

Chronological Bible Study

Week 17:

The Wisdom of Solomon

1 Kings 3-6

Proverbs 1-22

Opening Reflection

[Video Link](#)





Using the life jar as a model, how was your time spent this past week?

Introductions

Was most of your time spent on golf balls, pebbles, or sand? Were there any memorable golf ball moments? Have you had any beer moments?

Questions?

Comments?

Summary of This Week's Readings

Beginning of Solomon's reign

Proverbs

Building the temple

1 and 2 Kings

[Video Link](#)





Solomon: Israel's 3rd King

- King Solomon started out by asking God for wisdom to lead God's people. God granted him that wisdom.
- Under Solomon the Kingdom of Israel rose to prominence.
- Israel was a strong nation, with an established government structure, during a time of peace and wealth.
- Solomon was known as a man of great knowledge and wisdom.

The Kingdom Grows

- The kingdom grows in population and boundaries expand.
- The building and commercial projects Solomon undertakes require increasing revenues.
- Solomon divided Israel into 12 districts and appointed governors over each district to collect taxes.



DISCUSSION

Solomon asks God for a discerning heart to govern God's people and to distinguish between right and wrong.

How does Solomon's request reflect his character and readiness to be king?

How does God's response to Solomon's request demonstrate His divine character.



Overview of Proverbs

- **Authors:** King Solomon is author of many proverbs and gave oversight to the rest of the collection.
- **Time Period:** c971-931 BC (Solomon). The Book of Proverbs was likely compiled by an anonymous sage in Hezekiah's (715-686 BC) or Ezra's time (post exile 480-440 BC).
- **Purpose:** Describes the importance of living wisely and in the fear of the LORD instead of following the seductive path of folly.
- **Original language:** Hebrew
- **Audience:** May have originally been written for budding royal officials, but has been democratized for all of Israel's youth. Especially pertains to young men of marriageable age.

Big Ideas in PROVERBS

Seek wisdom and avoid folly

There is no real wisdom apart from God

Fear of God is the beginning of knowledge

A proverb provides good principles but not always promises

In many situations, a person has a choice between a godly response and an ungodly one



