## South Forsyth Church

**Adult Class**

**Fall Quarter 1999**

Class Schedule for “Give Us A King–

The United Kingdom,” Part 2 of 2

Kings, Chronicles, Job, Song of Solomon

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The best way to learn in this class: first, read the assigned Bible text. Then answer the questions. Don't try to read as you answer, as you won't learn nearly as much. (Your goal is to learn, not answer.) The Waldron text is a good source of help if you get perplexed, but don't worry so much about getting the answers right as much as just digging in!

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| **Lesson** | **Date** | **Topics** | **Bible Text** |
| 1 Sun | Oct 3 | David’s Life Comes to a Close, Part 1 | II Samuel 19:41-22:39 |
| 2 Wed | Oct 6 | David’s Life Comes to a Close, Part 2 | I Chronicles 22-29 |
| 3 Sun | Oct 10 | Solomon’s Rise to Power, Part 1 | I Kings 1:1-2:25 |
| 4 Wed | Oct 13 | Solomon's Rise to Power, Part 2 | I Kings 2:26-4:28 |
| 5 Sun | Oct 17 | Solomon Builds a House for God, Part 1 | I Kings 4:29-7:51 |
| 6 Wed | Oct 20 | Solomon Builds a House for God, Part 2 | I Kings 8:1-9:28 |
| 7 Sun | Oct 24 | Solomon’s Greatness | I Kings 10 |
| 8 Wed | Oct 27 | Solomon's Downfall | I Kings 11 |
| 9 Sun | Oct 31 | Job, Lesson 1 of 5 | Job 1-5 |
| 10 Wed | Nov 3 | Job, Lesson 2 of 5 | Job 6-16 |
| 11 Sun | Nov 7 | Job, Lesson 3 of 5 | Job 17-27 |
| 12 Wed | Nov 10 | Job, Lesson 4 of 5 | Job 28-37 |
| 13 Sun | Nov 14 | Job, Lesson 5 of 5 | Job 38-42 |
| 14 Wed | Nov 17 | Proverbs 1-5 | Proverbs 1-5 |
| 15 Sun | Nov 21 | Proverbs 6-9 | Proverbs 6-9 |
| 16 Wed | Nov 24 | The Proverbs of Solomon, Part 1 of 2 | Proverbs 10-19 |
| 17 Sun | Nov 28 | The Proverbs of Solomon, Part 2 of 2 | Proverbs 20-27 |
| 18 Wed | Dec 1 | Proverbs 28-29 | Proverbs 28-29 |
| 19 Sun | Dec 5 | Proverbs 30-31 | Proverbs 30-31 |
| 20 Wed | Dec 8 | Ecclesiastes, Part 1 of 3 | Ecclesiastes 1-4 |
| 21 Sun | Dec 12 | Ecclesiastes, Part 2 of 3 | Ecclesiastes 5-8 |
| 22 Wed | Dec 15 | Ecclesiastes, Part 3 of 3 | Ecclesiastes 9-12 |
| 23 Sun | Dec 19 | The Song of Solomon, Part 1 of 3 | Song of Solomon 1:1 – 3:5 |
| 24 Wed | Dec 22 | The Song of Solomon, Part 2 of 3 | Song of Solomon 3:6 – 5:7 |
| 25 Sun | Dec 26 | The Song of Solomon, Part 3 of 3 | Song of Solomon 5:8 -- 8:14 |
| 26 Wed | Dec 29 | Review |  |

🕮 lesson 1: *David’s Life Comes to a Close*

*Read II Samuel 19:40 - 23:39*

1. Describe the argument between the tribes concerning David.
2. What tribes rebelled against David, and who was their leader?
3. Describe Amasa’s murder, including the circumstances leading up to the murder.
4. How had Amasa come to be commander of David’s army?
5. How was Sheba subdued? Describe what occurred to him.
6. List David’s chief officers as told in II Samuel 20:23-26.
7. What did David do about his ten concubines? Why?
8. Why did David seek to help the Gibeonites? What did they request? What did David order done?
9. What final act did David make concerning Saul and his descendants?
10. Describe the exploits of David and his men as described at the end of chapter 21.
11. According to David’s psalm recorded here, what had the Lord so blessed David?
12. Read the final words of David. What message is there for us?
13. What was the deeper meaning of David pouring the water “before the Lord”? THINK!!
14. What was Abisai honored for? Name at least one battle listed elsewhere he is known for.
15. Who was the last of the 37 “mighty men” listed? Based on his only recorded words and actions from earlier chapters, what other things do we know about this man’s character?

