

# The United Kingdom

Part Two

United Kingdom, Part II  
LESSON 1 – Solomon’s Life

**Introduction:**

*As we begin this study, Solomon is the king of Israel. He became king after his father David died. His mother was Bathsheba.*

*The History of Solomon is recorded in I Kings 1 – 11 and II Chronicles 1 – 9.*

*In the beginning of his kingdom, Solomon had to deal with the enemies of David’s kingdom. He removed Abiathar from the priesthood of the Lord. He also had Joab killed, who had been the commander of David’s army. Another enemy of David, Shimei, was put to death by Solomon’s new commander, Benaiah.*

*Solomon also had Adonijah, David’s son, killed because of his desire to take David’s place as king.*

*Soon, Solomon began to make decisions that were not wise. His treaties with other nations were sealed by his marriages to foreign wives (I Kings 3:1; 9: 16, 24; II Chron. 8:11). This was in direct violation to God’s law (Deut. 7: 1 – 5). God knew that foreign wives would turn his people away from Him.*

*I Kings 3 tells us about the Lord appearing to Solomon, and of Solomon’s request for wisdom. We can see that at this point in his reign, Solomon wanted to please God. He wanted to discern between good and evil so that he could judge Israel correctly.*

*Because Solomon’s heart was where it should be at this time, God gave him wisdom, knowledge, riches, honor and a long life. These things were given on condition however (I Kings 3:14)—that he walk in obedience to God’s laws and commandments.*

*It did not take long for an occasion to rise that gave Solomon the opportunity to show Israel his wisdom (I Kings 3: 16 – 28). When Israel observed how Solomon judged, they held him in fear and reverence because they realized that the wisdom of God was in him.*

*Solomon planned to build a house for the Lord. (His father David wanted to, but could not build God a house because he had been a man of war and shed much blood.) Solomon’s kingdom was at peace from their enemies and now was the time. So, he sent 70,000 men to bear burdens, 80,000 to quarry stone and 3,600 men to over see the work done. King Hiram of Tyre, a friend and ally of David’s, helped Solomon in this endeavor. The temple was built on the site of the threshing floor of Araunah on Mt. Moriah. It was magnificent. The stones for the building were carefully made so that when they were brought to the building site they were put together without hammer, chisel or any iron tool. On the front of the building was a porch. Along each side of the temple were storerooms to hold supplies for sacrifices, as well as treasures that were dedicated to the Lord.*

*Inside the temple, just as the inside of the Tabernacle, were two rooms – the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. The ark of the Covenant was placed in the Most Holy Place. Inside the temple the walls of cedar were covered with gold.*

*Outside the temple was the courtyard with a great sea of bronze, 10 basins of bronze, and a great bronze altar for offering sacrifices to God.*

*Finally, all the work was finished. The treasures that David had dedicated were placed in the treasuries of the Lord. It is time to celebrate! This is where we begin...*

**Solomon dedicates the Temple.**

I Kings 6: 37 - 38 ; I Kings 7: 51 ó 8: 66 ; II Chronicles 5: 1 ó 7:10

All the work on the temple was finally finished. It was time to dedicate the temple to God and bring the Ark of the Covenant.

It was time for one of Israel’s feasts. All the elders of Israel came and the priests brought the ark and the Tabernacle with all of its furnishings to the dedication of the temple. Solomon assembled the entire assembly of Israel. The people had brought so many animals to be sacrificed that they couldn’t record or count them.

The priests, who had consecrated themselves, carried the Ark of the Covenant into the temple, and put it in the Most Holy Place.

Three Levites, who were musicians in Israel, were playing the cymbals, harps and lyres. They were accompanied by their sons and brethren who played 120 trumpets. Singers began to sing and give thanks and praise to God. The priests could not continue to minister in the Holy Place because a cloud had filled the temple ó the glory of God had filled the house of God.

Solomon began to speak. He said, ðThe Lord said that He would dwell in the dark cloud. Iøve built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever.ö

Israel was standing and observing the things going on. Then Solomon turned around and blessed the people. When he had finished blessing them, he stood before the altar of the Lord in their presence, spread out his hands toward heaven and began to pray.

In this prayer we can see into the soul of Solomon, and what kind of man he is at this point in his life. He asked God to hear them and forgive them when they sinned.

*(What a wonderful thing it would have been if Solomon had remained the kind of man that we see approach God as he prayed. Keep these things in mind as we study the remainder of his life.)*

When Solomon was finished praying fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offerings and sacrifices. Solomon got up from his knees, and he stood and blessed Israel. He reminded Israel of God's promises, he reminded them to follow God and be loyal to Him. And he warned Israel about what would happen to them if they did not obey God's commandments. Then Solomon and all of Israel offered sacrifices before God.

That same day, Solomon consecrated the court around the temple. He held a feast, and on the eighth day he sent the people home.

**Solomon builds his own house.**  
**I Kings 7: 2 – 12; 10: 18 – 20; II Chron. 9: 17 – 19**

*This was a great time for Israel. They were at peace. The temple was finished, and the people were glad to serve and worship God. The nation of Israel became prosperous under King Solomon.*

*We can see into the heart of Solomon as he prayed his beautiful prayer to God.*

*Think about this as we continue to study about Israel and King Solomon. This peace and happiness is not to last. Satan used this time of peace to tempt Solomon and the people of God.*

We can see the great wealth of Solomon and his people in the building of the temple and Solomon's house. Building Solomon's house took much longer than it took to build the temple for God. It was a very large house ó 150 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high.

Solomon used cedars from the forest of Lebanon to build his house. Onto his palace he built a hall for his throne. This is where he judged the people. Inside this hall, Solomon's throne was made of ivory and covered with gold. It had six steps leading up to the throne and beside each armrest on the throne was a lion. Twelve lions stood on the six steps leading up to the throne, one on each end of each step.

Solomon also had a navy with a fleet of ships. He had more riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth. Kings from other nations would come to hear the wisdom that God had given Solomon, bringing him gifts of gold, silver, clothes, spices, horses and mules. Taxes of gold were received from traders and merchants, as well as the kings and governors of surrounding lands.

Solomon imported 12,000 horses from Egypt and other countries, and he had 4,000 stalls for them.

The wealth of Solomon was indeed beyond any wealth we have ever seen.

**QUESTIONS**

1. When did Solomon begin to build the temple? I Kings 6:1 \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What was Solomon's attitude about building a house for God? II Chron. 2: 1, 5, 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What was unique about the way it was built? I Kings 6: 7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How long did it take to build the temple? I Kings 6: 37 ó 38 \_\_\_\_\_
5. What did Solomon bring into the temple? I Kings 7: 51 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. At what feast did Solomon and Israel dedicate the temple? I Kings 8:2; II Chron. 5:3; Lev. 23:27-34 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Where was the tabernacle located at this period of time? II Chron. 1: 3 \_\_\_\_\_
8. What did the priests and Levites bring to Jerusalem? I Kings 8: 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Where did the priests put the Ark of the Covenant? I Kings 8: 6,7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What was in the Ark of the Covenant? I Kings 8: 9 \_\_\_\_\_
11. When was the temple filled with a cloud? II Chron. 5:13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. What was the significance of the cloud? II Chron. 5: 14; 6:1; I Kings 8:11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. What promise had God fulfilled? II Chron. 6: 4 ó 10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. What is the main request that Solomon makes in his prayer to God? I Kings 8: 30, 34, 36, 39, 43, 45-46, 49 ó 50 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. What does I Kings 8: 56 say that God had done? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
16. How long did it take Solomon to build his palace? I Kings 7:1 \_\_\_\_\_
17. Who else did Solomon build a palace for? I Kings 7:8 \_\_\_\_\_
18. What value was given to silver in Solomon's day? I Kings 10:21; II Chron. 9:27 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
19. Why did Solomon build a throne hall, and what did he call it? I Kings 7:7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
20. I Kings 10: 19 ó 20 and II Chronicles 9: 18 ó 19 tell us that there were lions beside Solomon's throne, and on the steps leading up to it. What is the significance of the lion to Israel? Gen. 49: 9 -10; Rev. 5:5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### A LOOK BACK...

*Look at what Solomon was doing to his people. They had to work for the king every year. It took years to build the temple and to build Solomon's palaces. Some of the people were soldiers in his army. Some were in his navy on his ships, and some helped Hiram's men bring trees out of Lebanon. Some of them were working in the fields at home to supply the king's household with food and supplies (I Kings 4).*

*So far, the people seemed to be happy, but for how long?*

*Read I Sam. 8: 11 – 18. How many of the things foretold by God in this scripture had Solomon done to Israel?* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

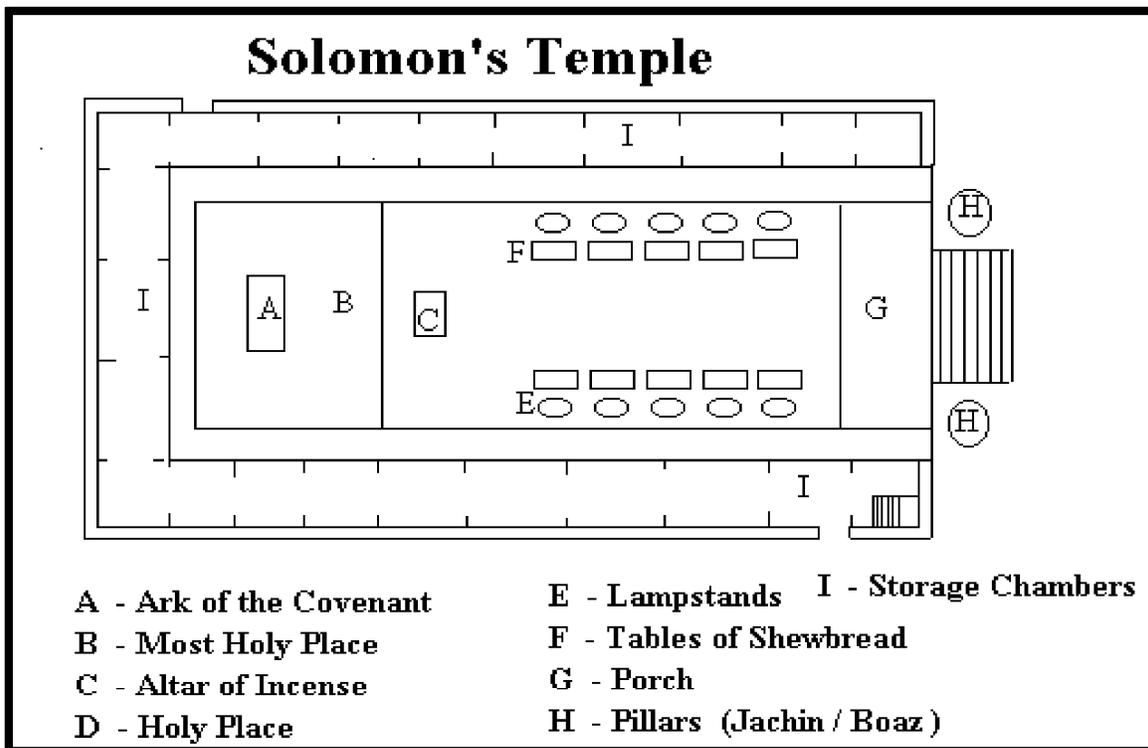
Do you think that Solomon was using the wisdom that God gave him to rule over the people? \_\_\_\_\_

What is God's warning in I Sam. 8: 18? \_\_\_\_\_

Why had Israel wanted a king? I Sam. 8:20 \_\_\_\_\_

What lesson is there for us in this? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## MEMORY WORK

Ps 119:9

How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.  
(NKJ)

United Kingdom, Part II  
LESSON 2 – Solomon’s Life

*In our last lesson Solomon had finished building the temple for God, and he and Israel dedicated it to Him. God showed His pleasure by filling the house with His glory. Solomon’s prayer to God let us see into his heart, and shows us that he began his reign wanting to serve the Almighty God. His prayer requested over and over that God hear them when they prayed, and that He forgive them when they sinned.*

*In this lesson, we will see the reign of Solomon at its zenith. Look for the things that caused Solomon trouble in his relationship with others and with God.*

**I Kings 9: 1 – 9; II Chron. 7: 11 – 22**

After Solomon finished building the temple for God, and his own house, the Lord appeared to him at night. The Lord said, “I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a temple for sacrifices. Walk before Me and keep My commandments. If you do not keep My commandments, I will cut you off from the land I have given them, and will cast this house out of My sight.