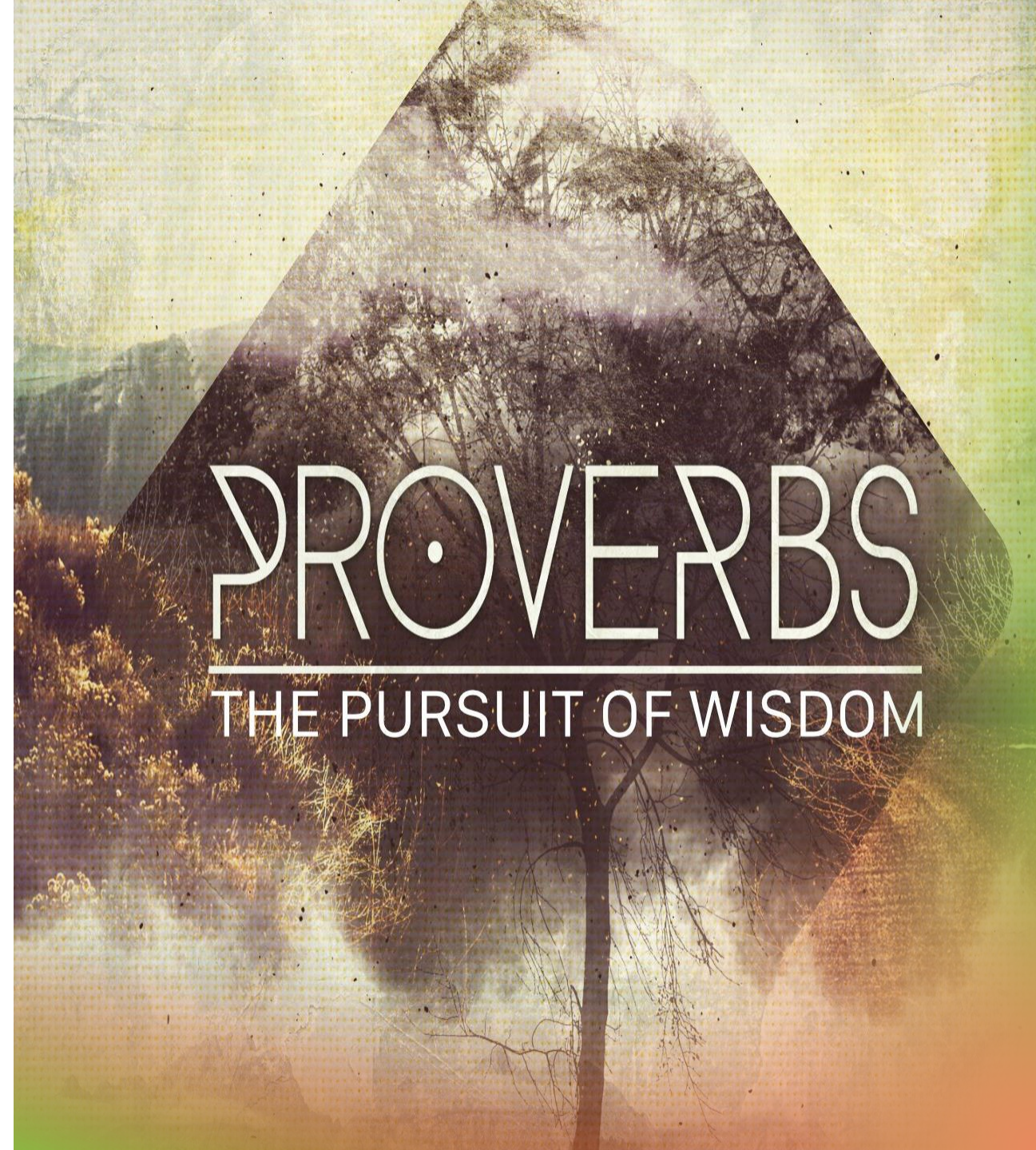


Wisdom in the Bible

- The art of being successful, of forming a correct plan to gain the desired results. (New Bible Dictionary). How best to find our way through the maze of this world.
- wisdom is what God is and we can only attain it through personal knowledge of Him
- Wisdom is not something to do but is a way of doing things.
- The wisdom that made the world will help us understand why it is as it is and how we can make the best of our lives in it.
- Wisdom is personified in Jesus
- Wisdom is a combination of discipline, understanding, and
- Trust, love, and obedience are what it means to “fear the Lord.”

What is a Proverb?

- The word Proverb means “to be like.” They contain comparisons between everyday physical images and life’s truths
- A Proverb is terse. It is complete in itself, not requiring development or qualification.
- A Proverb is poetic. They contain parallelism, in which the second member of the sentence balances or contrasts with the first.
- A Proverb is popular and practical. They relate to daily life



Book of Proverbs Background

[Video Link](#)





*The Proverbs are aimed at the Simple and the Wise
(Proverbs 1:4-6)*

Primary Characters in Proverbs

The Simple: those who remain uncommitted to either wisdom or folly; they are gullible and easily misled. They are not weak-minded but untaught and immature.

The Wise: they embrace God's covenant. They are already trained and leading righteous lives but are not perfect and knows there is more to learn. They are teachable and can become wiser.

The Fool: They are opposed to God. They don't listen to advice. They are fixed in the correctness of their opinion. They are not beyond hope *if* they become teachable.

The Scoffer/Mocker: those who are proud and arrogant and scorn God's ways. They are hardened apostates and are beyond wisdom's call.

The Sluggard: those who have an unreliable and procrastinating nature. They are hard to do business with and lose their families' heritage.

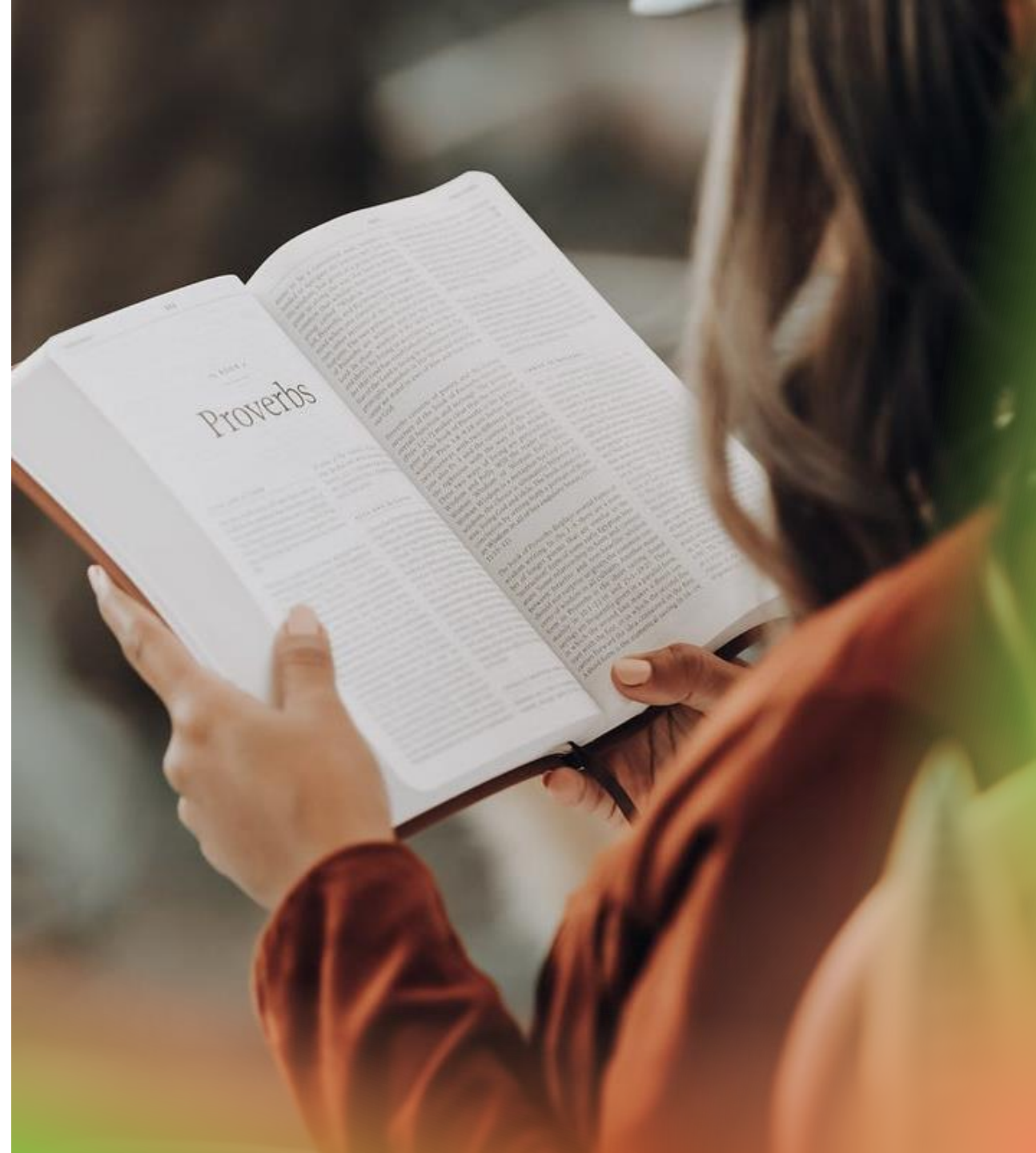
Lady Wisdom: personifies the characteristics of wisdom.