🕮 lesson 2: *David’s Life Comes to a Close*

*Read I Chronicles 22-29 & answer the following questions (use a separate piece of paper if needed):*

1. Who provided the labor for the cut stones of the temple? Who ordered this?
2. What did David tell Solomon concerning God’s prophesy for Solomon?
3. What admonishment did David give Solomon at the end of David’s life?
4. List all of the materials that David gathered for the temple.
5. What reason did David give to the leaders of the Israel for them to help Solomon?
6. How were the 38,000 Levites divided?
7. Describe, in detail, what happened to Moses’s descendants.
8. Why were the Levites again numbered, and what duties were assigned?
9. How were the sons of Aaron divided?
10. Why did David “conscript” some Levites for service to him?
11. After reading the descriptions & names, what conclusions do you draw? What good was there? Bad?
12. Why wasn’t all of the census recorded?
13. According to David’s speech in chapter 28, what was special about Judah and David?
14. In this speech of David’s, what had God (and David) commanded Solomon?
15. Who drew up the plans for the temple?
16. Why did David say what he did in 28:20?
17. Describe the offerings made by the people, and the intent of their heart.
18. List five key points of David’s prayer in 29:10-19.
19. Summarize David’s 40-year reign in three well-written sentences.

🕮 lesson 3: *Solomon’s Rise to Power Part 1*

*Read I Kings 1:1-2:25 and answer the following:*

1. Why did David’s servants seek out a young virgin for David, and who did they choose?
2. Research question: who was Adonijah, and where is this found?
3. Why had he exalt himself, selecting himself to be the next king of Israel?
4. Of David’s advisors, who was with Adonijah and who were not?
5. Who sent out to stop Adonijah from become King and how did he go about doing so?
6. Describe the scene and conversation between Bathsheba and David.
7. Describe the scene and conversation between Nathan the Prophet and David.
8. What oath did David make?
9. Describe in detail how David fulfilled his oath.
10. How was Solomon anointed?
11. Describe the scene: how did Adonijah and his guests hear about Solomon’s annointment?
12. Why did Adonijah grasp the horns of the altar, and how did this come to be done in Israel?
13. What was Solomon’s say to the news of Adonijah grasping the horns? What did he order done?
14. What spiritual commands did David give Solomon before his death?
15. What advice did David give concerning some of those that had sinned and some that had helped him?
16. Describe in detail how Adonijah made his request to marry Abishag.
17. How did Solomon receive his request? What did he order done?

🕮 lesson 4: *Solomon’s Rise to Power Part 2*

*Read I Kings 2:26-4:34 and answer the following:*

1. What did Solomon command concerning Abiathar the priest, and why? What prophesy did this fulfill?
2. Why did Joab hold of the horns of the altar? Retell the conversations between Solomon, Joab & Benaiah in their proper order.
3. According to Solomon, what were Joab’s sins? Why was it not a sin against Solomon for Joab to die while holding the horns of the altar?
4. Who did Solomon put in Abiathar and Joab’s places?
5. Why did Solomon restrict Shimei? What was the restriction? What happened to Shimei, and why?
6. Why did Solomon marry Pharoah’s daughter? List the scripture forbidding this.
7. Research: what were the “high places” mentioned here that Solomon wrongfully used for worship?
8. How did God appear to Solomon? What question did he ask Solomon?
9. What was Solomon’s answer– and his reasoning for the answer he gave?
10. What did God say in response?
11. What conditional promise did God lastly give Solomon in 3:14?
12. Describe the famous scene of Solomon’s judgment between two harlots. What was Israel’s reaction?
13. Which kingdoms did Solomon rule over, and what did they bring him?
14. What did this do for Israel’s safety?
15. Describe Solomon’s wealth.
16. Describe Solomon’s wisdom.

🕮 lesson 5: *Solomon Builds God’s House (1)*

*Read I Kings 5:1 - 7:51 and answer the following:*

1. Why did Hiram, king of Tyre, send emissaries to Solomon?
2. Why, according to Solomon in his letter to Hiram, was David unable to build God’s house? True?
3. What did Solomon ask of Hiram, and what did Hiram say out loud about Solomon’s request?
4. Describe the “labor forces” that Solomon raised up, including their numbers. Where was this prophesied?
5. In what year did Solomon begin to build the temple? Describe the measurements in feet (not cubits!).
6. Describe the chambers all around. Describe the stonework. Describe the entrances to each floor.
7. What did God tell Solomon while Solomon was still building the temple?
8. Where was the Most Holy Place located, and what were its measurements?
9. Describe the cherubim, and tell where they were placed.
10. Where did Solomon place gold in the construction of the temple?
11. How long did it take Solomon to complete the temple?
12. Name a few details of Solomon’s new palace. How long did it take him to build it?
13. Who made the two huge bronze pillars in the temple? Describe them, including their names.
14. What was the “sea” mentioned here? Describe it.
15. Describe the ten carts that were made.
16. Describe the lathers of bronze. What were they used for?
17. What furniture was made of gold?