**I Kings 9: 10 – 27; 10: 10 – 12, 14 – 29; II Chron. 8: 1 – 10, 17 – 18; 9: 13 – 28**

When Solomon was finished building the temple and his own palace, he gave King Hiram, who had helped him, 20 cities in the land of Galilee. Hiram left his home in Tyre and went to see the cities. What he saw displeased him. (Hiram had given Solomon nearly 4 ½ tons of gold.)

By this time, Solomon is halfway into the time that he ruled over Israel. He continued to build, fortifying and building more cities, as well as the walls of Jerusalem. He used people from the surrounding nations for forced labor to do his building.

During this time he used his own people, the Israelites, as his soldiers, his own servants, officers, and commanders of his chariots and cavalry.

Solomon also had a fleet of ships built. King Hiram sent the ships to him, along with servants and seamen who would work with Solomon’s servants in his navy.

Every three years the ships would come in bringing treasures of gold, silver, ivory, apes, peacocks, monkeys, precious stones, and almuq wood.

The queen of Sheba from Arabia heard of Solomon’s fame. She decided to go see Solomon in Jerusalem to test him with hard questions.

The queen arrived in Jerusalem with a very large caravan—there were camels carrying spices, large amounts of gold and precious stones. She talked to Solomon about all that was on her mind, and Solomon could answer every question that she had—nothing was too hard for him. She saw his wisdom, his riches, his palace, the abundance of good on his table and servants, their apparel, cupbearers, and burnt offerings at the temple.

As she left Solomon she told him, “Everything that I heard about you was true, and has exceeded the report I heard about you. Your servants and officials who continually stand before you must be happy to hear your wisdom! Blessed be your God who delighted in you and set you on the throne.

The queen gave Solomon about 4 ½ tons of gold, spices and precious stones.

In return, Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired. She left and went back to her own country.

King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in his riches and wisdom. All the kings of the earth wanted to hear the wisdom that God had put in his heart. As kings would come before him they would bring gifts of silver, gold, clothing, spices, horses, and mules at a set rate each year as tribute, or taxes.

Solomon had 4,000 stalls for his horses and chariots, and 12,000 horses in various cities that housed his chariots.

## QUESTIONS

1. How did God want Solomon to walk? I Kings 9:4 \_\_\_\_\_
2. What had God promised David? I Kings 9: 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. In what ways could Israel disobey God's commands? I Kings 9:6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What would happen to Israel, and to the temple if they disobeyed God? I Kings 9: 7-9; II Chr. 7: 19 ó 22 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What did King Hiram call the cities that Solomon had given him? I Kings 9:13 \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who became enslaved by Solomon to build his cities? II Chron. 8: 7 ó 8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Was the Queen of Sheba's mission to see Solomon a religious one? I Kings 10:1 \_\_\_\_\_
8. What was the queen of Sheba's reaction to all that he showed her? I Kings 10:5; II Chron. 9:4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. For what did the queen say God had made Solomon king? I Kings 10:9; II Chron. 9:8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Describe Solomon's throne. I Kings 10: 18 ó 20; II Chron. 9: 17 ó 19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What was Solomon's drinking vessels made of? I Kings 10:21 \_\_\_\_\_
12. How was silver regarded in Solomon's day? I Kings 10:21; II Chron. 9:20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Over what territories did Solomon reign? II Chron. 9:26 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. Where did Solomon's horses come from? I Kings 10:28 \_\_\_\_\_
15. What things do you see in Solomon's life that caused him trouble? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
16. Do these same things affect people today? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
17. Read these proverbs that Solomon wrote: Prov. 10:2; 11:28. What do they mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
18. What dangers are there in possessing great riches? Job 31: 21 ó 25; Prov. 18:11; Matt. 19: 23 ó 24; Lk. 12:15; I Tim. 6:17; Ezek. 7:19; Jer. 9:23 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
19. *Thought question:* Is it wrong for people to possess great riches? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **THINK ABOUT IT...**

*We've just finished studying a lesson about Solomon who received great riches from God. Solomon's riches were material riches – riches he could see and touch. It is hard to comprehend how very rich he was, but we are given riches that are far beyond what Solomon was given. God has given us another kind of wealth. It is a wealth that makes us rich beyond comprehension. This wealth cannot be taxed and it is far superior to anything we hold dear in this life.*

*I have this wealth because the King of Kings (I Tim. 6:15; Rev. 17:14) and Lord of Lords (I Tim. 6:15; Rev. 19:16) has made me His child (II Cor. 6:18). I was born rich (Gal. 4:7), and as His child I have every spiritual blessing in heavenly places (Eph. 1:3). He has given me life abundantly (John 10:10) and given me a peace that surpasses understanding (Phil. 4:7).*

*Think about the hope beyond the grave, and the eternal reward. Think about our blessings. **Yes! I am truly rich beyond comprehension!***

### **MEMORY WORK**

#### **Ps 119:9 – 10**

**9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.**

**10 With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! NKJ**

United Kingdom, Part II  
LESSON 3 – Solomon’s Life

*In this lesson we will see the downfall of Solomon. He started his reign with such promise. His heart was right with God, and God blessed him with wisdom, knowledge, riches and honor. He built God a house, and as he dedicated it to God, we saw into his heart as he prayed to God.*

*However, the things that the Lord had warned Israel about in I Sam. 8: 11 – 18, began to take place. This was a time when Solomon could have accomplished wonderful things in God’s kingdom of Israel – God had blessed him with everything needed to do so. It was a time of peace and prosperity for Israel, but this time was also when Satan began to work on Solomon and Israel, turning them away from God.*

*God told Solomon that He would bless him, but that those blessings had conditions (I Kings 9: 4-9; I Chr. 28: 6-7).*

*As we study Solomon’s life, it consists of four things:*

1. **WISDOM**
2. **WORKS**
3. **WEALTH**
4. **WIVES**

## I KINGS 11

Solomon loved many foreign women. These women were from nations that the Lord had told Israel not to intermarry with. The Lord told Israel that foreign women would turn their hearts away from Him, and to their foreign gods.

But Solomon held fast to these foreign wives in love. There were seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines, and they turned Solomon’s heart away from God. He even began to follow their gods, not following the Lord with a complete heart. He even went so far as to build high places for their idol gods.

God began to allow adversaries to rise up against Solomon and his kingdom. Hadad, from the royal family in Edom, positioned himself where he would have opportunity to cause trouble for God’s people. Added to the trouble of Hadad was a man named Rezon. Rezon was hostile toward Israel, and was trouble to Solomon all the days of his reign.

Another man who became an adversary to Solomon was Jeroboam from the tribe of Ephraim. Jeroboam was a mighty man of valor, and Solomon noticed how well Jeroboam did his work. Solomon put him in charge of the whole labor force in the house of Joseph.

Jeroboam left Jerusalem one day and met Ahijah the prophet on his way. They were alone in a field when Ahijah took hold of the new cloak he was wearing and tore it into 12 pieces. He said to Jeroboam, “Take ten pieces for yourself because the Lord has said that He is going to rend the kingdom out of Solomon’s son’s hand and give ten tribes to you. For the sake of His servant David and the city of Jerusalem, Solomon’s son will have one tribe.”

Ahijah told Jeroboam that God was doing this because Solomon had forsaken the Lord by worshipping the foreign gods, and by not keeping His commandments as his father David had. God did not take the whole kingdom away from Solomon for the sake of his father David.

Ahijah told Jeroboam that the Lord said, “I will take you, and you will rule over all your heart desires; you will be king over Israel. If you do what I command you, and walk in My ways, and do what is right in My eyes by keeping my statutes and commands as David did, then I will be with you and build you a sure house. I will humble David’s descendants, but not forever.”

When Solomon heard of these things, he tried to kill Jeroboam. But Jeroboam fled to Egypt and stayed there until Solomon’s death.

When Solomon died he was buried in the city of David, and his son reigned in his place.

*The next period of time for God’s people will see the kingdom divide; this took place soon after Solomon’s death.*

*Looking over Solomon's life gives one a feeling of sadness because he squandered the blessings that God bestowed upon him. Even a man as wise as Solomon was not adequate to rule over God's people. The only one who could rule over God's people wisely was God Himself! Isn't it a shame that Israel could not see this?*

### A LOOK BACK...

**Read what Moses wrote as warnings to Israel in Deut. 17: 14 – 20. Think about Solomon's life, and list the things that he disobeyed God in during his reign.** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Was the king of Israel supposed to know what God's will was? \_\_\_\_\_ Did Solomon have any excuse for not knowing or doing God's will? (list scriptures to back up your answer) \_\_\_\_\_**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### DEFINE:

**Concubine** - \_\_\_\_\_  
**Adversary** - \_\_\_\_\_

### QUESTIONS

1. What foreign nations did Solomon's wives come from? I Kings 11:1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. At what time in Solomon's life did his wives turn his heart from God? v. 4 \_\_\_\_\_
3. What was God's law concerning foreign women? Deut. 7: 3 ó 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What foreign gods did Solomon follow? v.5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How many times had God appeared to Solomon warning him about his wives and foreign gods? v. 9 ó 10 \_\_\_\_\_
6. What did God tell Solomon He would do because of his disobedience? v. 11 ó 13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How had Hadad escaped from being killed by Joab during the days of David? v. 14 ó 17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How close to the Pharaoh in Egypt was Hadad? v. 18 ó 20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Why did Hadad want to go back to Palestine? v. 21 \_\_\_\_\_
10. How important a man was Rezon in Damascus? v. 24 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. What foreign gods was Israel worshipping that caused God to take the kingdom from Solomon? v. 33 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
12. Did God remove the throne from David's family? v. 34 \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
13. Why did God give one tribe to Solomon's son? v. 34 ó 36 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
14. What conditions did God give Jeroboam concerning his reign? v. 38 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
15. Who did Jeroboam stay with until Solomon died? v.40 \_\_\_\_\_
16. How long was Solomon's reign? v. 42 \_\_\_\_\_
17. Thought question: Solomon's wives turned his heart away from God. Can the same thing happen to people today? \_\_\_\_\_ How? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
18. A Look Forward: How long did the high places that Solomon built for his wives' idols last? II Kings 23:13; 22: 1 \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMORY WORK

Ps 119:9 – 11

**9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.**

**10 With my whole heart I have sought You;**

**Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!**

**11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You!**

(NKJ)

United Kingdom, Part II  
LESSON 4 – The Book of Job, Part I

**Introduction:**

*The rest of our study this quarter will be of the Wisdom Literature in the scriptures. The books are: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon.*

*These books are about the ways that man deals with life on this earth. They are written in poetry. Hebrew poetry does not have rhyming words like our English poetry, but instead has rhyming thoughts. The poem may express a thought, then repeat that same thought in a different way, or even give an opposite thought afterwards.*

*Why study these books? Because they were written by the direction of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit ( II Timothy 3: 16) and are profitable in our lives to help us live as God wants us to; because they can keep us from sin (Psalms 119: 11) ; because in the writings of God are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden (Col. 2:3).*

## The Book of Job

*We are not sure when the book of Job was written, but the book has some clues that indicate to us the time. The book was probably written during the time of the Patriarchs because:*

- *Job's large flocks and herds are typical of the days of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (1:3).*
- *Job offered sacrifices for his children, acting as patriarch of his family (1:5).*
- *God spoke to Job directly (38:1: 42:7) just as God had spoken with the other patriarchs in the period before Abraham.*
- *Job lived a long life, typical of the early patriarchs (1: 4-5; 42:16).*

*There are other clues as well that lead us to come to this conclusion about when the book of Job was written.*

**WHO IS JOB?** *We know nothing about Job except what is written in the book itself, and in Ezek. 14: 14, 20 and James 5:11.*

**MESSAGE OF JOB:** *The message of the book of Job is that even though he suffered much materially and physically he did not lose faith in God.*

**PRIMARY LESSON OF THE BOOK OF JOB:** *Job's attitude toward his relationship with God – faithfulness in times of adversity.*

### OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF JOB

**CHAPTERS 1 & 2: PROLOGUE**

*The reader is introduced to seven of the 8 characters in the book.*

*A History of the events that happen to Job prepares the reader for the rest of the story.*

**CHAPTERS 3 – 25: THE BODY OF THE POEM**

*Job's lament.*

*Three cycles of speeches by his friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, with responses by Job.*

**CHAPTERS 26 – 31: JOB'S FINAL SPEECHES TO HIS FRIENDS.**

**CHAPTERS 32 – 37: JOB'S FRIEND ELIHU SPEAKS.**

**CHAPTERS 38 – 42: 6: JEHOVAH'S SPEECHES TO JOB**

*Job's acceptance of Jehovah's rebuke*

**CHAPTER 42: 7 – 17 : EPILOGUE**

*Jehovah rebukes and forgives Job's three friends.*

*Job's blessings are returned in abundance.*

*(Outline adapted from "A Commentary on Job" by Homer Hailey.)*

*(We will study the book of Job in two parts. This lesson will cover the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the book. The next lesson will finish the rest of the book. We will paraphrase the book, and by no means cover every thought in it. That would be impossible to do in two lessons. But, we hope to get the main messages from the book. This is a lot of reading, but we are condensing the first 25 chapters of Job.)*

Have you ever known anyone who went through a lot of suffering in their life? Suffering is something that all of us will go through in one form or another some time in our lifetime. Suffering can be brought about by other persons, by ourselves when we have violated God's moral, spiritual or physical laws, and by the natural world itself (in the form of war, death, destruction, tornadoes, disease, etc.).

