, Proverbs 31:10-31

Summary: The Lord calls to us to lead a life that follows his will. Many of the proverbs are general statements, not absolute truths (cf. Proverbs 26:4, 5). They give us thoughts to ponder and put into practice as we follow the Lord in holy fear.

1. What is the fear of the Lord?

Ecclesiastes

Theme: Enjoy what God has given you, doing good and fearing the Lord (cf. Ecclesiastes 3:12-14)

Time: c. 950 B.C.

Author: Solomon

Well-known Verses: Ecclesiastes 1:2; 1:9; 3:1-8

Summary: Solomon tries to find purpose for life by pursuing pleasure, by working hard, by advancing in wisdom, by accumulating riches. Yet all this earthly gain under the sun is meaningless in the end, for we all die. Then what happens to whatever we've accomplished under the sun. So live your life for God, enjoying with a thankful heart whatever he's given you.

2. When is life meaningless?

Song of Songs

Theme: Love of a husband and wife. Love of Christ and his church

Time: c. 950 B.C.

Author: Solomon

Summary: A love poem of a lover and beloved expressing their desire and care for one another.

3. Your thoughts: Love poem or allegory?

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4. **The Bible is sufficient.** *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.* (2 Timothy 3:16, 17 NIV).
Respond: Just as blind men touching only one part of an elephant fail to know what they are really touching, so also we cannot know God without taking into account all the truths the various religions teach about him.