Lady Folly: personifies the characteristics of folly.

Woman of Excellence personifies the ideal woman; a portrait of feminine wisdom. She embodies in all areas of life the full character of wisdom commanded in Proverbs.

Read the Proverbs Wisely

- All Proverbs should be read and studied in light of the Prologue.
- Fundamental theology: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge.
- Wisdom is rooted in relationship with God. It is God who created us and who teaches us wisdom.
- Proverbs describe general life principles from the world view of Israel's people. They don't cover all exceptions and are not promises or guarantees from God.
- Watch for contrasting issues and high level principles.
- Take the proverbs at face value, but recognize they are Hebrew poetry.



Lessons From the Father to the Son

- Warning against the enticement of sinners (PR 1:10-19)
- Warning against rejecting wisdom:
 - The son must seek wisdom (PR 2:1-4)
 - Then he will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God (PR 2:5-6)
 - Which in turn will protect his way (PR 2:7-8)
 - And enter his heart to guard him (PR 2:9-11)
- God's promises of blessings and the son's obligations (PR 3:1-10)
 - Love and faithfulness = favor with God and people (PR 3:3-4)
 - Trust in the LORD = straight paths (PR 3:5-6)
 - Humility = good health (PR 3:7-8)
 - Tithes and Offerings = abundant crops (PR 3:9-10)
- The Value of Wisdom (PR 3:11-35)
 - Wisdom provides blessings (PR 3:13-18)
 - The role of wisdom in creation (PR 3:19-20)
 - Wisdom blesses with peace and prosperity (PR 3:21-26)
- The Importance of Wisdom (PR 4:1-27)
- Warnings Against Adultery, Folly, Laziness, and Wickedness (PR 5:1-6:35)
 - Seven things the LORD hates (PR 6:16-19): haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up controversy.
- Warnings Against the Unfaithful Wife (PR 7:1-27)



Lady Wisdom

- Personification of wisdom shows diverse images of prophet, teacher, counselor, lover, daughter, mother, host.
- She provides an urgent warning about the consequences of rejecting her counsel. Wisdom addresses three classes of people who have rejected her counsel: the simple, mockers, and fools.
- Wisdom upholds and reinforces the Old Testament view of the ideal human life
- Wisdom laughs at the fate of the fool. Ultimately, to choose folly is to reject the fear of the Lord – the key to wisdom.

Folly Personified

Folly is an unruly woman,

She is simple and knows nothing

She sits at the door of her house,

on a seat at the highest point of the city,

Calling out to those who pass by,

who go straight on their way,

“Let all who are simple come to my house!”

To those who have no sense she says

“Stolen water is sweet;

food eaten in secret is delicious!”