When we suffer we have to decide what our attitude toward suffering and God is. Some people decide to play the blame game. They'll blame others, and sometimes even God. This is why the book of Job is a book that is very applicable to today. We can read about Job and how he dealt with these same issues and problems. We can see how his friends dealt with Job, and how they came to some conclusions that were not right ó teaching us that we should be careful of our attitude toward others when they go through difficult times.

We'll also see in this book that the devil is powerful, but as powerful as he is he does not make our choicesô we do!

## THE PROLOGUE

Job was a man who lived in the land of Uz. He was blameless, upright, he feared God and shunned evil. Job had seven sons and three daughters. He also owned many flocks and herds of animals, as well as many servants. He was the greatest of all the men of the east.

Job's children would get together and hold feasts in their homes. When they would finish their feasting, Job would offer burnt offerings to God on their behalf to sanctify them.

One day the sons of God came before God, and Satan came too. The Lord said to Satan, "Where do you come from?"

Satan replied, "From walking to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth; he's blameless and upright, he fears God and shuns evil."

Satan replied, "Does Job fear God for nothing? Haven't you put a hedge around him, his household and all that he has? Stretch out your hand, take away all that he has, and he'll curse You to Your face."

God told Satan, "All that he has is in your hands, but don't hurt his body."

Satan left God's presence.

One day Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house. That day a messenger came to Job and said, "The Sabeans have raided your oxen and donkeys and carried them off. They have also killed all your servants, and I'm the only one to escape to tell you."

While this man was still talking to Job, another man came. He said, "Fire fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and servants. I'm the only one who has escaped to tell you."

While this man was talking, still another man came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and have taken your camels off. They have killed your servants, and I'm the only one who has escaped to tell you."

While this man was still talking to Job, another man came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking together in your eldest son's home when a great wind came and struck the house. The house fell on them and killed them. I alone have escaped to tell you."

Job got up. He tore his robe, shaved his head, then fell to the ground and worshipped saying, "I was naked when I was born, and naked I'll be when I leave this world. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised."

In all of the things that had happened, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

Another day the sons of God came before the Lord again, and Satan came also. The Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?"

Satan answered the Lord, "From going to and fro in the earth, and walking back and forth on it."

The Lord said, "Have you considered my servant Job that there is no one else like him on the earth? He is blameless and upright, and he fears God and shuns evil. He remains righteous even though you moved Me against him to destroy him without a reason."

"Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all that he has for his own life. Stretch out your hand. Touch his skin and bones and he will curse You to Your face."

The Lord said, "He is in your hands, but spare his life."

Satan left the presence of the Lord and then he struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his feet to the top of his head.

In his distress, Job sat among the ashes and scraped his boils with a broken piece of pottery.

As Job went through this misery, his wife said to him, "Are you still holding fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!"

Job replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" In all of this, Job did not sin with his mouth.

Job had three friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar. When they heard of Job's troubles they came together by agreement to see Job so they could mourn and comfort him. But when they saw Job, even at a distance, they hardly recognized him. They began to weep out loud, and tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads.

These three friends sat down on the ground with Job for seven days and seven nights. They did not speak a word to Job because they could see that his grief was very great.

### **THE BODY OF THE POEM** **First Round of Speeches**

*Job is not the wealthy, respected citizen of Uz that he once was. He has lost everything that he had worked for in this life.*

#### **JOB'S LAMENT ó Job 3:**

Job began to speak, and when he did he cursed the day that he had been born. He wished that God would not even regard that day as one on the calendar. Job said, "Why didn't I die at birth? Why were there knees to hold me and breasts to nurse me? If I had died I would be at rest with kings, counselors and rulers. Why wasn't I hidden in the ground like a stillborn child who never saw the light of day? There the wicked do not trouble anymore; the weary are at rest. Prisoners rest because they don't hear the voice of the one who oppressed them. The small and great are there. The servant is free from his master."

"Why is light given to the one in misery, and life to the bitter of soul? There are those who long for death, but it doesn't come ó they search for it and are happy when they reach the grave. The thing I have feared the most has come upon me, and what I dreaded has happened to me. I don't have any peace or quietness. I have no rest, for trouble comes."

#### **ELIPHAZ SPEAKS AND JOB ANSWERS HIM ó Job 4 ó 7:**

As Eliphaz begins his talk with Job he told Job how impatient he was. He said, "You've helped others, but when your own life is affected you become impatient. Was there ever an innocent man who perished?"

"Word has been brought to me secretly. I received it in a dream ó a dream that made me tremble and shake. A spirit glided past my face and the hair of my flesh stood up, but I couldn't discern who it was. I heard a voice say, 'Can mortal man be right before God, and a man pure before his maker?' He doesn't trust His servants and angels, so how will He trust in man? Who are you going to turn to? I would seek God who does great and marvelous things."

"Blessed is the man whom God reproveth, so don't despise the discipline of the Almighty. He'll deliver you."

Job replied, "If my grief were weighed it would be heavier than the sand of the sea. I wish that God would fulfill my request that He loose His hand and cut me off. That would comfort me, for I haven't denied the words of the Holy One."

"When one withholds kindness from a friend he forsakes the Almighty. But my brothers are as treacherous as a torrential stream of water that passes away. A stream will be black with ice, and the snow will hide it, but when the weather becomes hot, it vanishes away."

"You have come here and become nothing because you see my calamity and you are afraid. Cause me to understand where I have sinned? How can you reprove when the speech of a despairing man is wind? Please look at me and I will not lie to you."

"Like a slave who longs for the shadow, and like a hired hand who looks for his pay, isn't man's service on earth hard? I lie down and say, 'When will I get up?' But the night is long and I toss and turn until dawn."

"My clothes are full of worms and dirt, and my skin hardens and breaks open anew. The days are swift and come to an end with no hope of being better. My life is a breath and I will never see good again."

"I'm not going to restrain my mouth. I'm going to tell you of my anguish. You try to scare me with your dreams and visions. I would choose strangling and death than to live."

*Job to God: "I loathe my life and my days are vanity. If I sin, what do I do to you? Why have you made me your mark? Why don't you pardon my transgression and take my sin away?"*

#### BILDAD SPEAKS AND JOB ANSWERS, Job 8 ó 10:22:

Bildad answered Job, "How long are you going to say things like this? Does God pervert justice? If your children sinned against God, He has given them what they deserved. If you'll seek God, He'll help you and restore what you had."

"Can plants grow without water? Without it they wither and die. The same thing happens to those who forget God ó the godless perish. Their trust isn't any stronger than a spider web. God will not reject a perfect man, or support an evildoer."

Job replied, "I know that this is true, but how can a man be right before God? If one wanted to dispute with God, he couldn't answer him once in a thousand times. He is wise and mighty ó He removes mountains and shakes the earth. He commands the sun and does great things that cannot be searched out, and can't be numbered. God won't turn back His anger, so how can I answer Him? Even though I'm right, I can't answer Him, so I must appeal for mercy. If I called for Him and He answered me, I wouldn't believe that He heard me because He crushes me with a tempest and multiplies my wounds without cause. He won't let me get my breath, but overwhelms me with calamity."

"Even though I'm right, it doesn't matter because He destroys the blameless and the wicked. My life is going by quicker than a runner ó they flee and see no good. If I decide to say, 'I'm going to forget my complaints, and change my countenance to be cheerful,' then I am fearful of my suffering because I know God will not hold me innocent."

"There is not a mediator between us. Let Him take His rod away from me so that I can speak without fear of Him."

"I loathe my life. I will say to God, 'Don't condemn me; let me know why you contend with me. Does it seem good to You to oppose me? Do You look at me the way man does, and search for my sin ó even though you know I am not guilty? You have made me with Your hands and now You have destroyed me. Will You return me to dust?'"

"You've given me life and love. Your care has preserved me. If I'm guilty, woe to me! If I'm right, I can't lift my head up because I'm filled with disgrace. Why did you bring me out of the womb? It would have been better if I had died before anyone could see me ó and was carried from the womb to the grave."

"Aren't my days here few? Leave me alone, that I can find some job before I die."

## ZOPHAR SPEAKS AND JOB REPLIES, Job 11; 12;13;14

Zophar spoke to Job saying, "All this talk— can a man full of talk be judged right? You say that you are clean in God's eyes, but, oh that God would tell you the secrets of His wisdom. He expects less of you than your guilt deserves."

"Can you know the deep things of God? They are higher than the heavens are, so what can you know? God knows worthless men, and when He sees sin, won't he consider it?"

"Prepare your heart. If sin is in your hand, put it far away from you, then you can lift up your face without blemish. You'll be secure and not fear. You'll forget your misery and you'll feel secure because there is hope. When you lie down you won't be afraid. But there is no escape for the wicked; their only hope is to die."

*(Job's three friends have spoken to Job and told him of their views about his suffering. Eliphaz based his views on dreams (4: 12- 21); Bildad based his views on the traditions of the fathers (8: 8 – 10); and Zophar just makes his own conclusions about Job's suffering (11: 4 – 6). They are unable to bring any accusation against Job based on facts.*

*Job doesn't understand why he is suffering without a cause, and God has not responded to him, so Job responds to what his three friends have said.)*

Job replied to Zophar, "No doubt, you are the people and wisdom will die with you. But, I can understand as well as you, and I am not inferior to you."

"I am a laughingstock to my friends— I, who called to God in the past, and He answered me— I, a just and blameless man am a laughingstock. To those who are at ease, there is contempt for misfortune."

"Look at the beasts, at the birds, and the fish of the sea. They testify to the power of God. Who among us doesn't know that God's hand has done this? God has wisdom and might, counsel and understanding. What He tears down no one can rebuild. With Him is strength and wisdom. Both the deceived and the deceiver belong to Him. He is above all the great men of the earth. He is not intimidated by them, but pours contempt on them, leaving them weak."

"He makes nations great and destroys them. He enlarges them and leads them away. He can make leaders wander in confusion. I have seen all these things, and what you know, I know— I am not inferior to you. But, I desire to speak to the Almighty, and argue my case with God. As for you, you whitewash with lies. Worthless physicians you are! I wish you would keep silent!"

"Listen to my argument and my pleadings. Will you speak falsely for God? Will you plead the case for God, and will it be well with you when He searches you out? Can you deceive Him as one deceives a man? He'll surely rebuke you. Your sayings are like proverbs of ashes, and your defenses are like those of clay."

"Be quiet, and let me speak, and let come on me what may. Even if God kills me, I'll hope in Him and maintain my ways before Him. This is my salvation— the godless shall not come before Him."

"Listen to me. I've prepared my case and I know I shall be in the right."

*Job to God:* "Grant me two things and I will not hide myself from Your face. Withdraw Your hand far from me and let not the dread of You terrify me. Make me know what my sin is. Why do you hide Your face and count me as Your enemy?"

*(Job charges God.)* "You write bitter things against me and make me inherit the sins of my youth. You put my feet in stocks and set a limit for the soles of my feet."

"A man who is born of woman is few days and full of trouble. Why do You open Your eyes on one such as I, and bring me into judgment?"

"There is hope for a tree that one cuts down. It will sprout out again when it receives water. But, when a man dies, where is he? He'll not rise again or be roused out of sleep. Oh, that You'd hide me in Sheol and keep me secret till Your anger is gone. If a man dies, shall he live again? I will wait, and when You call I will answer."

