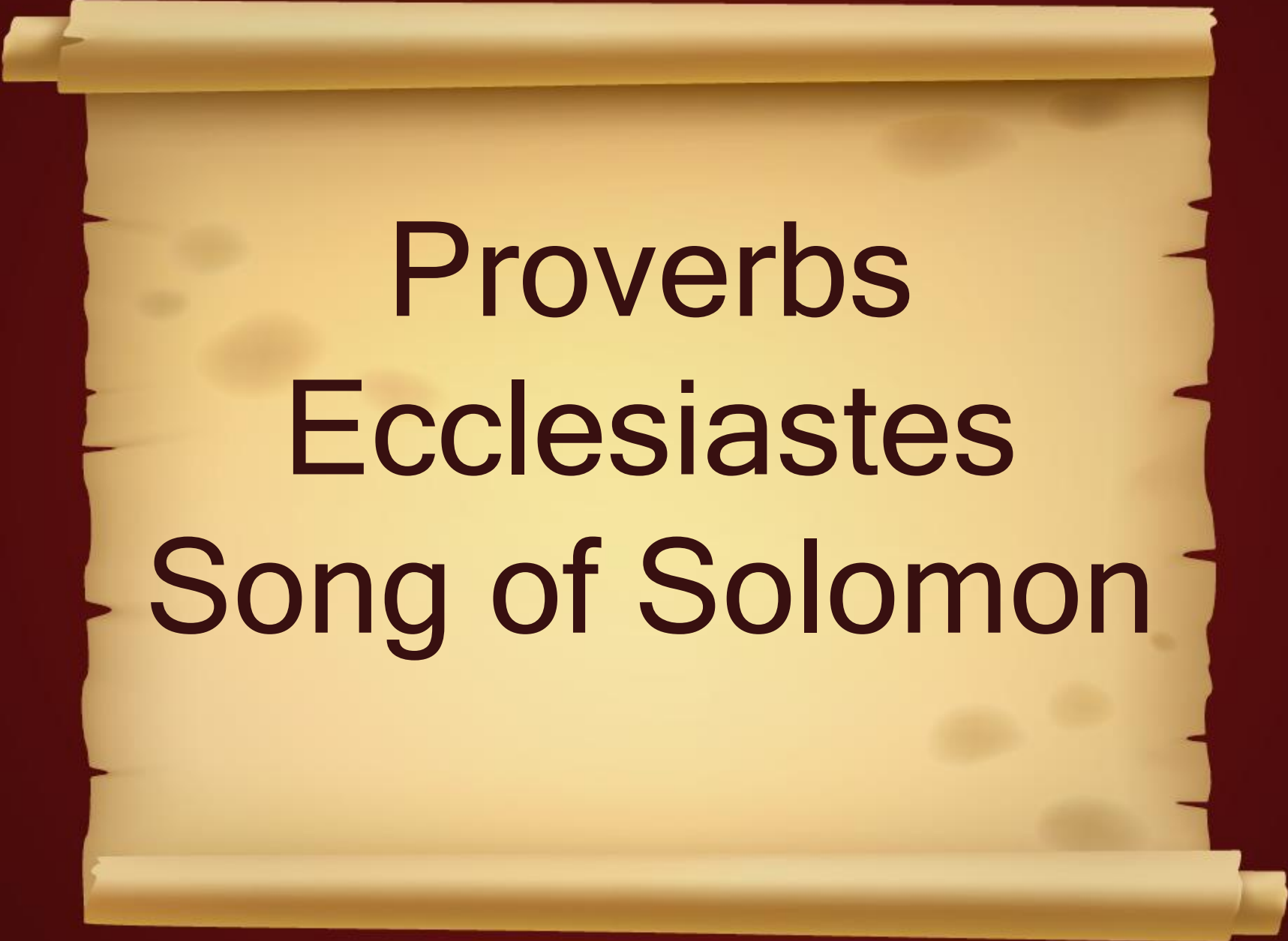


Bible Training Institute

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

A scroll of parchment with a dark red background. The scroll is unrolled, showing three lines of text in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The parchment has a slightly textured appearance with some minor discoloration and a small tear on the left side.

Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

Introduction to Proverbs

- Title
 - Hebrew: “Proverbs”—First word of the book
 - LXX -“Proverbs of Solomon”
- Author—85% Solomon,
- Dates of Events:
 - 970-931 BC—Proverbs of Solomon (10:1-22:16; 25:1-29:27)
 - Ca. 690 BC—Final collection in the days of Hezekiah (25:1)

Historical/Theological Themes

- God of the Proverbs
 - God is Sovereign (16:1, 4, 9, 33; 19:21; 20:24; 21:1)
 - God is Man's Maker (20:12)
 - God is Man's Blessor (12:22; 16:7)
 - God is Man's Judge (16:5; 20:27; 21:2; 24:11-12)
- Man Before God
 - Man is a Rebel (19:3; 20:9)
 - Man needs to Trust God (15:33; 16:6, 20)
 - All Men are the same before God (22:2; 29:13)
- Personal Conduct of Man—diligence, speech, humility, anger, joy, marriage, child-rearing, finance, etc

Purpose of Proverbs

- The young, naïve son is given exhortation to and instruction in the ways of wisdom.
- **KEY VERSE:** Proverbs 1:7 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

Interpretive Issues

- Did Solomon borrow from other sources?
 - Four Factors to consider:
 1. The fear of the Lord in Proverbs (1:7 to 31:30)
 2. Inspiration of Holy Spirit
 3. Discernment of Solomon (1 Kings 4)
 4. Secular wisdom—while sometimes similar—never leads to true wisdom: fear of the Lord

Interpretive Issues

- Speaker in 8:22-31
 - Messiah OR
 - Personification of wisdom
- Identity of the Virtuous Wife of Prov 31
 - Personification of wisdom
 - A literal wife and mother

Implications

- Wisdom to be applied in specific situations—not intended to be 100% applicable all the time, but statements of general truth
- Not easy to digest—makes the reader wrestle with and for wisdom

Implications

- Proverbs 31:10ff—The Excellent Wife
 - 22 verses that form an acrostic of Hebrew alphabet = meant to be learned and applied
 - Originated by the mother of King Lemuel (unknown but possibly Solomon)

Introduction to Ecclesiastes

- Title
 - Hebrew—"Qohelet"—to convene an assembly, a preacher
 - LXX "Ecclesiastes" (*eklesia*—gathering)
- Author--Solomon
- Dates of Events: 970-931 (time of Solomon)

Historical/Theological Themes

- “vanity”—38x—Eccl 1:2
- “Under the sun”—29x
 - Interpretive key: focuses on how things appear this side of heaven
- Death
- Labor, toil, work
- Fear God
- Enjoy Life
- Heart

Purpose

How to live in a post-fall world filled with vanity: In spite of the seeming futility involved with man's existence, the wise man should fear God and enjoy life as the gift from God.

Literary Structure

- Structure of Ecclesiastes is one of most disputed topics in OT Studies-
 - When do the discourses start and stop?
- The Literary center of the book:
Eccl 5:1-7 = FEAR GOD

Interpretive Issues

- Authorship
- Purpose
 - Negative
 - Positive
 - Combination

Implications

- Helps us understand Romans 8:18-23
- Outstanding for teaching young people

Introduction to Song of Solomon

- Title:
 - Hebrew - “The Song of Songs”
 - English - “The Song of Solomon” (taken to mean “by Solomon”)
- Author--Solomon
- Dates of Events: Sometime between 970-931BC
- Position in the Canon:
 - Proverbs 31–Song of Solomon–Ruth
- 1 Kings 4:32–1,005 songs of Solomon
- Rustic, nature-driven book–22 plants and 15 animals
- Orthodox Jewish tradition of not reading until age 30

Historical/Theological Themes

- “my love”—companion, bride, sister, dove, most beautiful
- “my beloved”—the man
- Daughters of Jerusalem
- King/Solomon
- A Shepherd
- Garden
- Wine

Purpose

Celebration of Marital joy—
God's view of love and
marriage

Literary Structure

- I. Courtship (1-3)
- II. Consummation (4-5)
- III. Celebration (5-8)

Interpretive Issues

Interpretation of Book

1. Allegorical—not historical and metaphorical
2. Typological—is historical and metaphorical
3. Historical
 1. Allegorizing didn't start for 1,000 years

Implications

- Most of the book written from the woman's perspective
- The woman is portrayed as pursuing the man more than the other way around
- There is mystery and intrigue—it is meant to convey the emotion and passion of marriage
- Usefulness of the book: for teaching on marriage, for reading between a husband and wife, for teaching the unmarried what marriage should look like
- For warning the unmarried to not awaken passion before being of marriageable age