🕮 lesson 6: *Solomon Builds God’s House (2)*

*Read I Kings 8:1-9:28 and answer the following (Don’t try to “answer as you go”!):*

1. How was the ark moved to the new temple? *Why?*
2. What was still inside the ark? **Research:** What had originally been in the ark?
3. What manifestation did God bring to fill the temple, and why?
4. What did Solomon call the ark? Explain.
5. Solomon prays a deep, spiritual prayer at the dedication of the temple. What did Solomon say about God’s nature?
6. What did Solomon say about God’s presence in the temple– and contrast that with the “gods” of the nations around them.
7. What specifically did Solomon ask God to do at different times of repentance?
8. What did he ask about in famine, pestilence, blight– and under what conditions?
9. Why did Solomon pray about foreigners?
10. What did he pray about their battles?
11. Captivity?
12. Where did Solomon point out was God’s dwelling place? Where else in the Bible is this taught?
13. What had Solomon been doing while he was praying publicly?
14. Describe Solomon’s peace offerings.
15. What was the length of Solomon’s feast? Why so long?
16. How did God appear to Solomon again, and what did He promise Solomon?
17. What exchange had Solomon and Hiram made, and how did Hiram feel about the bargain?
18. What does “the land of Cabul” mean, and why this name?
19. Why didn’t Solomon use Israelites for forced labor? What were they used for?

🕮 lesson 7: *Solomon’s Greatness*

*Read I Kings 10, then go back and answer the following questions. READ & ANSWER CAREFULLY!*

1. What had the Queen of Sheba heard about Solomon? What did she come to test him with?
2. What did she bring with her (besides “hard questions”)?
3. What does verse five mean by “there was no more spirit in her”?
4. What did she say about Solomon’s wisdom and prosperity?
5. What did she say about his servants?
6. What did she say about the Lord?
7. What did she give Solomon by way of gifts?
8. What did Solomon give her in return?
9. How much gold did Solomon collect each year as “tribute”? What wasn’t included?
10. Describe the 300 gold shields that Solomon had made. Where were they placed? What does this tell you?
11. Describe Solomon’s throne.
12. Describe Solomon’s drinking vessels.
13. How long were Solomon’s ships at sea before returning? What did they bring?
14. What were the numbers of Solomon’s horsemen and of his chariots? Why?
15. Explain verse 29.

🕮 lesson 8: *Solomon’s Downfall*

*Read I Kings 11, then go back and answer the following questions. READ & ANSWER CAREFULLY!*

1. From a practical standpoint, how can marrying someone “outside the faith” cause them to abandon God?
2. How many wives and how many concubines did Solomon have? Here’s a hard one: why?
3. Describe the other Gods that Solomon served? Do you think he also tried to serve God at the same time?
4. What did God tell Solomon He would do as a result? Thought: does this mean that Solomon was saved?
5. Describe the circumstances (and name) of the adversary that God raised against Solomon.
6. Why had Pharoah given him shelter? What relation was Solomon to Pharoah?
7. Describe the circumstances of Rezon, the son of Hadadezer.
8. How did Jeroboam come into power, and what prophesy was given him concerning Israel?
9. Why, according to the prophet, was this to be so?
10. What condition (very important!) was given to Jeroboam by the prophet?
11. What blessings would be given Jeroboam, if he met the conditions given by God?
12. According to the prophet, why wasn’t the entire kingdom taken away from Solomon?
13. What was Solomon’s reaction to the news of this prophesy?
14. How long did Solomon reign in total? How long had David reigned?