"But now, You number my steps. You watch over my sin and my transgression is sealed up in a bag. Just as the mountain falls and crumbles away, You destroy the hope of man. You are stronger than he is, and he

passes. His sons can have honor, but he doesn't know about it, and if they are brought low, he doesn't know about it. Man only feels the pain of his own body, and mourns only for himself.

## Second Round of Speeches

ELIPHAZ SPEAKS ó Job 15; 16 ó 17:16

Eliphaz said, "Should a wise man answer like an east wind and reason with unprofitable talk that does no good? You are doing away with the fear of God. Your sin teaches your mouth and you use the tongue like those who are crafty. Your own mouth condemns you."

"What man is pure? The wicked writhe in pain all their life because he has stretched out his hand against God, and defy the Almighty. He will not be rich and his wealth will not endure."

JOB RESPONDS:

"You are miserable comforters. Is there no end to what you have to say?"

"If you were in my place, I could speak as you do. I could talk against you and shake my head at you. I could also strengthen you with my words and try to comfort your pain."

"Truly, God has worn me out. He has torn me in His anger and hated me. Men glare at me openmouthed and strike me on the cheek, gathering themselves against me. God gives me up to the ungodly and casts me into the hands of the wicked. I was at ease, but He broke me and has dashed me to pieces."

"I cry until my face is red, although I have committed no violence and my prayer is pure. Oh earth, don't hide my blood! Even now, I know that my witness is in heaven and the one who testifies for me is on high."

"My friends mock me, and I cry out to God. My spirit is broken and the graveyard is ready for me. He has made me a byword of the people, and men spit on me. This is appalling to men who do right, yet when the righteous holds to his way he will become stronger."

"But you (*speaking to his friends*), come and I will not find a wise man among you. My days are past. Where is my hope? My hope is in the grave."

BILDAD SPEAKS AND JOB RESPONDS ó Job 18;19

Bildad said, "How long are you going to hunt for words? Give thought and then we'll speak to you."

"Indeed, it is the wicked whose light will be put out. He is in a trap, and terrors frighten him on every side. He has no remembrance on the earth, and no children among his people. Everyone who hears about him is appalled, and such is the dwelling place of the one who doesn't know God."

JOB:

"How long are you going to torment me and make me suffer with your words? You have cast reproach on me completely. Are you not ashamed to wrong me?"

"If I have done wrong, then it is my problem. God has put me in the wrong. I call for help, but receive no justice. He has taken my glory from me, and broken me down."

"Even those related to me have deserted and forgotten me. My guests and servants look on me as a stranger. When I call to my servant, he doesn't answer me. My breath is strange to my wife, and to my brothers and sisters. Even young children despise me and talk against me. My bones cling to my skin and I am escaped by the skin of my teeth."

"Have mercy on me, my friends, for the hand of God has affected me. Why are you pursuing me as God does? I wish my words were written in a book, or engraved in a rock. For I know my Redeemer lives, and at the last will stand on the earth. After my skin is destroyed, I shall see God."

ZOPHAR SPEAKS AND JOB RESPONDS ó Job 20;21

Zophar said, "I hear reproof that insults me. Don't you know that the wicked exult for a short time, and then perish? Even though evil is sweet to him, he will not get any joy or contentment from it. God will send burning anger against him. Heaven will reveal his sin and the earth will rise up against him. This is what a wicked man receives as a heritage from God."

Job replied, "Keep listening to me and let this comfort you. I will speak, and after I have spoken you can continue to mock me. Why shouldn't I be impatient? Why do the wicked live to be old and powerful? Their children prosper, their houses are safe, and their animals multiply. They have prosperity and live in peace till they die, even though they say to God, 'Depart from us.'"

"How often do you see the wicked suffer calamity? You see one person die that is full of life and secure. Another person dies, never having seen prosperity. Both of them are buried and eaten by worms."

"Ask anyone and you will be told that the evil man will be rescued in the day of wrath, and his grave will be watched over. Your comfort is empty and false."

#### ELIPHAZ SPEAKS AND JOB RESPONDS ó Job 22:23-24:25

Eliphaz said, "Can a man be profitable to God? Is it pleasure to the Almighty if you are right, or gain to Him if you are blameless? Is your fear of Him the reason He reproves you? Don't you have great wickedness? There is no end to your sins."

"Isn't God high in the heavens? But you say, 'What does God know?' Will you keep going in the ways that wicked men have walked? The wicked told God to depart from them; they said, 'What can God do to us?'"

"Righteous people see this and are glad. Agree with God, receive His instruction and if you return to Him you will be built up. Pray to Him and He will hear you. Humble yourself and He will deliver you."

Job replied, "Today my complaint is defiant. I wish I knew where to find God so that I could come to His seat. I would tell Him my case and I know that He would hear and understand and I would be acquitted."

"When I go forward He is not there and I can't find Him. But, he knows the way I take, and I will come out like gold. I've kept His way and haven't turned aside from His commandments. I treasure His words more than food to eat."

"Why are times of judgment kept by the Almighty? Some people move landmarks from the land so that they can seize more land. They oppress the poor, yet God charges no one with wrong. Others rebel against the light of God, yet God prolongs the life of the mighty. He gives them security and support. His eyes are upon their ways. Is this not so? Who will prove that I am lying?"

#### BILDAD SPEAKS ó Job 25

"Dominion and fear are with God. How can man be right before Him? How can man, born of woman, be pure? Compared to Him, the moon and stars are dim. Man is no more than a maggot or worm."

### MEMORY WORK

**Job 23:11**

**My foot has held fast to His steps; I have kept His way and not turned aside. (NKJ)**

### QUESTIONS

1. Define PROLOGUE: \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is revealed about Job's character and station in life? Job 1: 1 ó 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who are the characters in the book of Job? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What period of time did Job seem to live in? \_\_\_\_\_
5. When Job received all the reports about everything he had being killed, stolen, or perished, what was his response? 1: 21 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Did God limit Satan's power over Job? \_\_\_\_\_ Does He limit Satan's power today? James 4:7; Heb. 2:14; I John 3:8 \_\_\_\_\_
7. Could Job see the "whole picture" of what was happening to him? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What was Job's relationship with God? 1:8; 2:3; 12:4; 16:19; 23: 11- 12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What should be our attitude toward others when they are in difficult times? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Did Job forget his relationship with God through all of his suffering? \_\_\_\_\_ What lesson is there in this for us? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What is the basic message of Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar to Job? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What does Job maintain over and over to his friends? \_\_\_\_\_
13. What was Job's desire? 23: 1 ó 7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. Was Job confident that he was right before God? 23: 10 ó 12 \_\_\_\_\_

United Kingdom, Part II  
LESSON 5 – The Book of Job, Part II

**INTRODUCTION:** *In lesson 4 we studied the prologue of the book of Job, and the main body of the book. Job is a book about the man Job and his relationship with God throughout all the suffering he endured. The three friends of Job contended throughout their speeches that Job must have been wicked, or he would not have been suffering such affliction. Job maintained that he did not know or understand why he was suffering, and that he had sustained a good relationship with God.*

*In this lesson, we will study Job's final speeches to his friends. We're introduced to a new friend, Elihu, in Job 32 – 37, and he will tell Job some things he needed to hear. We'll also study Jehovah's speeches to Job (Job 38 – 42).*

**JOB'S FINAL SPEECHES TO HIS FRIENDS, Job 26 – 31**

Job answered Bildad with sarcasm, "How you've helped him who has no power, and saved the arm that has no strength. With whose help did you speak? The dead tremble before God. God stretches the north over nothing, and hangs the earth on nothing (*Job goes on to describe God's power over creation 26: 8 – 14*). These things are just some of His ways, and we hear only a small whisper of His power. How can we understand the thunder of His power?"

"God has taken away my right and made my way bitter. As long as I'm alive I will not speak lies, and will not say you are right. I'll keep my integrity, and righteousness until I die."

"Let my enemy be as a wicked man, and the person who rises up against me as unrighteous. What hope does a godless man have when God cuts him off, or takes away his life?"

"I will teach you about the hand of God, and will not conceal it. The wicked man's children are multiplied to die by the sword. His descendants don't have enough to eat, and his widows don't weep. He piles up silver like dust, and piles up clothing. But the righteous will wear it, and the innocent will divide the silver. He may go to bed rich, but he is not rich when he wakes up. Terrors overtake him and he is gone."

"Man searches out precious metals from the deep darkness of the earth. He puts his hand to the rock, he cuts channels in the rocks, and he dams up streams to find what is hidden and bring it to light. But where is wisdom found? And where is the place of understanding? Man doesn't know its worth, and it is not found in the land of the living. Wisdom can't be bought like gold or silver. It can't be valued or exchanged. The price of wisdom is above pearls and gold."

"Where does wisdom come from? It is hidden from the eyes of all living. God knows the way to it, and where it is. The fear of the Lord is that is wisdom. Turning from evil is understanding."

"Oh, I long for the days past, when God watched over me. I walked through darkness by His light and I was in my prime. The Almighty was with me. My children were all around me. When I went to the gate of the city and sat in my seat in the city square, young men would step aside. Old men would rise and stand. Princes would stop talking and lay their hand on their mouths. Nobles became quiet. I was called blessed, and those who saw me approved because I helped the poor and fatherless. I helped the widow. I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame and a father to the needy."

"I thought to myself, 'I'll die at home at the end of a long life.' Men listened to me, and waited to hear my advice. I lived like a king among his troops, and like one who gives comfort to mourners. But now, they laugh at me men who are younger than I. Now I'm a byword to them. They abhor me and keep far from me. They don't hesitate to spit when they see me. Because God has humbled me, they don't restrain themselves in my presence."

"Now affliction takes hold of me. At nights the pain grows and takes no rest. God has cast me in the mire, and I have become like dust and ashes. (*To God: "I cry to You for help and You don't answer me. You persecute me with the might of your hand, and I know you will bring me to death."*)

øWhen I hoped for good, evil came. When I waited for light, darkness came. My harp is tuned to mourning and my flute to weeping.ö

øI made a covenant with my eyes that I would not look at a virgin to lust for her. And what have I received from God? Doesnø He see my ways and number my steps?ö

øIf I have walked in falsehood, let God weigh me in the scales. If my steps have turned aside, then let me sow my crop and another eat it. If my heart has been enticed toward a woman, then let my wife become anotherø and let me be punished. If I have rejected the cause of my servants when they have brought complaints to me, what shall I do when God rises up? Didnø He make us the same?ö

øIf I kept anything from the poor, or caused the eyes of the widow to fail, or withheld food from the fatherless. If Iøve seen someone die for lack of clothing, or if Iøve raised my hand against the orphan, then let my shoulder blade fall from my shoulder and my arm be broken from its socketö

øIf I have trusted in gold and rejoiced because I was rich, or if I have worshipped the sun and moon, this is sin that needs to be punished, and I would have been false to God.ö

øIf I rejoiced when the one who hates me is ruined; if the man of my tent has said, -Who is there that hasnø been filled with food?øó but, the stranger hasnø had to spend the night in the street because I opened my door to strangers.ö

øIf I concealed my sins because I feared the multitude; Oh, that one would hear me. Let the Almighty answer me and bring an indictment by my enemy. Then I would carry it ó I would put it on like a crown and approach him like a prince.ö

øIf my land cries out against me, and Iøve eaten its yield without payment, causing its owners to lose their lives, then let thorns grow instead of wheat and weeds instead of barley.ö

### **ELIHU SPEAKS, Job 32 – 37**

*In this section, Elihu is introduced. Four speeches follow, first directed at Job, then to Job's three friends, and then to Job and those gathered to hear.*

Jobø three friends did not answer him again, because Job was righteous in his own eyes. Then Elihu began to burn with anger because Job justified himself rather than God. He was also angry at Jobø friends because they had found no answer, even though they declared Job to be in the wrong.