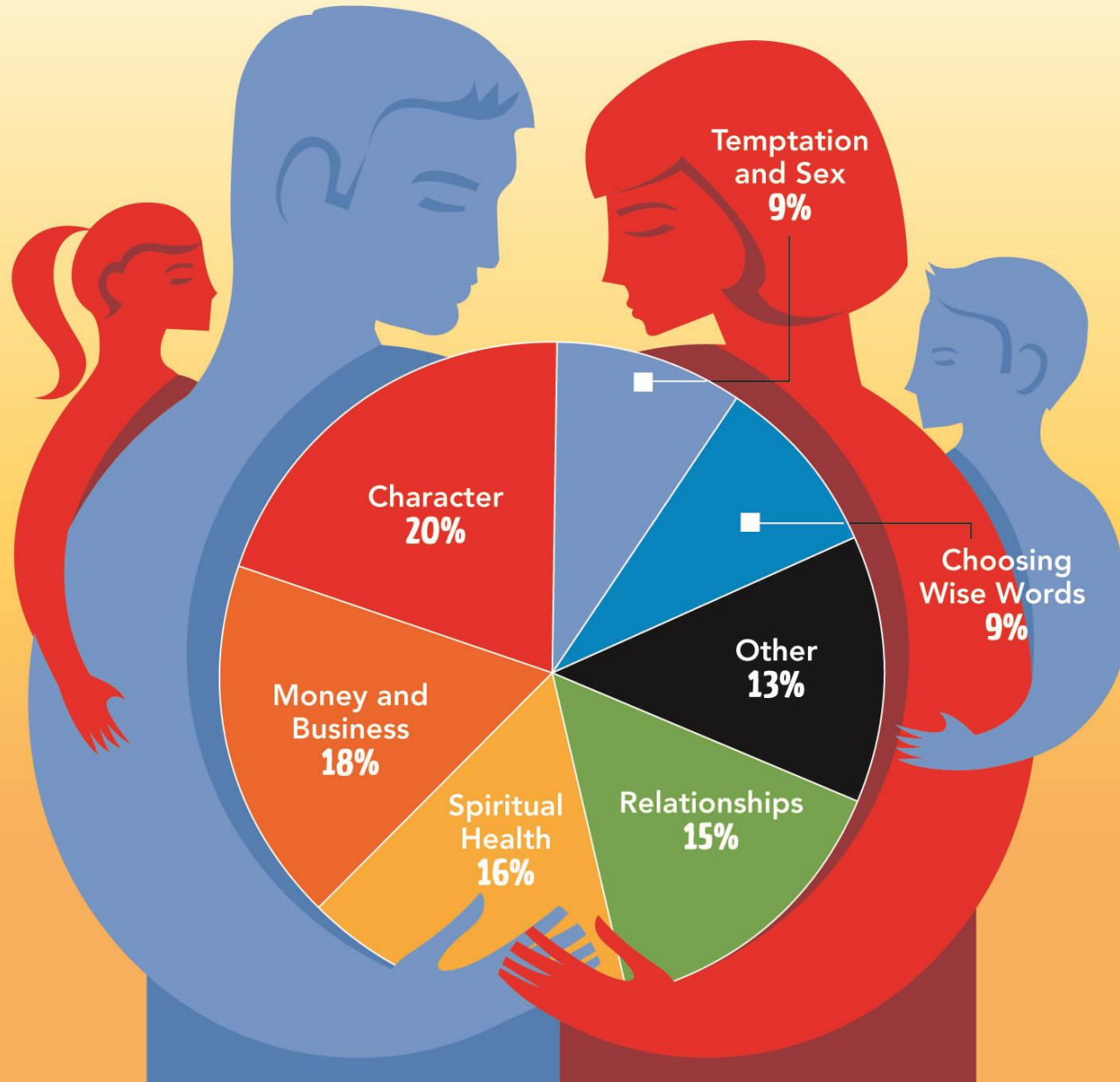
But little do they know that the dead are there

That her guests are deep in the realm of the dead



TOPICS IN PROVERBS

Main themes found in Proverbs



- Righteousness and Wickedness
- Foolishness
- Life and Death
- Fear of the Lord
- What God Loves and Detests
- The Human Heart – Pride
- Human Character
- Kindness and Cruelty
- Laziness
- Work
- Truth
- Relationships (Family/Friends)
- Managing Wealth
- Words, Speech, and Tongue
- Discipline
- Virtues and Vices
- Justice



Proverbs and the New Testament

- The poetic description of Lady Wisdom contributes to an understanding of Jesus' nature and identity.
- Wisdom's cosmic speeches resemble Jesus' public teachings.
- Christ's apostles cite the book in various ways about 60 times. The book of Proverbs plays a significant role in the church's understanding of ethics.
- Proverbs shows us how to direct our lives to holy ends.
- The Book of Proverbs is about how to equip ourselves for everyday life in the real world and become a street-wise follower of Jesus.

Christ The Wisdom of God

DISCUSSION

Were any of the proverbs studied this week enlightening to you or favorites of yours?

Were there any that were confusing or that you took issue with?