🕮 lesson 9: Job, Part 1

*Read Job 1-5 in its entirety before answering the following questions.*

*Overview of the book: Probably a contemporary of Abram, Job, a righteous man, was bless by God. Satan comes before God and accuses God of showing favoritism to Job. God allows Satan to strip Job of his possessions, most of his family and his health. Job's friends come in the guise of comforting Job, but instead they "try" him for his sin, which they think is at the root of his troubles. Job proves that God has always allowed calamity to fall on the just and the unjust. God returns in the end, speaks to Job and teaches he and his friends some important lessons.*

1. Explain Job's actions in sacrificing for his sons and daughters.
2. Since God wasn't bragging to Satan about Job, what was He doing? What was Satan's response?
3. What calamities befell Job? What was Job's response?
4. What was Satan's second accusation concerning Job, and what did God allow?
5. What did Job do? What did his wife say? What did his friends say and do when they came to him?
6. In your opinion, was Job right or wrong in his cursing the day of his birth? Explain your answer based on Job 3.
7. In chapter 4, Eliphaz the Temanite asks, "who ever perished being innocent?" Scripturally disprove him.
8. List three or more good points and at least one other wrong point he makes in Job 4.
9. In Job 5, Eliphaz calls Job foolish, tells Job to appeal to God and tells him to accept God's discipline. List five good points that he makes in this chapter that would be appropriate if Job were a sinner.
10. Using the same five points, demonstrate that Job was NOT in need of any of Eliphaz's help.

🕮 lesson 10: Job, Part 2

*Read Job 6-16 in its entirety before answering the following questions.*

1. In Job's answer to Eliphaz (Job 6), describe three or more of his examples of his anguish.
2. Job confronts his friends for their "help" in the remainder of the chapter. Describe his language to them.
3. In Job 7, Job (improperly) questions God. What in particular does he say that you think would displease God?
4. Bildad's first speech (Job 8), how does he add to Eliphaz's arguments?
5. While Bildad is wrong about Job, list four good points he makes in Job 8:
6. In Job 9-10, he praises God while arguing his case before his friends. List three good points he makes. List three (or more) complaints he makes to God concerning his condition.
7. Zophar makes his first speech (Job 11), and his words are stronger than Eliphaz's or Bildad's. Demonstrate that while his speech to Job teaches righteousness, he was wrong to use such strong language about Job.
8. In Job 12, Job replies in an ironic vein! What does he say?
9. What powers does he remind his friends of that God has? List at least four.
10. In Job 13, Job begs that God speak with him about his plight. What else does he ask of God?
11. In Job 14, he mourns over the brevity of life and the nature of God. Describe some lessons you gleaned.
12. In Job 15, Eliphaz (remember him?) answers. What does he say to Job?
13. In Job 16, Job calls his friends "miserable comforters." What are his other key points in this chapter?

🕮 lesson 11: Job, Part 3

*Read Job 17-27 in its entirety before answering the following questions.*

1. Chapter 17 is a continuation of Job's speech. Who is Job speaking to? What does Job ask?
2. Job 18, Bildad's second speech to Job (and his friends), the words are getting heated. Why?
3. What is the message of Bildad's second speech?
4. In Job 19, Job says they "magify yourselves against me." How had they done this?
5. According to Job, what had God done to him? What did Job ask of his friends in turn?
6. Job 20 is Zophar's second speech. Pretty strong stuff. What does he say in reply to Job?
7. Job 21 is Job's reply to Zophar. He makes some very good points about the nature of God and man. List them.
8. Job 22 is Eliphaz's third speech. In his anger, he speaks wrongly of the nature of God. How?
9. Job's reply in chapter 23, Job discusses the real nature of God. How is his picture different than Eliphaz's?
10. In Job 24, Job talks about the nature of evil men and the nature of God towards they and the righteous. What?
11. Job 25 is Bildad's third speech. How is he right? How is he wrong?
12. In Job 26, Job responds by asking questions of Bildad. What?
13. What attributes does Job give to God?
14. In Job 27, he again reminds his friends of his righteousness. Why isn't he being boastful in his statements?

🕮 lesson 12: Job, Part 4

*Read Job 28-37 in its entirety before answering the following questions.*

1. Job says that man cannot find, or even understand, the value of wisdom. How so?
2. What does he conclude is the source of wisdom?
3. In Job 29, he laments for things he misses. List five.
4. By contrast, Job 30 lists his present humiliations. What deeds have young men done to him?
5. What does he say about God? What question does he ask of his friends—and of God?
6. In Job 31, he teaches they—and us—the *degree* to which he avoids sin. What did he do to prevent lust? Falsehood? Adultery? Abuse of power? Trusting in his wealth? Not caring for his enemies?
7. Why would he plead to meet God and to defend himself? But who do we know is at the root of his temptation?
8. Read Job 32. Elihu becomes angry. Why? Why did he say he waited? Why did he now speak?
9. In Job 33, he tells Job where he's wrong. According to him, where is Job wrong?
10. In Job 34, he says that Job is NOT righteous. What does he say about God's nature and Job's plight?
11. In Job 35, What does he tell Job about the "true" nature of God? How is this like what some teach today?
12. In Job 36, Elihu thinks that he speaks for God yet further. According to him, why would God be punishing Job?
13. How does Elihu strengthen his argument in Job 37?