Elihu had waited to speak because they were all older than he, so when he saw that the three friends had no answer for Job, Elihu said, ø I am young in years, and you are aged. For that reason I was timid and afraid to tell you what I think. I said to myself, ÷Let those with many years teach wisdom.ø but it is the Almighty that makes a man understand. It is not the old who are wise, or the aged who understand what is right. So I say, -Listen to me and hear what I have to say.øö

øI waited to hear wise sayings, and I gave you my attention, but none of you refuted Job, or answered his words. Now I will answer and declare my opinion. I must speak so that I may find relief. I will not show partiality to any man, or use flattery to any person because I donø know how to flatter because if I did my Maker would soon take me away.ö

øHear my speech Job, and listen to my words. The Spirit of God made me and the Almighty give me life. Answer me. Set your words in order and take your stand.ö

øGod made me just as He made you, so there is no need to fear me.ö

øYou say that you are pure and without sin. And you say that God finds occasion against you, counting you as an enemy. You are not right in this. God is greater than man. Why do you contend with Him by saying that He will not answer manø words?ö

øGod opens the ears of men to hear His warnings that man turn away from his deeds. He keeps back manø soul from the pit so he may be lighted with the light of life. Pay attention, Job. Listen to me and I will speak. If you have anything to say, answer me because I desire to justify you. If not, listen to me. Be silent and I will teach you wisdom.ö

øHear my words, you wise men. Listen to me. Let us choose what is right, and let us know what is good. Job has said, -I am in the right and God has taken away my right. Iøm treated as a liar, my wound is incurable, even though I am without sin.øö

“What man is like Job? A man who travels with evildoers and walks with wicked men? A man who says that it does not profit a man to take delight in God.”

“Hear me. Far be it from God that He should do wickedness or wrong. God will not do wickedly and will not pervert justice. If you understand, hear this: Will you condemn one who is righteous and mighty? One who shows no partiality, and doesn’t regard the rich better than the poor because he made them all? His eyes are on the ways of man, and He sees all of man’s steps.”

“Men of understanding will say to me, ‘Job speaks without knowledge and his words have no wisdom. He ought to be tried because he adds rebellion to his sin, and multiplies his words against God.’”

“Do you think this is right? I will answer you and your friends. Look at the heavens and the clouds. If you have sinned, what do you accomplish against God?”

“Job opens his mouth with empty talk and does not know what he says.”

“Bear with me and I will say something on God’s behalf. My words are not false. God is mighty and doesn’t despise any. He does not preserve the wicked, but gives the afflicted their right. His eyes are on the righteous and he sets kings on their throne, exalting them. If they are bound in chains, he shows them how they have transgressed. He opens their ears to instruction and commands that they leave their sins. If they listen to Him, they complete their days in prosperity, but if they don’t listen they perish by the sword and die without knowledge.”

“The godless man lays up anger in his heart. He forgets God and does not cry for help.”

“You, Job, are full of the judgment on the wicked. Beware or wrath will entice you to scoff. Take care; do not turn to sin, for you have chosen this rather than affliction.”

“Remember to magnify the works of God. He is great, and we don’t know Him because the number of His years is unsearchable. He does great things we cannot comprehend. Hear this, O Job, and stop to consider the works of God. We cannot find the Almighty. He is great in power, justice and righteousness. Men fear Him and he has no regard for those who are wise in their own heart.”

### **JEHOVAH’S SPEECHES TO JOB, Job 38 – 42:6**

*These chapters contain some of the most beautiful things written about how God works in the Universe. We will paraphrase them, as we have the previous chapters, but cannot do them justice [as we could not with the rest of the book]. In no way will we cover each thought or verse.*

*The word “LORD” in these chapters is the Hebrew word “YAHWEH” which means: He who will be; I am that I am. The word expresses God’s eternal existence.*

*The Behemoth and Leviathan are introduced in this chapter. Behemoth means a large beast or animal. We have no way of knowing what this animal was, whether it was one we have today, or one that has become extinct. This animal is described in Job as a large, but non-violent creature.*

*Leviathan comes from a word that means to coil or twist. It is speculated that may have been a large sea monster. It is described in Job as a huge creature that was violent in its disposition.*

The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said, “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man. I will question you and you will make your answers known to Me.”

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements – surely you know! Who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? Who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out of the womb, and made limits for it saying, ‘You shall only come this far and no farther’ – here is where your proud waves will stay.”

“Where is the way to where light dwells, and where is the place of darkness? Have you entered the storehouses where the snow is kept, and have you seen the storehouses for the hail? What is the way to the place where light is distributed? Where is the east wind scattered on the earth?”

“Has the rain a father? From whose womb did ice come from, and who has given birth to the frost of heaven?”

“Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, so that a flood of waters may cover you? Can you send forth lightnings? Who has put wisdom in the inward parts, or given understanding to the mind?”  
“Do you know when the mountain goats give birth, or when the doe gives birth?”  
“Do you give the horse his might? Do you clothe his neck with a mane and make him leap like the locust? He will go out during war to meet weapons and is not fearful or dismayed.”  
“Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Let the one who argues with God answer it.”

Then Job answered the Lord, “Behold, I am of small account. What shall I answer You? I lay my hand on my mouth.”

The Lord replied to Job out of a whirlwind, “Gird up your loins like a man. I will question you and you will make known to Me. Will you put Me in the wrong? Will you condemn me that you may be in the right? Do you have an arm like God, and can you thunder with a voice like His?”

“Adorn yourself with majesty and dignity. Clothe yourself with glory and splendor. Look on the proud and bring him low. Tread down the wicked where they stand. When you have done this, hide them all in the dust together and bind their faces in the grave. Then I will acknowledge that your own right hand can save you.”

“Look at the Behemoth that I made, as I made you. He eats grass like an ox, but look at the strength of his loins and the power in the muscles of his belly. His tail is stiff like a cedar tree, and the sinews of his thighs are knit together. His bones are like bronze and limbs like iron. He is chief of the ways of God. The mountains yield food for him where all the beasts of the field play; he lies under the lotus plants in the marsh. He is not afraid of a turbulent river, but is confident as the Jordan rushes against his mouth.”

“Can anyone take him when he is watching, or pierce his nose with a snare?”

“Can you draw out the Leviathan with a fishhook, or press down his tongue with a cord? Can you put a rope in his nose, or pierce his jaw with a hook? If you lay your hands on him, remember the battle for you will not do it again. No one is fierce enough to dare stir him up.”

“Who then is the one who can stand before Me? Whatever is under the whole heaven is Mine.”

“I will not keep silent concerning the Leviathan’s limbs or his mighty strength. Who can take off his outer garment and come near him with a bridle. Around his teeth is terror. His back is made of rows of shields. In his neck abides strength. When he raises himself up the mighty are afraid and if the sword should reach him, it does not bring him under its power. Arrows cannot make him flee. On the earth there is nothing like him, a creature without fear.”

### **JOB ACCEPTS GOD’S REBUKE**

Then Job answered the Lord, “I know that You can do all things, and no purpose of yours can be restrained. Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge? I uttered things I did not understand ó things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Hear, and I will speak. I will question You, You make it known to me. I heard you with my ears, but now my eye sees you. Therefore, I despise myself and I repent in dust and ashes.”

### **EPILOGUE, Job 42: 7 – 17**

After the Lord spoke to Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz, “My anger burns against you and your two friends, for you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has. Now, take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you and I will accept his prayer that I not deal with you according to your folly. You haven’t spoken of Me what is right as My servant Job has.”

Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar went and did what the Lord told them to do, and the Lord accepted Job’s prayer.

The Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends. He gave Job twice as much as He had before.

Job's brothers and sisters, and all who had known him came to eat bread with him in his house. They showed him sympathy and comforted him concerning all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him. Each gave him a piece of money and a ring of gold.

The Lord blessed the end of Job's life more than his beginning. He had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters. He lived 140 years and saw his sons and grandsons, up to 4 generations. And Job died an old man full of days.

### MEMORY WORK

#### Job 23:11-12

**11 My foot has held fast to His steps; I have kept His way and not turned aside.**

**12 I have not departed from the commandment of His lips;  
I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.  
(NKJ)**

### QUESTIONS

1. Define ó EPILOGUE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who did Job blame for all of his problems? Job 27:2 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Was Job correct in assuming this? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did Job affirm about himself? 27: 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What things does Job say about wisdom? 28: 12 ó 23 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What is wisdom? 28:28 \_\_\_\_\_
7. What did Job long for? 29:2 \_\_\_\_\_ Why? 29: 5,7, 9-11  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How did Job say he was received after all of his affliction? 30:1, 9-10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What did Job charge God with? 30: 19 ó 21 \_\_\_\_\_
10. Why did Job's three friends cease to answer him? 32:1 \_\_\_\_\_
11. Why was Elihu angry at Job? 32:2 \_\_\_\_\_
12. Why was Elihu angry at Job's three friends? 32:3 \_\_\_\_\_
13. Why had Elihu waited to speak? 32:6 \_\_\_\_\_
14. What did Elihu say about Job? 33:12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

15. What charge did Elihu make against Job? 35: 15 ó 16 \_\_\_\_\_
16. What did Elihu appeal to Job to do? 37:14 \_\_\_\_\_
17. How did God answer Job? 38:1 \_\_\_\_\_
18. After God asked Job questions to make him realize the great distance between God and man, what did God ask Job? 40: 1-2 \_\_\_\_\_
19. How did Job regard himself then? 40:4 \_\_\_\_\_
20. Why do you think God wanted Job to think about the Behemoth and the Leviathon? 40: 9, 10,11 \_\_\_\_\_
21. After God finished speaking to Job, what was Job's attitude? 42: 1 ó 6 \_\_\_\_\_
22. What wrongdoing did God charge Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar with? 42:8 \_\_\_\_\_
23. How did God bless Job? 42: 10 -17 \_\_\_\_\_

**Thought Questions:**

- Did God give Job a direct answer as to why he suffered as he did?** \_\_\_\_\_
- Does true faith require an immediate or complete understanding of the workings of God?** \_\_\_\_\_
- Is suffering always the result of a person's sin?** \_\_\_\_\_
- Can man blame God for all injustice and human suffering?** \_\_\_\_\_

United Kingdom, Part II  
LESSON 6 – The Book of Psalms

It matters not what your emotions are, you can find them expressed in the book of Psalms; emotions of joy, sadness, thanksgiving, call for help, grief, praise, etc.

The Psalms were written over a period of 1,000 years and there are 150 of them grouped together in the book of Psalms. The authors of the Psalms were Moses (1 psalm), Ethan (1 psalm), Asaph (12 psalms), Sons of Korah (12 psalms), Heman (1 psalm), David (73 psalms) and Solomon (2 psalms). There are 48 more Psalms that we don't know the authors of.

Psalms means *to sing; to make music accompanied by the voice*. The book of Psalms was the *songbook* of the Hebrew people. Can you imagine the Israelites singing these beautiful poems? This shouldn't surprise us because we sing some of the Psalms today in our worship to God (songs based on Psalms 19 and Psalms 23 should be familiar to you).

When one reads the Psalms, one must realize that they are filled with figurative language. As you read the Psalms, try to figure out what the psalmist is saying as he relates his innermost feelings. To think as they do we have to stop thinking like someone from the west, and put ourselves in their place. Think about who wrote the Psalm *is* the psalm about something in the author's life, about an event in Israelite history, is it making reference to the Christ (as in a Messianic psalm), is he reflecting on God's creation or simply giving praise to Jehovah? Most of all, you should ask yourself, *How can this Psalm help me?*

Psalms is divided into five *Books*:

- BOOK I: PSALMS 1 ó 41
- BOOK II: PSALMS 42 ó 72
- BOOK III: PSALMS 73 ó 89
- BOOK IV: PSALMS 90 ó 106
- BOOK V: PSALMS 107 ó 150

Psalms can be divided into various categories. We've already introduced you to the **authors** who wrote the Psalms. This is one way to classify them.

Another way to classify them is by subject matter: Psalms of **penitence, praise, trials, instruction, history** and **Messianic**. Messianic psalms are quoted by, and fulfilled by, our Lord Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

Still, another way to classify them is to divide them into: **Songs of Ascent, Alphabetic**, and **Hallel** psalms. **Songs of Ascent** are psalms that the Hebrew people sang as they ascended, or climbed, up the mountain to the temple to worship (Examples: Psalms 120 ó 134).

**Alphabetic** Psalms begin each line with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet (Example: Psalm 119).

**Hallel** Psalms are psalms that contain the word *Hallelujah*. These psalms were chanted at the Passover supper (Example: Psalms 118 ó 136).

You may find in your own study of the Psalms that there are other ways to divide them into categories.

Since there are 150 psalms, we cannot possibly study them all in one lesson. Therefore, we are going to look at just a few of them in our question section.