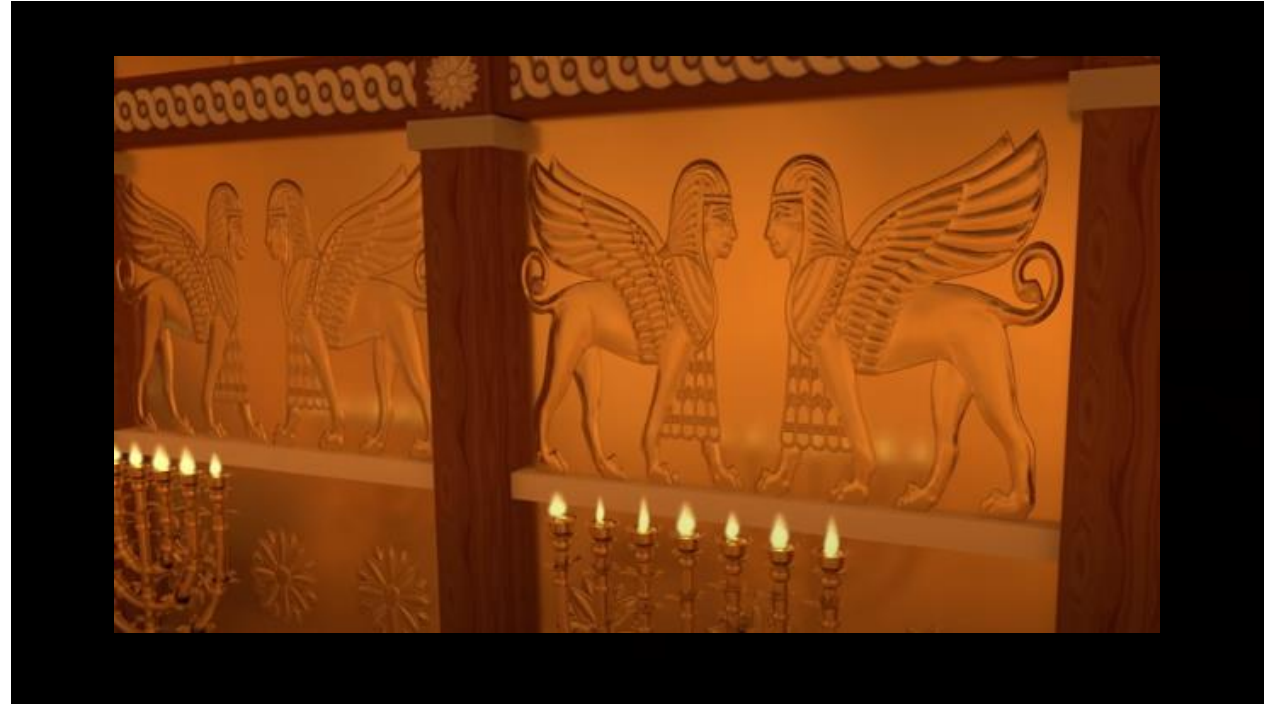


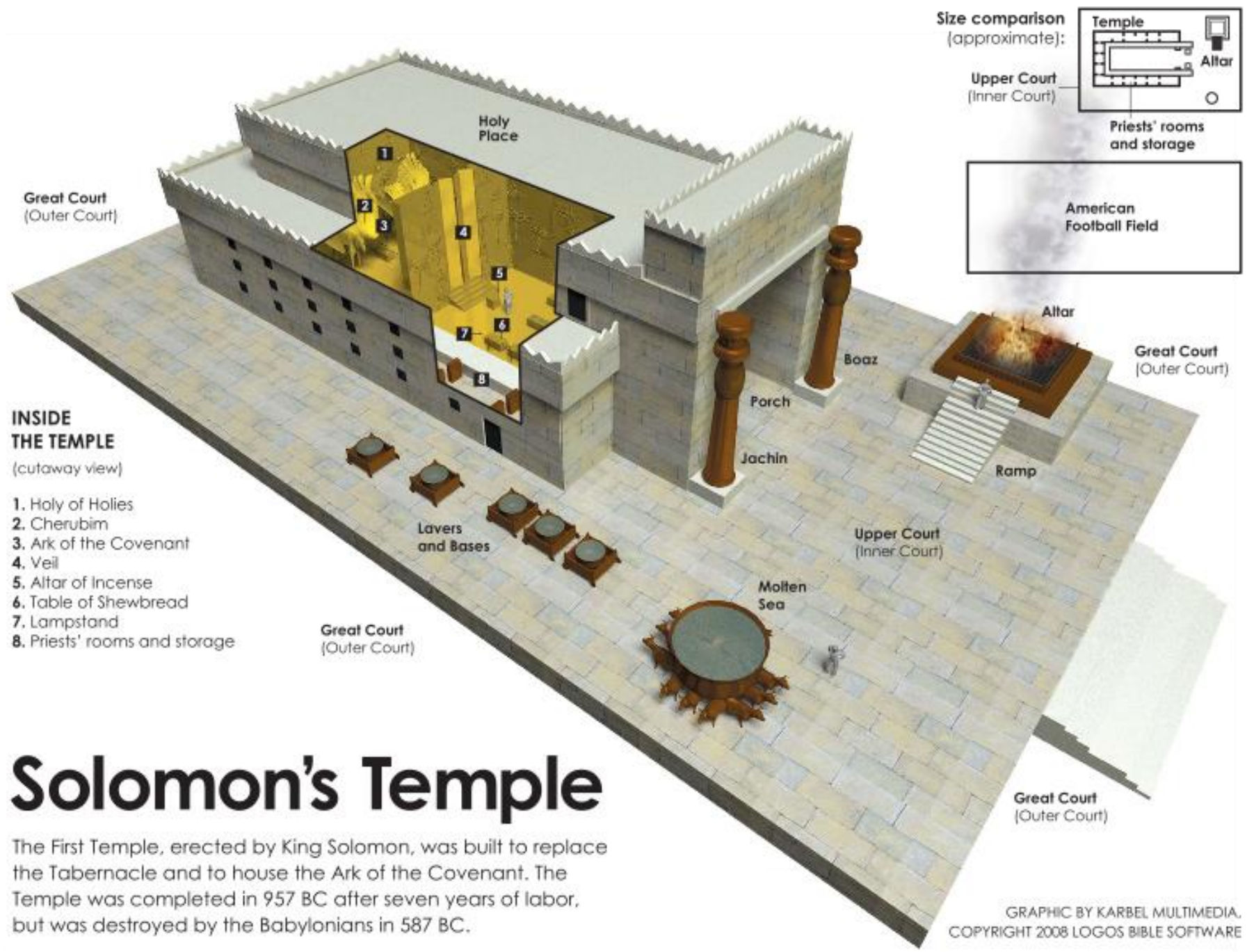
Solomon Begins Work on the Temple

- At Solomon's request, Hiram, king of Tyre, helps supply materials for building the temple.
- The temple was built based on the plans David had drawn up before his death.
- 1 Kings provides a detailed description of the temple.
- God promises to live among the Israelites and not abandon them if God's decrees and laws are obeyed.