🕮 lesson 13: *God Has the Last Word*

*Read Job 38-42, then go back and answer the following questions. READ & ANSWER CAREFULLY!*

1. What questions did God ask Job concerning the creation of the earth and sea, and why?
2. List at least six of the wonders in Chapter 38 that God pointed out that showed Job’s ignorance.
3. What does God say about the ostrich that He created?
4. What attributes did God say that he had given the horse? Why did He tell Job this?
5. What did God tell Job concerning the hawk and the eagle?
6. What chilling question did God ask Job in Job 40:2? What was Job’s answer?
7. In 40:8, what question does God ask Job to answer Job’s earlier questioning of God? Explain.
8. Research: What is a “behemoth”? **Write your answer on the back.**
9. Research: What is a “Leviathan”? **Write your answer on the back.**
10. What was Job’s answer to God?
11. What did God tell Eliphaz (and Bildad and Zophar) that their sins were that caused His anger?
12. When did God restore Job’s losses?
13. List the “latter day” blessings of Job.
14. How old was Job when he died, and how many generations did he live to see?

🕮 lesson 14: *Proverbs 1-5*

*Read Proverbs 1-5.* Write out in your own words what you think are the four most important proverbs from each of the first five chapters. (This will be a total of 20 proverbs).

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🕮 lesson 15: *Proverbs 6-9*

*Read Proverbs 6-9.* Write out in your own words what you think are the four most important proverbs from each of these four chapters (this will be a total of 16 proverbs) and be ready to explain why to each!

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16.🕮 lesson 16: *The Proverbs of Solomon (1)*

*Read Proverbs 10-19 and answer the following questions in preparation to discuss in class:*

1. What does it mean that "he who perverts his ways will become known"?
2. Explain 10:11-14.
3. Explain 10:30-32 in light of the other scriptures in chapter 10.
4. Explain the contrast in 11:3.
5. Read all of the proverbs of chapter 11. What is the overall theme? Which two seem to stand out above the others?
6. Can you think of how what is said in 11:4 is a great truth? How can this work in reverse?
7. Explain 11:12-14.
8. Read all of the proverbs of chapter 12. What is the overall theme? Select one proverb that you think typifies the others.
9. Proverbs 13:7 is a puzzle. Explain it.
10. What's the difference between a wicked messenger and a faithful ambassador?
11. What does a good man leave by way of inheritance to his children's children?
12. Read all of Proverbs 14. Select two proverbs that you think stand out above the others. Defend your answer!
13. Proverbs 15:1-2 is often *partially* quoted. List all of the thoughts you can glean from these two verses:
14. Explain the contrast between 15:14 & 15:31-33.
15. Explain the wonderful thoughts of 15:16-17. How is this true today?
16. Proverbs 16:3 says a great truth about how we learn to serve God. What is it?
17. List two proverbs that stand out in chapters 16, 17 & 18 (it's ok to list just the verses if you'd prefer):
18. What is the theme of Proverbs 19? Select the two Proverbs from the chapter that teach the most.

🕮 lesson 17: *The Proverbs of Solomon (2)*

*Read Proverbs 20-27 and answer the following questions in preparation to discuss in class:*

1. Spend some time really *thinking* about 20:1. What are its implications?
2. What do you think is the most unusual, interesting Proverb in chapter 20? Why?
3. Select three proverbs from chapter 21 that stand out in your mind. Why?
4. In chapter 22, can you think of people that have made themselves rich thru having a bad name? Who?
5. Explain 22:6 and 22:7.
6. My favorite of all the proverbs is 22:15. Why?
7. What is your favorite of the proverbs in chapter 22?
8. Read 23:29-35. What are the physical effects of alcohol?
9. What are the spiritual effects of alcohol?
10. Chapter 23 is one of my favorite chapters. List five proverbs that strike you as particularly enlightening.
11. What kind of person is being described in 24:11-12?
12. Why mustn't we be envious and fretful of those who seem to succeed while doing evil?
13. In chapter 25, contrast the glory of God with the glory of kings. Explain this.
14. Find a New Testament parallel to Proverbs 25:6-7.
15. List two other proverbs from chapter 25 that stand out.
16. What are the main themes from Proverbs chapter 26? (there are several!)
17. Read chapter 27. Explain verses 17, 5, 13, 20. Pick the two other great ones that I missed, as well, and discuss them.
18. Read chapter 28. Select the four most interesting proverbs that stand out and list them here:

🕮 lesson 18: *Proverbs 28-29*

*Read Proverbs 28 & 29 and answer the following questions in preparation to discuss in class:*

1. What is it that would make the righteous bold, but the wicked flee, as is described here?
2. What is "usury and extortion"? Give some modern examples.
3. List four contrasts in this chapter between the rich and the poor, and tell the verse where found.
4. What is an "evil eye" as described in this chapter?
5. Contrast those who rebuke with those who flatter. Give an example of a rebuke. Give an example of flattery.
6. What is the opposite of trusting in your own heart, according to this chapter?
7. What kind of lifestyle does a "companion of harlots" live today?
8. How does "he who receives bribes overthrow" the kingdoms of men? What happens?
9. According to this, why shouldn't a wise man contend with a foolish man? What does it mean to "contend"?
10. Explain 29:11, 12 & 13.
11. How can a rod and rebuke really give wisdom? How can a child left to himself bring shame to his mother?
12. What's the contrast given between those who keep the law and those who have no revelation? Explain.
13. What else does 29:19 also apply to? Give two other examples.
14. Read 29:23. Give two New Testament verses that teach this.

🕮 lesson 19: *Proverbs 30-31*

*Read Proverbs 30-31 and answer the following questions in preparation to discuss in class:*

1. Read chapter 30, the proverbs of Agur. What parallel Biblical passage does this chapter remind you of? Why?
2. What Messianic (Christ) prophesy did you find in this chapter?
3. What verse contains a warning about going beyond what is found in the scripture?
4. What five sins are described to "a generation"? Be specific!
5. Explain 30:20. (I warn you, this won't be a simple answer. Put some thought into it.)
6. Explain 30:32-33. Again, no simple answers are here. (After all, this is wisdom literature. Wise up.)
7. Read chapter 31, the proverbs of Lemuel. Where did he get these proverbs? What does this tell you?
8. Describe six effects of alcohol.
9. Read about the "virtuous woman." What is her "value," and why? Describe the relationship with her husband, and explain.
10. (Warning: these questions will skip around in the text.) What comes out of her mouth? Where does this come from?
11. How do her husband and children really feel about her? What are her feelings towards the Lord?
12. What about her physical characteristics and her earthly "charm"?
13. What does she do for the poor and the needy?
14. When does she arise from her bed, and what does she do?
15. When does she go to bed?
16. Does this kind of woman really exist? Defend your answer using only the scripture present.

🕮 lesson 20: *Ecclesiastes 1-4*

(Substitute "futility" for the term "vanity" and it will help you to understand Ecclesiastes much better. Written by Solomon late in his life, the first eleven chapters ask "what's the real purpose in life?" The answer is found at the end of the book.)

1. Men, sun, wind, rivers, sea and labor have one thing in common. What?
2. This "vanity," or empty futility apart from serving God, is a bleak pronouncement. To what degree have men and women throughout the ages asked, "What's the purpose in life?"
3. In what respect is there nothing new under the sun?
4. Describe some of the "ancient things" that are quickly forgotten by those that come later.
5. Why did Solomon come to realize that the seeking of wisdom—what those today would call a noble task—is futile?
6. Read chapter 2. What is the result of pleasure, and why? And of possessions, and why?
7. Solomon bitterly realized that the fool and the wise had the same end. Why do you think that this such a bitter pill for him?
8. Explain 2:24-26.
9. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 is oft quoted at funerals (and once by popular song). But what's the deeper lesson in light of the book?
10. Ecclesiastes 3:9-15 teaches a powerful counterpoint, lessons for us today. How does it contrast with his earlier teaching?
11. But in 3:16 through 4:3, a lesson in the difference between God's purposes and our purposes. What powerful reminders?
12. In Ecclesiastes 4:4-8, he discusses the futility of selfishness. What are the lessons?
13. In 4:9-12, he contrasts this by teaching of friendship and brotherhood. How does this apply to us today?
14. In 4:13-16, fame is torn asunder. Why is this *"vanity and grasping for the wind"*?