## QUESTIONS

1. Define FIGURATIVE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Define MESSIANIC: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Define HALLELUJAH: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PSALM 51 – *This Psalm is a beautiful prayer that deals with repentance and forgiveness. It was written by David. Notice his sense of sin in this psalm, and his appeal to God to forgive him of his sin.***

1. Why did David feel the need for mercy? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What does David mean when he says *ōmy sin is ever before meö*? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Three synonyms are in verses 1 and 2. Define them.  
TRANSGRESSION: \_\_\_\_\_  
INIQUITY: \_\_\_\_\_  
SIN: \_\_\_\_\_
4. In verse 4 David said, *ōAgainst You, You only, have I sinned...ö*. Who is David talking to, and what does he mean by this? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What does God want David to have in his heart? Verse 6 \_\_\_\_\_
6. What does David say will happen when God forgives him? verses 7 ó 11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What promises does David make to God in response to his forgiveness? Verses 12 ó 17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What responsibility did David see that he had after being forgiven? Verses 12 ó 13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Do we have this same responsibility today? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What does David say the sacrifices of God are? Verse 17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Does God require the same thing of us? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What event in David's life do you think happened to cause him to write this psalm? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PSALM 73 – *This psalm was written by Asaph. Asaph writes about almost losing his faith when looking at the prosperity of the wicked. He had to get his heart fixed on what God wanted to see things as they really were. This psalm is very applicable to us in the prosperous time we live in. It is a psalm that takes Asaph from doubt to faith in God.***

1. Where is Asaph's heart when he writes this psalm? Verse 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What had happened to Asaph previously? Verse 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How had this affected his faith? Verse 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How had Asaph been thinking about the wicked? Verses 4 -14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Define SANCTUARY: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What did Asaph understand about the wicked when he went into the sanctuary? Verse 17 ó 19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What did Asaph realize about his own condition? Verses 21 ó 22 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. When Asaph òcame to himselfò, what did he realize about God? verses 25 ó 26 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What would happen to the wicked? Verse 27 \_\_\_\_\_
10. What benefits did Asaph receive for serving God? verses 28, 23, 24 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**This next section deals with Messianic psalms. Messianic psalms are psalms that prophecy about Christ, or speak of Him. These Psalms were written a thousand years before Jesus Christ came to earth, yet they contain very many details about Him and His life.**

**We will do this section a little differently. First, look at the New Testament passage, and then match it with the passage from the Psalms.**

**NEW TESTAMENT PASSAGES:** Heb. 1: 8-9; John 19:36; Matt. 21:16; Eph. 4: 8 – 10; Matt. 22:44; Acts 4: 25 – 28; Matt.4:6

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Ps 2:1-2 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying.(KJV)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Ps 8:2 Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.(KJV)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Ps 34:20 He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.(KJV)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Ps 68:18 Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them.(KJV)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Ps 45:6-7 Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.(KJV)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Ps 91:11-12 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.(KJV)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Ps 110:1 The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. (KJV)

### MEMORY WORK

#### Job 23:11-12

**11 My foot has held fast to His steps; I have kept His way and not turned aside.**

**12 I have not departed from the commandment of His lips;  
I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.**

(NKJ)

United Kingdom, Part II  
LESSON 7 – The Book of Proverbs (1)

INTRODUCTION: Most of the book of Proverbs was written by Solomon. Proverbs 25:1 tells us that the men of King Hezekiah transcribed or copied the book 200 years after Solomon. (Prov 25:1 *“These are also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out.”* (KJV))

Brown-Driver-Briggs defines the word “Proverb” as: “sentences of ethical wisdom.” The overall theme of the book of Proverbs is wisdom.

The things written in the book of Proverbs are drawn from every level of life and experience. The book is as applicable to us today as it was when written. Men have not changed & God still urges man to seek wisdom, truth and righteousness.

There is much advice given in the book of Proverbs on many subjects & obedience to parents, warnings about how to conduct our lives, warnings against rejecting wisdom, advice about anger, envy, training children, idleness, work, honor, reputation, the poor, and so much more! Proverbs discusses human life and behavior. We also get glimpses into the nature of God (Prov. 1:7; 3: 25,26; 21:31; 24:12; 3:33; 16:6; 15:29 and more! ).

Over and over in the book you will read the same words emphasized: wisdom, understanding, instruction, knowledge, and learning. The word “fool” is used frequently and refers to one who is foolish, stupid or arrogant -- A person who does not want to learn the lessons of life and ignores the rebukes from people wiser than he. You will also read of “the simple one” & a person who hasn’t learned life’s lessons.

There are so many lessons to learn from the book of Proverbs that we cannot possibly have the time to study them all in two lessons. So, we are going to choose a few lessons & ones that are particularly applicable to young women, but good lessons for everyone.

## DISCRETION

### Prov 11:22

***As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.***

Discretion is essential if we want to mature spiritually. A woman can undo all the good actions she has done by not being sensible in her actions and her speech. She may attend every worship service of the church, she may do many other good things, but if she is not discreet she is as ludicrous as Solomon illustrates in Proverbs 11:22 *“As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.”* (KJV).

So, what is “discretion”? Discretion means: behavior, judgment, or understanding. It has to do with how we make decisions to be careful in our speech and actions, and being wisely cautious.

In Proverbs 5: 1 & 2 Solomon said: *My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding: That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge.* (KJV) This verse tells us that if we heed our parent’s wisdom, and have discretion, we can avoid evil.

## How can we get discretion?

As with any other problem we have in life we need to turn to God's Word for the answer. Solomon said: Prov 2:10-11 "*When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee.*" (KJV)

Discretion, coupled with wisdom and knowledge can keep us out of a lot of trouble, and make us pleasing to God. The wisdom and knowledge that Solomon is referring to is what we get from God's Word. We receive this through study and prayer.

## What characteristics does a person with discretion have?

If I am a woman of discretion I have self-control. I have self-control over my passions, my appetites, my tongue, and my anger.

Anger is a problem to everyone, but more so to some people than to others. Solomon said in Prov 19:11 "*The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.*" (KJV) Controlling my anger keeps me from sin. Eph. 4:26 tells us to be angry and sin not.

No one likes to be around a person who is angry all the time. Solomon said that it was better to live out in the wilderness than to live with an angry contentious woman (Prov. 21:19). Proverbs 29:22 tells us that an angry person stirs up strife, and Proverbs 22:24 tells us not to be friends or associate with a person who is given to anger.

When we are slow to anger, and we answer others with patience and a gentle voice, we are using discretion. Prov 15:1 "*A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.*" (KJV)

We may do well with this when we deal with our friends at school, or with casual acquaintances, but what about when we deal with our own family members? Are we discreet, and do we control our anger when dealing with a brother, sister, or even one of our parents?

Taking the time to stop and pray can help us with our anger. Knowing God's word and how He feels about uncontrolled anger can help us as well.

Have you ever been angry and said things in anger that you wish you had not said? Along with the problem of anger, many times we misuse the tongue.

The book of Proverbs probably talks more about the use of our tongue than any other book of the Bible. Our tongue can cause us to sin and lose our soul if we are not careful with it. A woman of discretion learns to control her tongue. She'll think twice before she speaks, and she will ask herself, "Is it true?", "Is it needful?", and "Is it kind?".

Words reveal a lot about a person. If we listen to a person's words we can learn how she sees herself and others. Is that person careful in what she says, or is she reckless with her words? Does she talk about things that are good and wholesome, or does she backbite and slander others?

Words said in a hasty manner and without thought can destroy friendships, homes, reputations, and lives. They can even discourage people from worshipping God. Words have a great power to create or destroy, and they must be used carefully ( Prov 18:21 "*Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.*" KJV ; Prov 21:23 "*Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.*" KJV)

We can achieve discretion in our lives much easier if we learn to control our tongue. It is the better use of our tongue that will make us more Christ-like. When we tell something we know, are we motivated by love for that person? Gossip and backbiting are wrong, and they will cause us to lose our soul ( Prov 18:8 *õThe words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.ö* KJV ; Prov 11:9 *An hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbour: but through knowledge shall the just be delivered.* KJV)

James 3:8 tells us that the tongue is an unruly member (something hard to be controlled). A Christian must bring it under control to be pleasing to God. A person with discretion will keep her soul from trouble (Prov 21:23 *Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.* KJV).

We began this lesson on discretion by quoting Proverbs 11:22. A young woman may be beautiful, she may dress attractively, but if she has no discretion she will not have the right influence on others physically or spiritually. When others see her actions they will see that her beauty does not come from within her, it is only outward beauty.

Chastity is an attribute that a person with discretion must have. To be chaste means to be clean, pure, or modest. Keep yourself pure so that you will not have the grief and sadness that comes from sin. Most of all, keep yourself chaste so that you will be pleasing to God!

Proverbs 16:32 tells us that we must control our very self! The world tells us *õeveryone is doing itö* and *õGod's laws are outdatedö*. But, God knows what is best for us. When we live outside of God's laws we will only have heartache, grief, sadness, and disease. A woman of discretion controls how she behaves around a person of the opposite sex. Solomon says that the woman without discretion in this area of her life will lead to death (Prov 2:17-18 *Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God. For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead.* KJV)

When we have discretion, we will not find ourselves in places where a Christian does not belong, or doing things that a Christian should not do (such as reading filthy books, watching questionable or dirty movies, smoking (either tobacco or pot), using drugs, wearing immodest clothing, going to dances, petting with a boy in the backseat of a car, engaging in the sin of fornication, etc.).

Our chastity must come from within us. Christ will hold us responsible for sinful thoughts that might lead to sinful actions (Mark 7: 21 ó 22). Evil thoughts may come momentarily into our minds, but we are to put them away and not think or dwell upon them.

There may be some young women who will say, *õBut I am not chaste. I have already let sin come into my life.ö* If that is the case, God has told us what we must do. First of all we are to repent of those sins. A person who is not a Christian must follow the steps outlined in God's Word for obedience (Acts 2:38; Rom. 10: 9-10; I Pet. 3:21). A person who is a Christian needs to pray that she be forgiven (Acts 8: 22). If we fail to put sins out of our lives we will cause grief to ourselves, to those who love us, and most importantly, to God.

Use care! Don't do anything that will weaken your character. Pattern yourself after your Lord and Master and cherish your good name ( Prov 22:1 *"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold."* KJV) Remind yourself that you belong to Christ and were bought with a price (I Cor. 6: 15 ó 20).

If we choose Christ as our pattern, we will be women with **discretion!**

## QUESTIONS

1. Name the reasons Proverbs was written: Prov. 1: 1-6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What two attributes are linked, or enjoined, with discretion? Prov. 5: 1 ó 2; 2: 10 ó 11; 3: 19 ó 21 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Explain the statement, *Discretion shall preserve you* ö. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What are the characteristics of a woman without discretion? Prov. 5: 3 ó 8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Read Prov. 18:21 and explain, *Life and death are in the power of the tongue*.ö \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How did Solomon describe a fool? Prov. 10:18 \_\_\_\_\_
7. How did Solomon describe someone who is wise? Prov. 10:19 \_\_\_\_\_
8. Who should have discretion? I Tim. 3: 2, 11 \_\_\_\_\_ Does this apply to us as well? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Explain Proverbs 16: 24 \_\_\_\_\_
10. Why is it important to control our tongue? Matt. 12:36 \_\_\_\_\_
11. How does Proverbs describe a woman who uses her tongue to nag? Prov. 27: 15 ó 16; 21: 9, 19; 25: 24 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Who keeps out of trouble? Prov. 21: 23 \_\_\_\_\_
13. When we use our tongue foolishly, who can believe what is said? Prov. 14: 15 \_\_\_\_\_
14. What stirs up anger? Prov. 15:1 \_\_\_\_\_
15. What turns away anger? Prov. 19: 11; 15:1 \_\_\_\_\_
16. Who should we receive counsel (or instructions) from so that we can be wise? Prov. 1: 7- 8 ; 19: 20, 21; 13:1 \_\_\_\_\_
17. What does Solomon call one who will not listen to their parent's instructions? Prov. 15:5 \_\_\_\_\_
  
18. What things should a woman with discretion avoid? Mark 7: 21 ó 22 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? Mark 7: 23 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Think About It...