Solomon's Temple Explained

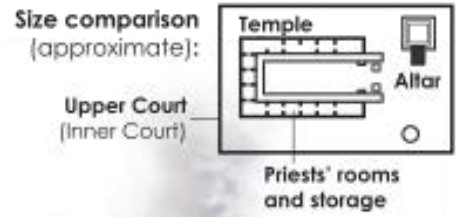
[Video Link](#)





INSIDE THE TEMPLE
(cutaway view)

- 1. Holy of Holies
- 2. Cherubim
- 3. Ark of the Covenant
- 4. Veil
- 5. Altar of Incense
- 6. Table of Shewbread
- 7. Lampstand
- 8. Priests' rooms and storage



Solomon's Temple

The First Temple, erected by King Solomon, was built to replace the Tabernacle and to house the Ark of the Covenant. The Temple was completed in 957 BC after seven years of labor, but was destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 BC.

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE - ILLUSTRATED

1 KINGS 6

Three level structure built around the temple.
Lower level is 7.5 ft. wide.
Middle level is 9 ft. wide.
Upper level is 10.5 ft. wide

Wooden Doors overlaid with gold

The nave with clerstory windows

Vestibule - 30 ft. wide and 15 ft. deep.

Hollow bronze pillar on north called "Boaz" and one on the south called "Jachin".

Wooden Doors overlaid with gold

Bronze alter 30 ft. by 15 ft., for burnt offerings.

Inner sanctuary is a 30' cube.
Ark of the Covenant in the middle with two massive 15' golden cherubim on either side.

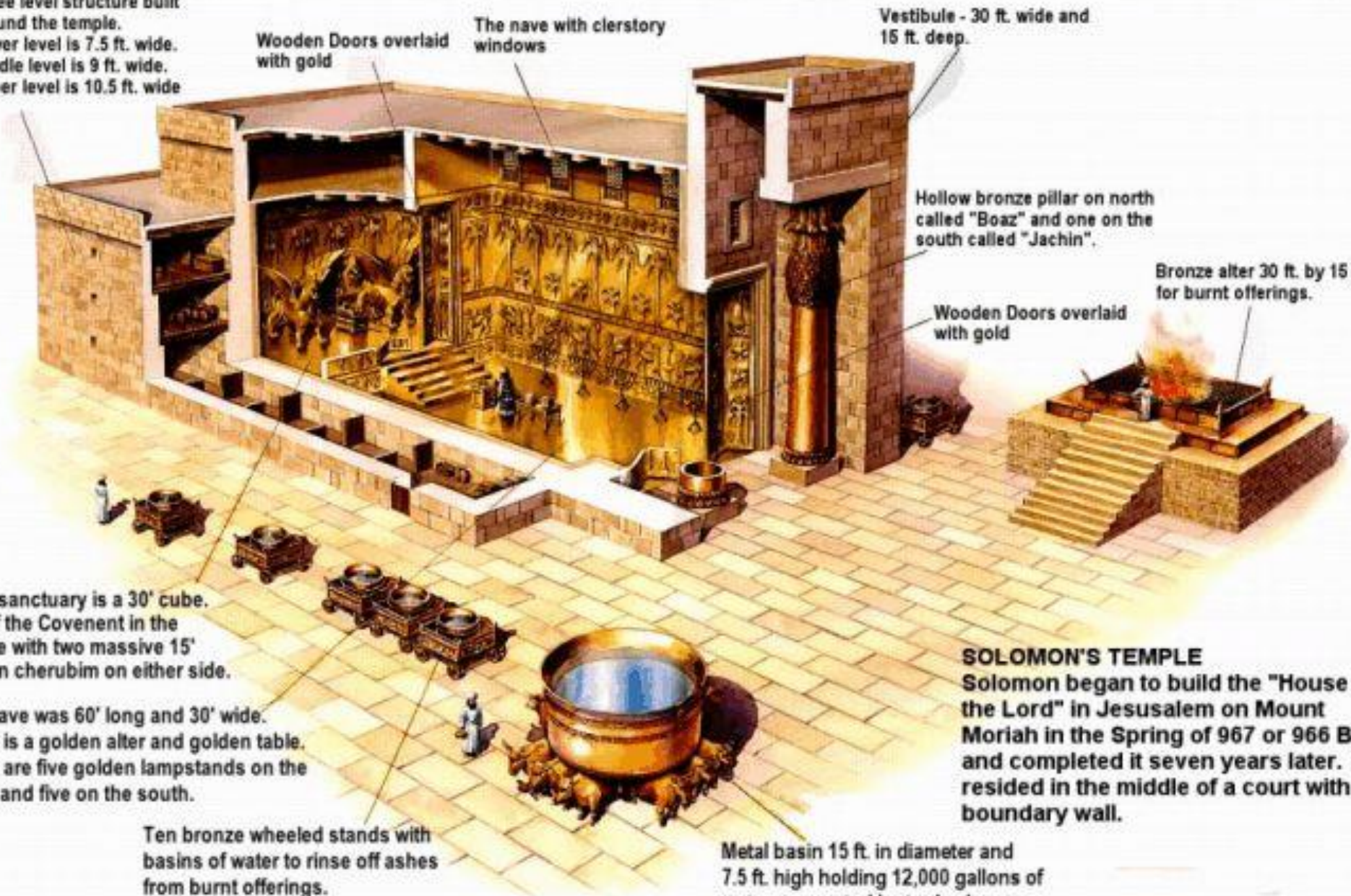
The nave was 60' long and 30' wide.
There is a golden alter and golden table.
There are five golden lampstands on the north and five on the south.

