

King Solomon and Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs

Understanding the Old Testament: Part 7

King Solomon

- 1) God was the source of Solomon's great wisdom and wealth. (1 Kings 3:5-6,10-13 / 4:29-30)
 - 2) The completion of the temple was the peak of Solomon's reign and Israel's kingdom.
(2 Chronicles 6-7 / 7:5,11ff)
 - 3) Solomon turned from the Lord later in life. (1 Kings 11:1-4,9-14)
- Question: What impacted you the most about Solomon's rise and fall?

Proverbs

- 4) Wisdom and foolishness are contrasted in Proverbs .
 - Wisdom is skill in living God's way."
 - Foolishness is "carelessly neglecting or consciously rejecting the way of the Lord"
-Taken from "What the Old Testament Authors Really Cared About" by Jason S. DeRouchie
- 5) The fear of the Lord is seen as the foundation of wisdom. (Proverbs 1:7, 9:10, 31:30)
". . . an overwhelming awe that causes humans to tremble before God in dread or to turn to him in reverence. This is the appropriate stance that humans should take before the awesome Creator of the universe, in contrast to arrogant rebellion or disdain toward him. When we fear the Lord, we embrace what he desires and avoid what he disapproves. The person who fears or reveres Yahweh humbly submits to his Word and faithfully follows his way." (Jason DeRouchie's book above, page 376)
- 6) The Proverbs are mostly one-liners that share God's wisdom in memorable ways.
- 7) The Proverbs are guidelines for living, not formulas. (Proverbs 16:13)

Ecclesiastes

- 8) Ultimate meaning cannot be found in anything of this world. (Ecclesiastes 1:1-3)
 - "Vanity, meaningless" = vapor or mist that is temporary
 - "Under the Sun" = from the secular worldview without God in the picture.
- 9) Things of this life are to be enjoyed but do not give ultimate meaning or security. (Ecc. 9:7-10)
- 10) To fear God and keep His commandments is the meaning of life. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

Song of Songs

- 1) Song of Songs is a collection of love songs that trace the path of intimacy.
ch.1-3 moving toward marriage / ch.4 the wedding celebration / ch.5-8 growing in intimacy
- 2) Erotic love within marriage is God's good gift.
- 3) Sexual intimacy within marriage is God's design. (Song of Songs 8:4 / 3:5 / 2:7
"In God's design, sex is a celebration and expression of the intimate closeness of a husband and a wife who are pledged to one another in committee love."
(Jason DeRouchie's book above, page 395)