*Am I a woman of discretion if I:*

- Use my cell phone to text or send inappropriate messages or pictures? \_\_\_\_\_
- Yell at my little brother when he does something I don't like? \_\_\_\_\_
- Sneak out of the house to be with people my parents disapprove of? \_\_\_\_\_
- Flirt with every cute boy I know? \_\_\_\_\_
- Read my Bible every day? \_\_\_\_\_
- Slam the door and storm out of the house when my parents tell me I can't do something? \_\_\_\_\_
- Repeat a bad report about one of my friends? \_\_\_\_\_
- Lie when my parents ask me where I've been? \_\_\_\_\_
- Pray every time I am tempted to lose my temper? \_\_\_\_\_
- Tell my best friend off when she does something I don't like? \_\_\_\_\_
- Read a book full of bad language and things I know are displeasing to God? \_\_\_\_\_
- Go to a friend personally and privately to ask if a report about them is true? \_\_\_\_\_
- Ask my parent's advice about a problem that is worrying me? \_\_\_\_\_
- Ask my parents or the elders at church what I can do to help there? \_\_\_\_\_
- Write notes to my neighbor and whisper during the worship service? \_\_\_\_\_
- Wear the most revealing clothes I can find because I know this makes the boys notice me? \_\_\_\_\_
- Talk back to my mother and father when I dislike their instructions? \_\_\_\_\_
- Help my mother with any chores around the house, without being asked? \_\_\_\_\_
- Ignore older people who speak to me? \_\_\_\_\_
- Talk disrespectful about my teachers behind their back? \_\_\_\_\_
- Do what I can to help my grandparents and other older people? \_\_\_\_\_
- Go to see a movie full of sex and bad language? \_\_\_\_\_
- Try to fool my parents and friends into thinking that I'm behaving as a Christian, when I am doing things in secret that are wrong and sinful? \_\_\_\_\_
- Make sure my clothing is modest to keep others from thinking impure thoughts about me? \_\_\_\_\_
- ??? Is a woman with discretion a woman who is more mature spiritually? \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORY WORK

Prov 23:17

Do not let your heart envy sinners, but be zealous for the fear of the LORD all the day;  
(NKJ)

## INTRODUCTION:

*I Kings 4:29 – 31 tells us that God gave Solomon wisdom that surpassed all men. Solomon spoke 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs (I Kings 4: 29 – 34). Of these, only about a third of them have been preserved in scripture. We must remember that these proverbs are inspired by God and apply to us (I Tim. 3:16).*

*Throughout the book of Proverbs we see two opposing ways—the way of wisdom and the way of folly. A lot of Solomon’s wisdom deals with two kinds of women. One woman is an evil woman – the way of folly. The other woman is a woman who is well-pleasing to God – the way of wisdom.*

*God created YOU – a young woman who is lovely and pure. It is His desire that you become a mature woman that will be pleasing to Him. You do this by a study of His Word, and obedience to it. When you study and do the things in God’s Word, this molds you into being what He wants you to be!*

*I Tim. 2:22 tells us that we are to flee (or shun) youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with them who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. The book of Proverbs can help us in this endeavor.*

*So, how can we be feminine in this wicked world, and be what God wants us to be? We have to learn how to talk, how to walk, and how to carry ourselves. I Pet. 3: 3 – 4 is a passage talking to wives, but we can learn a lot from these verses on how to be a godly woman. This passage tells us that our emphasis is not to be put on how we look outwardly, but is to be on the hidden person of the heart. That is sometimes hard to remember in a world that puts a lot of emphasis on the latest fashion, trends and hairstyles, etc.*

*The very first thing we must do to have the wisdom that God wants us to have, and to realize His will for us, is to fear God (Prov. 1:7). This fear is not terror, but a reverence for what Jehovah God has said – so much so that we seek to do it, and we will not disobey it.*

*The second thing we must do to have wisdom is to hear, and be obedient, to our parents (Prov. 1:8). Solomon’s statement in Prov. 1:8 is about parents who are wise and have the best interest of their children at heart.*

*Solomon warned his son in Prov. 1:10 about being with people who engage in sinful activities. He said that if these type people try to get us to sin, we are not to give in, or consent to it. In Prov. 1:20 Solomon personifies wisdom as a woman. Wisdom is like a woman who walks through the busy streets and urges the people she meets to reject sin and folly, and to do righteousness and wisdom.*

*Solomon teaches us in Proverbs that the only way to be wise is to keep our thinking and conduct according to God’s will.*

## **Prov 14:1** **Every wise woman buildeth her house:** **but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands. (KJV)**

### **THE EVIL WOMAN**

*(Most of our thoughts on the evil woman will be taken from Proverbs 5)*

Solomon warned his son about the seductive woman. This type of woman ruined him when he was king over Israel. Solomon urged his son to listen to his wisdom in Proverbs 5: 1 ó 2.

Solomon told his son that the seductive woman's lips might drip like honey (5:3), but that her end was bitter like a poisonous plant, and as sharp as a two-edged sword. The end of sin with an evil woman will be death, disease, and eternal damnation (5: 5,6). An evil woman will use flattery to get a man to yield to her in sin (7:21).

When one gets involved with a woman like this, it will entrap and snare a man. Solomon told his son to get away from this type woman, and not to even go close to the door of her house (5: 7- 8 ). He said "Beware or you will give your beauty to others" (5:9). She will have her desires met, and she will use up the vigor and strength of your youth, but pain and sorrow are in her house (5:10).

Solomon told his son, "When your vigor and strength are gone, you will groan in your last days because your body and physical strength will be wasted" (5:11).

When a person has been involved in the sin of fornication there are regrets that one has (5:12). The person regrets that he hated correction and discipline. He regrets that he didn't listen to the ones who taught him better (5:13).

Solomon told his son that having sinful relations with an evil woman would cost him the loss of wealth (6:26) and position. He would also lose his physical health, incur legal penalties, and have self-reproach and remorse.

The evil woman can be known by the way she dresses (7:10), and she will usually commit her sin in the dark of the evening (7:9). She doesn't stay home, but likes to wander the streets (7:12). She has sinned so much that even her face looks hardened or defiant (7:13). She will use her own body to attract a man, and she will use her kisses (7:13).

The evil woman will also use physical senses and aromas (or perfumes) to allure a man (7: 16 ó 17) and will try to convince him that "no one will find out" about their sin together (7: 18 ó 20).

She is dangerous because she will look for her opportunity to sin (23:28), and she will not admit to her sin (30:20). Worst of all, she has forgotten the covenant that she made with God (2:17).

Solomon warned his son that when he sinned with an evil woman he would be ruined (5:14). Ruined, because sin with her leads to all other sins: lying, drinking, lasciviousness, fraud, greed and murder. He said, "For what good reason is there to be led away by a harlot, or embrace an evil woman? God sees everything you do. Your own sins will take hold of you and will not let you go. Then you will die spiritually for lack of instruction and will go astray morally." (5:20 ó 23).

The most terrible thing about this sin is that it is against God, and man has only himself to blame.

Solomon told his son that there is a way to keep from this sin with the evil woman. He said, "Drink water from your own cistern" (5:15). This means: you should only have sexual relations with your own wife. Solomon told his son to rejoice with the wife he married as a young man, and to keep himself to her only (5: 18 ó 19). These verses emphasize that sexual love is to be contained only within the context of marriage.

When one does not adhere to God's law in this matter, children may be born. The person who commits fornication may never know where his children are, or how many he has (5: 16 ó 17). We see this in the society that we live in today. The sin of fornication causes much sorrow in many people's lives.

If we will heed the Wisdom of Solomon we can avoid this sin, and the sorrow that comes with it. Sometimes young women can become like the evil woman of Proverbs. They begin to fall into the sins that Solomon warned his son about.

Young women need to remember who they are (I Pet. 2:9). Remembering who you are will help keep you from sin. Don't use the tools that the evil woman of Proverbs used to attract a young man - flattery, immodest, provocative dress, using your body in ways that God never intended a godly woman to use it, and going to places that one should not go. Things like drinking, smoking, dancing and sex are promoted by the media today, but when a young woman says "NO" to these kinds of things, she is thinking of the young man's welfare as much as her own welfare.

Don't be lured by the Devil's siren song that sings, "There's nothing to do!" This thought can lead us to accept things that may be sinful, just to have something to do. The things you do are not really fun if you cannot feel good about yourself when it is over, and you are filled with guilt over it.

***Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death. (KJV) Prov 7:27***

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### THE WORTHY WOMAN

*(Most of our thoughts on the worthy woman will come from Proverbs 31.)*

In contrast to the evil woman, King Lemuel of Proverbs 31 tells us what a worthy woman is. These are things that King Lemuel's mother taught him (31:1).

The worthy woman has a value that is more than precious jewels (31:10). Her husband trusts her, and he doesn't have to worry about his honor or his material possessions because she does him good (31:12).

The woman of that day couldn't just go to the department store and buy a dress. The worthy wife of Proverbs 31 sought out raw materials of wool and flax to make cloth (31:13). She was thrifty in her purchases. She got up before the break of day to feed her family (31:15). She looked for opportunities to advance their welfare (31: 16 & 18). She helped the poor and the needy (31:20), and made sure her family was clothed in the best clothing she could provide.

In addition to her work, she would oversee the work of her household (31:13 & 15), and made her home attractive (31:22).

She contributed to her husband's good name so that he was well spoken of (31:23).

The worthy woman is clothed inwardly with strength and dignity ( I Pet. 3: 3 & 5). She knows her worth and has self-respect. When she speaks, it is with wisdom and kindness (31:26). Not only does she provide for her family and herself the physical needs, but she provides for herself spiritually (31:25).

The worthy woman makes sure her family is taken care of, and she is not lazy (31:27). She receives the highest praise from her children and husband (31:28). She also realizes that charm and physical beauty are worthless, and that her focus is to be spiritual (31:30). She enjoys the "fruit" of her life that have been spent in godliness and good works, and she is known and respected by others.

The worthy woman did not need to be "liberated" and "have her rights" - she was liberated! How? She found her place and purpose in life, not by demanding her "equal rights" with men, but by showing her superiority to man in the areas that God intended she live! She recognized that her God-given role was much different from man's role, and she excelled in her role as a WORTHY WOMAN!

While you are a young woman is the time to prepare to be the "worthy woman" that God wants you to be. Respect and honor your parents, because this is the best preparation in becoming that worthy woman. Your

parent's judgment and counsel as they raise you is very valuable because it is a result of their own experiences of dating, courtship and marriage.

Learn what you can from your mother's homemaking skills. Keep your word. Go where you say you are going, and come back on time. Maturity is being aware of things that need to be done at home and doing them without your parents asking, nagging, or demanding that you do them. Learn to obey your parents cheerfully.

In our relationship with our parents, our best example should be our Lord. He voluntarily subjected Himself to His parents (Luke 2:51). One day you will not be a teenager anymore. Will you look back on your teen years and be proud of them, or will you be ashamed? The answer is up to you!

*Prov 31:30*

*Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. (KJV)*

### MEMORY WORK

**Prov 23:17 - 18**

**17 Do not let your heart envy sinners, but be zealous for the fear of the LORD all the day;**

**18 For surely there is a hereafter, and your hope will not be cut off.**

**(NKJ)**

### QUESTIONS

*(All of the scripture are in Proverbs, unless stated otherwise.)*

1. Who gives wisdom? 2:6 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who despises wisdom? 1:7 \_\_\_\_\_
3. What does Solomon say the young man should do in Prov. 1:8? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Do these verses apply to a young lady as well? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why should we desire wisdom? 19:8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What should we do if we want wisdom? James 1:5; Prov. 2: 1 ó 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why did Solomon want his son to have wisdom? 2:12 ó 16, 20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Solomon advised his son to learn from him and his experience. Is it wise to learn from the experience of others? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Why should a young person listen to the advice of an older person? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What did Solomon advise his son to do about the evil woman? 5: 7 ó 8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. List the consequences that result from yielding to the evil woman: 5: 9 ó 14, 22 ó 23 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
11. How did ðthe simple oneö become a victim of the evil woman? 7: 7 ó 9 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
12. What was ðthe simple oneö's tragic end? 7: 24 ó 27 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
13. What lessons should we learn from the young man and the evil woman? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
14. Explain Proverbs 14:1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
15. What does Proverbs say about a person who uses flattery? 20:19; 26:28; 29:5; Jude 1:16 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
16. What is the first characteristic of the worthy woman of Prov. 31:11 \_\_\_\_\_
17. Who is to teach younger women? Tit. 2: 3 ó 4 \_\_\_\_\_
18. How does the worthy woman use her tongue? 31:26 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

#### THOUGHT QUESTIONS

1. Can the woman of Proverbs 31 describe a woman of the twenty-first century? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you think it is significant that King Lemuel said his mother taught him about the worthy woman?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Will a wise mother do all the work for her children? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
4. What quality of the worthy woman is expressed in Prov. 31:20? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Is fornication based on love or on lust? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What is the worst thing about the sin of fornication (or adultery)? Prov. 6:32 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
7. Is a worthy woman someone we would describe as a ðdrama queenö ó someone who always has some kind  
 of ðdramaö going on in her life? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
8. What kind of things should a young woman do to train herself to become a ðworthy womanö? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

LESSON TEXT: Ecclesiastes 1 - 5

**INTRODUCTION:**

*The book of Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon, and the book analyzes life “under the sun” (or life here on this earth). The word “Ecclesiastes” means “preacher”. The very first verse of Ecclesiastes says: “The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. (KJV)”*

*A preacher is one who addresses an assembly of people. Solomon’s address to the reader of this book looks for the meaning of life on this earth. There are expressions repeated throughout the book:*

*“**Under the sun**”, “**under heaven**”, and “**on earth**” refers to life on this earth.*

*“**Vanity**” refers to that which is empty and fleeting; something that has no worth.*

*“**The wise man**” refers to a man who follows God and learns life’s lessons through his experiences and the experiences of others.*

*“**The fool**” refers to the man who does not follow God’s ways; he is in rebellion to them and does not learn life’s lessons, so his way in life is hard.*

*The theme of Ecclesiastes is stated in chapter 1 verse 13: “...to seek and search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven...”.*

Ecclesiastes points out to us that life without God in it has very little meaning to it. The first chapter of Ecclesiastes gives us a picture of life: (1:5) The sun rises and sets over and over again. (1:6) The wind is constantly changing directions. (*Don’t we see this in the weather forecasts every day?*) (1:4) People continue to be born as another generation gets old and dies.