Ten bronze wheeled stands with basins of water to rinse off ashes from burnt offerings.

Metal basin 15 ft. in diameter and 7.5 ft. high holding 12,000 gallons of water, supported by twelve bronze oxen in sets of three.

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

Solomon began to build the "House of the Lord" in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah in the Spring of 967 or 966 B.C. and completed it seven years later. It resided in the middle of a court with boundary wall.



DISCUSSION

How can the various symbols of the temple apply to our lives as “temples of the Holy Spirit?”





Readings:

1 Kings 7-11

Ecclesiastes

Song of Solomon

Closing Hymn

[Video Link](#)



The Wisdom of Solomon

JAN 23-19 2024

1 KI 3-6; PR 1-22:16

Week 17

These opening chapters of 1 Kings describe Solomon's divinely given wisdom and the golden years of his reign. Solomon is blessed with wisdom and charged with building a majestic temple to the Lord in Jerusalem. The building of the temple, which will hold the Ark of the Covenant, is Solomon's greatest success. Solomon's reign begins with great success. God tells Solomon to remember Him and follow his father David's example. Solomon seeks wisdom from God to govern his people well. God responds by giving him unparalleled wisdom, which will bring wealth and fame. The heart of Israel's wisdom tradition is shown in Proverbs.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: 1 KI 3:1-4:34
Day 2: PR 1:1-4:27
Day 3: PR 5:1-9:18
Day 4: PR10:1-15:33
Day 5: PR16:1-22:16
Day 6: 1 KI 5:1-18
Day 7: 1 KI 6:1-38

Outline

The Rise of Solomon as King [Day 1]
Proverbs [Day 2-5]
Preparations for Building the Temple [Day 6]
Laying the Temple's Foundation [Day 7]

Key Characters

Solomon
Hiram

Key Locations

Jerusalem
Gibeon

Key Terms

Wisdom
Folly
Temple
Kingship
Fear of the Lord

Key Verses

So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. [1 KI 3:9]

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge but fools despise wisdom and discipline. [PR 1:7]

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart [PR3:3]

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight [PR 3:5-6]

Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. [PR 3:27]

EPOCH 4
(1200 – 930 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

1Ki3: Solomon married Pharaoh's daughter. He asked the LORD for discernment. Two women came before him and he judged between them wisely..

1Ki4: Solomon had officials and twelve governors. He ruled from the River to the land of Egypt. Men of all nations came to hear his wisdom.

Pr1: The proverbs of Solomon. My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. Wisdom calls aloud. The complacency of fools destroys them.

Pr2: My son, apply your heart to understanding. For the LORD gives wisdom. It will save you from the way of evil, and from the adulteress.

Pr3: My son, trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not despise his discipline. Wisdom is a tree of life. Do not quarrel without cause.

Pr4: Listen, my sons: Get wisdom. The path of the righteous is like the morning sun. Guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Pr5: My son, listen to my words. In the end an adulteress is bitter as wormwood. Keep away from her. Rejoice in the wife of your youth.

Pr6: A little slumber, and poverty will come like a bandit. A scoundrel sows discord. My son, a man who commits adultery destroys himself.

Pr7: My son, wisdom will keep you from the adulteress. I saw her seducing a young man. He followed her like an ox going to the slaughter.

Pr8: Wisdom cries aloud: "My mouth speaks truth. The LORD brought me forth at the beginning of his works. Whoever finds me finds life."

Pr9: Wisdom has built her house. She says, "Come, leave your folly." The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. Folly knows nothing..

Pr10: A wise son makes a glad father. Love covers all offences. With many words, sin is not lacking. The righteous will never be uprooted.

Pr11: The LORD hates dishonest scales. The wicked earn false wages. Whoever gives water will get water. Whoever trusts in riches will fall.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Pr12: No one finds security by wickedness. Those who work the land have food. Rash words pierce like a sword. Righteousness leads to life.

Pr13: The righteous hate lies. Hope deferred makes the heart sick. Whoever heeds reproof is honored. Whoever spares the rod hates his son.

Pr14: The talk of fools is a rod for their backs. Even in laughter the heart may ache. Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker.

Pr15: A gentle answer turns away wrath. The eyes of the LORD are everywhere. Plans fail for lack of counsel. The LORD hears the righteous.

Pr16: A man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps. Kings detest evil. Pride goes before destruction. Wisdom is a fountain of life.

Pr17: A wise servant will rule over a shameful son. Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam. Even a fool seems wise if he keeps silent.

Pr18: A fool delights in his own opinions. The name of LORD is a strong tower. A gift opens the way. The tongue can bring life or death.

Pr19: Wealth makes friends. A false witness will not go unpunished. A good wife is from the LORD. Whoever helps the poor lends to the LORD.

Pr20: Wine is a mocker, beer a brawler. Even a child is known by his deeds. The LORD hates false weights. It is a snare to make rash vows.

Pr21: To do justice is better than sacrifice. Better to live on the roof than with a quarrelsome wife. No plans can avail against the LORD.