🕮 lesson 21: *Ecclesiastes 5-8*

1. Apply 5:1 to Christians.
2. Why should we be careful what we vow to God while in prayer? (5:2-5, not just verses 4 & 5)
3. "Fear God" will re-appear later. What does it mean to "fear God"?
4. 5:10-11 explain much about the mentality of the rich. Contrast this with 5:13-15.
5. Why is it good and fitting to eat and drink, to enjoy the fruits of one's labors?
6. In chapter 6, he describes several "wrongs." List them all here:
7. Ecclesiastes 7:1-8:1 teaches "practical" wisdom over "book learning." What is his overall theme? Group this chapter into four groups of teachings and list the strongest points he teaches:
8. What power does a king have over his subjects? What reassurance does the righteous man have?
9. In Ecclesiastes 8:10-17, he says that death comes to us all. Explain his seeming contrast between God rewarding the good and God allowing the good to be treated badly.
10. Finally, he says that to eat, drink, be happy and work are strong purposes. How so?

🕮 lesson 22: *Ecclesiastes 9-12*

1. If death is all we have to look forward to, what's the meaning of life?
2. Live joyfully. Work hard. For you will someday die! Explain.
3. In 9:11-12, he says that mere chance plays a part of life on earth. How so?
4. How was the wise man that saved the city recognized? Will he go un-rewarded?
5. Chapter 10 discusses the wise man who does foolish things! What analogies does he offer besides the fly in the perfume?
6. Chapter 11 teaches the value of diligence to man and to God. Describe two or three lessons from the chapter.
7. Ah! The reader is finally rewarded. The first eight verses describe old age. How so?
8. What value is there in remembering our creator while still young? And what does this really mean?
9. *"The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd."* God's words can sharply sting us, but in so doing they drive us in the right direction and help us to build properly. How so?
10. When people ask, "What's the meaning of life?," why is it fitting to refer them to the last two verses of this book?
11. Why should people today fear God? And why don't they?

🕮 lesson 23: "*Song of Songs, Which is Solomon's" (Study Aids)*

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

Shulammite: Young woman from Shunem (Issachar)

Shepherd (Shulamite's "Beloved"): Young man who lives in the area

Solomon: King of Israel, rich in possessions

Chorus: Solomon’s harem (his wives and concubines)

**DESCRIPTION OF SETTING AND THE BOOK**

The setting alternates between two locations: the fields in Issachar and the royal palace in Jerusalem. Solomon has leased out his land (which he owns) in Issachar to either the Shulamite’s family or the shepherd’s family (possibly both), depending on how one reads 8:11-12. While visiting his land he sees the Shulamite and desires her (6:11-12). He woos her, but her real love for what will be her future husband (4:8) wins out over Solomon's flattery. Since Solomon wrote the book, it's literally about "the one that got away".

**OTHER EXPLANATIONS**

Some commentaries (such as the one included with my Bible) have state such drivel as *"...it depicts the wooing and wedding of a shepherdess by King Solomon..."* and *"...it pictures Israel as God's betrothed bride (Hos 2:19,10), and the church as the bride of Christ."* [[1]](#footnote-1) Since the Bible says about itself *"all scripture is inspired by God and is profitable,"* (II Timothy 3:16), we would have to wonder what "profit" God would give us in reprinting a poem about the physical attraction between Solomon and his latest conquest. On the other hand, if this is indeed a study of real love winning out over infatuation, then it is indeed a "profitable" study for both young and old alike. But you read and decide for yourself.

**THE VOICES**

It gets confusing, because the voices identified in the translations are placed there by the translators and are not inspired. But use the following outline of the book, and it'll make sense to you as we study:

**PLOT**

ACT I (at Royal Tent in Issachar) (Day 1)

Scene 1 (1:2-8) Shulamite and Chorus talk about her beloved

Scene 2 (1:9 - 2:7) Solomon woos Shulammite, but she is thinking of her beloved

Scene 3 (2:8-17) Shulamite imagines her beloved coming to her

Scene 4 (3:1-5) Shulamite has dreams about looking for her beloved

ACT II (at Royal Palace in Jerusalem) (Day 2)

Scene 1 (3:6-11) Entourage enters Jerusalem

Scene 2 (4:1-7) Solomon’s wooing gets more intense; Shulammite asks for time

Scene 3 (4:8 - 5:1) Shulamite imagines her beloved wooing her more beautifully

Scene 4 (5:2-7) Shulamite has another dream about not finding her beloved

 (Day 3)

Scene 5 (5:8 - 6:3) Next morning: Shulamite asks chorus to find her beloved and describes him

Scene 6 (6:4 - 8:4) Solomon woos again; chorus and Solomon admire her beautiful body;

Shulamite interrupts, rejects Solomon’s proposal, and speaks of her beloved

ACT III (back in Issachar)

Scene 1 (8:5-7) Shulamite and her beloved are finally together

Scene 2 (8:8-14) Shulamite’s brother’s propose wedding riddle; implied wedding ceremony