Pr22: A good name is better than riches. Train a child and he will not go astray. Incline your ear and apply your heart to my teaching.

1Ki5: Solomon sent to King Hiram: "I will build a house for the LORD. Cut down cedars for me." The workers prepared the timber and stones.

1Ki6: Solomon built the temple. The LORD said, "If you walk in my ways I will dwell with Israel." Solomon overlaid the temple with gold.

Teachings About God

- 1 Kings emphasizes “one God, one temple.” Israel’s God is the one true Lord of all and can be worshipped properly at the one place that he has designated: the temple in Jerusalem.
- God does not tolerate the worship of rival deities.
- God is the source of true wisdom.
- In Proverbs, God is the one who has set up the world so that those who live by his principles will find blessing and success.
- The highest virtue is “fear of the Lord.”

Teachings About Humanity

- A great king like Solomon can show the glory and power of God to all, including foreigners.
- Israel is depicted at its grandest and most glorious. Jerusalem was splendid and wealthy. Solomon was legendary for his wisdom. It stands in the mind of many as a time to be regained.
- Proverbs shows God’s people how to live life skillfully. It contains principles for everyday life combined with reverence for God. It applies to everyday life the great commandments to love God supremely and to love one’s neighbor.
- Living well means enjoying successful relationships now.
- Proverbs presents two worldviews. God’s people have a different quality of life than the ungodly. The right way is not the easy way, but living the right way has great reward.

Teachings About Salvation

- God’s people were expected to live in loyalty to the covenant. Both kings and people are evaluated according to the terms of the covenant established on Mt. Sinai.
- Wisdom coming from the people of God results in greater blessing and ultimate salvation.

Reflections of Christ/Holy Spirit

- Solomon’s wisdom and splendor were known far beyond Israel and points to the wisdom and glory of Christ.
- Wisdom is an attribute of God, and Jesus Christ embodies this wisdom.
- Jesus is even greater than Solomon.

Literary Genres/Techniques

- 1 Kings was written in Hebrew and focuses on the reign of Solomon. It uses historical narrative and uses some preserved historical court records.
- The Book of Proverbs is wisdom literature. Written in short maxims in Hebrew poetry. Vivid comparisons are used.
- Wisdom goes beyond theoretical knowledge into practical guidelines for facing life’s challenging issues successfully.

Author/Date of Writing

- 1 Kings covers from David’s death to Jehoshaphat’s death (c970-848 BC).
- The author of 1 Kings is unknown, but some believe it was written by Jeremiah (c560 BC). There is a perspective of the Babylonian exile. But sources from earlier times were used.
- Proverbs is attributed to Solomon (c950-700 BC). Two centuries later more of Solomon’s proverbs were compiled by scholars working for Hezekiah.

What did I learn about God?

- What distinctions does God make regarding a worshiper's integrity (PR 15:8-9)?
- How does God chasten his children (PR 3:11-12)? What are the seven things that God hates (PR 6:16-19)?
- Why is God so concerned about the treatment of the poor and down-trodden? Why does God indebted Himself to us for helping the poor (PR 19:17)?
- Why do God and pride not mix? What causes enmity between the two? Is there any positive kind of pride that we should have?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Wisdom tends to be defined differently by people who have different perspectives. What may seem wise to one group may be deemed foolish by another. Does having wisdom guarantee we will live by wisdom? How do the following uphold wisdom: understanding, knowledge, prudence, shrewdness, instruction, discretion, perception?
- The opening of Proverbs (PR 1:7) says that knowledge and wisdom begins by having a healthy fear of God. What does it mean to have "fear of the Lord?" How does the fear of the Lord give us a good foundation for life?
- Should a person's emotions be his master or his servant? Does the way in which emotions like anger are directed make a difference? When someone "blows up" where is anger directed? When someone "clams up" where is anger directed? Where should anger be directed? With so many passionate and conflicting emotions prompting people to action, what is our responsibility to controlling those actions?
- Humility is important throughout the Bible. Proverbs assert that because of pride, a person is often tempted to take risks and be dishonest to protect reputation. Humility allows a man to confess his shortcomings and ask for advice. How does pride lead to strife (PR 13:10)? We are told in PR 15:33 that humility precedes true honor. What does that mean? Why are we not able to see pride in ourselves but can so easily detect it in others?
- Why is a friend who tells us the uncomfortable truth so valuable (PR 13:17-18; PR 20:30)? Are strong words sometimes necessary to correction (PR 15:10)? How strong?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Knowing that God sees and knows all we do, should that knowledge make us afraid? Or comforted? Or both? In what ways can knowing God – as He is depicted in Proverbs—motivate us to live wisely?
- The wisdom of proverbs talks about the need for people to tame the tongue. How can our words build up or tear down the wayward and the weak (PR 15:4; 16:24)?
- Integrity is a matter of relationships with other people that reflect the influence of our relationship with God. What would it say about me if I had the power to help someone but refused (PR 3:27-30)? What would it say about my relationship with God? What are some specific situations in which we have opportunities to show integrity in our day-to-day activities (PR 11:1)?
- Are you an advice-giver or an advice-receiver? Do those who give the most advice generally heed the advice of others?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

- How are the Proverbs able to span years, locations, and cultures, and still be relevant to all people?