**THEMES IN *SONG OF SOLOMON***

* Her true love for her beloved is better than any physical infatuation she would have for Solomon. The spirit can win out over the flesh!
* People should not commit to a relationship they’re not ready for. (2:7; 3:5; 4:6; 8:4)

🕮 **Questions for Lesson 23:** Song of Solomon 1:1 - 3:5 (Act 1, Day 1)

ACT I (at Royal Tent in Issachar) (Day 1)

Scene 1 (1:2-7) Shulamite and Chorus talk about her beloved (the young shepherd)

Scene 2 (1:8 - 2:7) Solomon woos Shulamite, but she is thinking of her beloved

Scene 3 (2:8-17) Shulamite imagines her beloved coming to her

Scene 4 (3:1-5) Shulamite has dreams about looking for her beloved

1. Read Scene 1. Describe the "conversation" between the Shulamite and the Chorus.
2. Just how flattered do you think a young woman would be at the king's invitation (1:4)?
3. Read Scene 2. (Solomon speaking, not "The Beloved" (her shepherd) as some translations identify.) What does he compare her to? What does she compare her beloved to?
4. Solomon's attraction is physical. How is hers different?
5. What did she say that Solomon did to and for her? Explain 2:7.
6. Read Scene 3. Her love for her beloved is much stronger than any flattery offered by Solomon. How does this passage prove this?
7. Read Scene 4. Describe the dream she has. (Since this takes place in Jerusalem, it has to be a dream.)
8. On awakening, she again states, *"I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or by the does of the field, Do not stir up nor awaken love until it pleases."* What does this mean?

🕮 lesson 24: Song of Solomon 3:6 – 5:7 (Act 2, Day 2)

ACT II (at Royal Palace in Jerusalem) (Day 2)

Scene 1 (3:6-11) Entourage enters Jerusalem

Scene 2 (4:1-7) Solomon’s wooing gets more intense; Shulammite asks for time

Scene 3 (4:8 - 5:1) Shulamite imagines her beloved wooing her more beautifully

Scene 4 (5:2-7) Shulamite has another dream about not finding her beloved

 (Day 3)

Scene 5 (5:8 - 6:3) Next morning: Shulamite asks chorus to find her beloved and describes him

1. Read Scene 1 ("Entourage enters Jerusalem"). What tidbits do we glean about Solomon the man?
2. What tidbits do we glean about Solomon the king?
3. What do you think that this must have been like—a young woman from a small town, coming to Jerusalem and being wooed so strongly by Solomon and his entourage?
4. Read Scene 2. Solomon is obviously experienced in flattery. Describe some of his phrases.
5. Read Scene 3. She contrasts Solomon's flattery with the words of her beloved. How are they different?
6. Is the problem that she's already attracted to her beloved, instead of to Solomon? Explain your answer.
7. Read Scene 4. Why would her shepherd's head be covered with dew?
8. Again, in her dream she went about the city looking for her beloved. How was this dream different than the first?
9. Read Scene 5, the conversation between her and the Chorus. What is her description of her beloved?
10. According to the Shulamite, where was he now?

🕮 lesson 25: *Song of Solomon 8:5-14 (and review of book)*

ACT II (Jerusalem) (Day 3)

Scene 6 (6:4 - 8:4) Solomon woos again; chorus and Solomon admire her beautiful body;

Shulamite interrupts, rejects Solomon’s proposal, and speaks of her beloved

ACT III (back in Issachar)

Scene 1 (8:5-7) Shulamite and her beloved are finally together

Scene 2 (8:8-14) Shulamite’s brother’s propose wedding riddle; implied wedding ceremony

1. Read Act II, Scene 6. How does he reassure her that she is "better" than the others that he already has?
2. What was her response?
3. Read thru 7:9, the extent of Solomon's flattery. Read it carefully; what does he not tell her?
4. In light of Solomon's departure from the Lord at the end of his life, what hints do we see of it in this book?
5. In 7:9½ -- 8:2, she interrupts him and says her mind is made up. What does she speak of?
6. She again uses the phrase, "Do not stir up nor awaken love Until it pleases." Could this be the theme of the book
7. Describe what "the relative" says in 8:5.
8. 8:6-7 is the central idea of this book. What lessons did Solomon learn/teach?
9. In 8:8-9, her brothers speak of her as but a girl. How does she answer them in 10-11?
10. In verse 12, she speaks one last time to king Solomon. What does she say in parting?
1. *The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, Wide Margin Reference Edition (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1994), p. 591 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)