Man has no control over the things of this life because *ō...what is crooked can’t be made straight, and what is wanting can’t be numbered...* (1:15). Paul tells us in I Cor. 15:19 that if this life is all we have, we are to be pitied.

As a man of great wisdom, Solomon said that he put forth effort to know wisdom, madness and folly. Yet, he realized that doing this was like *ōstriving after windō*.

Solomon built houses, planted vineyards, and gardens. He had slaves and great possessions of gold and silver (2: 4 ó 11). But he came to realize that all of this was vanity. He tried to use wine to make himself happy. He tried every pleasure afforded to him, but he found no happiness in them because things do not bring joy and satisfaction.

Solomon began to think about wisdom and folly. He began to realize that even with all of his wisdom he would die, just like the fool would die. He knew that all of his possessions would be left to someone else on this earth when he died, and he *ōd no longer control them* (2: 18 ó 23). The good things of this life are gifts from God, and they are not assured to us by the things that we do (Acts 14:17).

Solomon saw that God’s plan covered every facet of his life (3: 1 ó 8). Everything is in God’s hands and control. God has made everything beautiful in its time (3:11), and He has put eternity in man’s heart (man has a living soul). Regardless of what man does, or does not do, God’s purpose will be accomplished, and man cannot change it (3:14).

Solomon also saw that ðunder the sunð there is wickedness in the place of righteousness and justice, but that God will judge those who are righteous *and* those who are wicked (3:17). He points out that everyone will die and return to dust. All is vanity, therefore man should recognize God's blessings and enjoy them.

Solomon looked around and he saw that ðunder the sunð men were oppressed by other men. Those who were oppressed had no comforter, and the oppressor had all the power (4:1). He concluded that the people who are freed from oppression by death are more fortunate than those who are living under the oppression (4:2).

He noticed that man can work and prosper, only for his neighbor to envy what he has worked for. All of this, he concludes, is vanity and a striving after wind (4:4). He decided that man is better off being content with a small amount of this world's goods and living in peace, than to have two handfuls of strife over what he has accumulated and striving after wind.

Another vanity that Solomon saw ðunder the sunð was the person who had no children or family. This person worked and worked, accumulating more and more of this world's goods, yet he was never satisfied. He had no one to leave his possessions to, and he never asked himself why he is working so hard to accumulate, while depriving himself (4:7).

Solomon concluded that man is better off with a companion. They can help one another, and when one falls the other will lift him up. Loneliness can be a deterrent to worshipping God.

He also decided that a poor, wise young person was better off than an old king who couldn't take advice. A young man may come from a poor background. This young man becomes the new king, and the people are happy to follow him. Then, later there will be a time when they are not happy with him as their king and they will reject him. These things too are vanity and striving after the wind (4: 15 ó 16).

As Solomon continued his instruction in Ecclesiastes, he gave advice on things to avoid in man's worship to God. He said that one should be careful when he goes into the house of God. God would rather you go with the intent to listen to instruction than for you to go with only the intent to offer a sacrifice ó fools do things like that (5:1).

Be careful what you say and let your words be few, because God is in heaven (5: 2 ó 3). When you make a vow to God, be sure to keep your vow. God has no pleasure in fools, and you're better off not making a vow than to make one and not keep it. A vow, made with no thought to keeping it, is vanity. You should fear God.

Solomon continued his instruction with advice on wealth and honor. He said that one should not be amazed when the poor are oppressed and denied justice and righteousness. The ones who oppress others will not get away with it, but they will answer to one higher than they (5:8).

The person who loves money will not be satisfied ó this is vanity. The more a man has, the more concerns he has about what he has. Yet, what can he do with it but look at it? The person who has little will sleep much better than the rich man.

Man can quickly lose his wealth through misfortune, and then he'll have nothing left to leave his son when he is gone. But, he came into this world without anything, and he'll take nothing with him when he dies. So, what gain is there to the man who toils? A man with much wealth has more to be concerned with than a poor man (5: 16 ó 17).

Man should enjoy the gifts that God has given him, but he should not depend on them. They are God's gift (5: 18 ó 20).

## QUESTIONS

1. What evidence in the book of Ecclesiastes tells us that Solomon is the author of the book? Eccl. 1:1, 12, 16; 2:9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Eccl. 1: 2 says, "...*vanity of vanities; all is vanity...*". What makes life on this earth vain, or full of vanity? Prov. 3: 5 ó 7 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Is there anything today (apart from inventions and technology) that has not happened in times past? Eccl. 1:10 \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the difference between wisdom òunder the sunö and wisdom òabove the sunö? James 3: 13 ó 17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How did Solomon try to discover the purpose of life? Eccl. 2: 3 ó 9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Solomon did whatever his heart desired, but when he considered all of it what satisfaction did he receive from it? Eccl. 2: 10 ó 11 \_\_\_\_\_
7. What conclusion did Solomon make about the blessings and pleasures of this life? Eccl. 2:24 (James 1:17) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What conclusion can we make about God and His plans for us from Ecclesiastes 3: 1 ó 8? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What are we to realize about God's will? Eccl. 3:14; Josh. 1: 7 ó 8; Rev. 22: 18 ó 19 \_\_\_\_\_
10. What will happen to all men and beasts upon the earth? Eccl. 3: 19 ó 20 \_\_\_\_\_
11. How would Solomon know about oppression talked about in Eccl. 4:1? I Kings 12:4; I Sam. 8: 11 ó 18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Explain Ecclesiastes 4: 5: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. What events in Solomon's own life might he have been referring to in Eccl. 4: 15 ó 16? I Kings 11:11, 13, 29, 35 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. What does this tell us about popularity? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. How can the òsacrifice of foolsö (Eccl. 5:1), be evil? Prov. 15:8; John 4: 24 \_\_\_\_\_
16. Does money and wealth satisfy? Eccl. 5:10 \_\_\_\_\_ Why? 5:11 (Prov. 23:5) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
17. What is the danger of loving money? I Tim. 6: 9 ó 10 \_\_\_\_\_
18. What do we need to realize about the possessions we accumulate here on earth? Eccl. 5: 15 ó 16; I Tim. 6: 7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
19. What are we to remember about wealth and possessions? Eccl. 5: 19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

20. What should be our attitude toward getting and accumulating wealth? Phil. 4: 11; I Tim. 6:8 \_\_\_\_\_

### APPLICATIONS

1. Are the lessons in Ecclesiastes applicable to us? \_\_\_\_\_ Do we need to try all the things that Solomon tried to learn about them and their dangers to us? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? (Eccl. 1:10) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who should look more attractive to us – a woman whose life is full of goodness and helpfulness, or a movie star, rock star, or socialite? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Sometimes girls find it easy to live up to what God wants, until they leave home or fall in love. What should we always remember? Ps. 73: 25 – 26; Ps. 27:1; Ps. 46:1; Col. 3: 1 – 2 \_\_\_\_\_

4. What did Solomon have to say about drinking strong drink? Prov. 23: 29 – 35 \_\_\_\_\_

Solomon said that he “*sought in my heart to give myself unto wine*” Eccl. 2:3. Does this give us an excuse to do the same? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

What picture does the world give us concerning drinking? (Think about the TV commercials that you have seen.) \_\_\_\_\_

What does the world not tell you about drinking? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Did all of Solomon’s wisdom bring him happiness? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Is life always fair? Eccl. 4:1; 5: 13 – 14; 2:11 \_\_\_\_\_  
Can man be happy even when life is unfair to him? \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMORY WORK

Eccl 5:2

**Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God.**

**For God is in heaven, and you on earth; therefore let your words be few.**

(NKJ)

United Kingdom, Part II  
LESSON 10 – Ecclesiastes (2)

**LESSON TEXT: Ecclesiastes 6 – 12**

**INTRODUCTION:** *In our last lesson we studied the first 5 chapters of Ecclesiastes; a book that analyzes life “under the sun”. We will finish the last 7 chapters in this lesson. Pay particular attention to Solomon’s conclusion of the book in chapter 12. It applies to every person.*

Solomon said that he saw another evil ðunder the sunö. God gives man wealth, possessions, and honor, yet man isn’t given the power to enjoy them, and a stranger enjoys them instead.

Man should enjoy what he has. It is not what a man has that counts, but his ability to enjoy what he has. A man may live to be old, but if he doesn’t learn to enjoy life’s blessings a stillborn child is better off than he is. All of this is vanity (6: 1 ó 6).

Man cannot know what is good for himself as he lives ðunder the sunö. His life is only as a few days, and he passes like a shadow.

Then, Solomon contrasted wisdom and folly. He said, ðA good name is better than a precious ointment.ö When a man has lived a good life, his influence lingers like the aroma of a precious ointment or perfume.

It is better to go to the house of mourning (or a funeral) than to the house of feasting ( or a party). The reason is because the funeral is the end of man, and those who are still living will lay it to heart. Sorrow is better than laughter, and the heart of the wise man is in the house of mourning. The heart of the foolish man is in the house of mirth (7: 1 ó 4).

Solomon said that it is better to hear rebuke of a wise person, because the laughter of fools is like burning thorns under a pot ó it doesn’t last long.

The end of a thing is better than the beginning. At the end of something we can form a right judgment about it and see its purpose (7:8).

Don’t be quick to become angry because anger will stay in the bosom of fools (7:9).

Don’t look with longing on former days and ask, ðWeren’t those days better than now?ö. To make such a comparison is not wise (7:10).

Having wisdom is an advantage to those who see the sun. Having wisdom protects us and preserves our lives (7: 11 ó 12). Wisdom gives more strength to a wise man than ten rulers give to a city (7:19). Solomon realized it was difficult to attain true wisdom (7: 23 ó 27), and that it is difficult to find even one man with wisdom (7: 28). But this is not God’s fault because God made man upright, and man is free to make his own choices (7:29).

Solomon gave advice about man’s relationship to civil government. He said that man should keep the king’s commands (or civil authority), because of his responsibility to God (8:2). Do not be part of a rebellion to civil authority, and realize that the king’s word is supreme (8:2 ó 4).

The man who keeps civil law will have a peaceable life (8:5). Those who fear God will do well, because even when faced with inequalities such as war, man is to realize that God is in control. It will be well with those who fear God, but it will not be well for the wicked (8: 6 ó 13).

Solomon said that there is a vanity on earth ó righteous people that have bad things happen to them, and wicked people that have good things happen to them. Therefore, realize that blessings come from God and enjoy them. Man can't figure out the work done ðunder the sun, for even a wise man can't figure it all out (8: 7 ó 17).

As Solomon studied all these things, he realized that the same event happens to everyone ó DEATH. But as long as a man lives, he has hope and opportunity to change his life, if it is not in accordance with God's will. The dead have no more reward on this earth. The memory of them is eventually forgotten by those living on earth, along with their love, hate and envy. They no longer have a part ðunder the sun (9: 1 ó 6).

Therefore, men should enjoy the good things that God has given him ðunder the sun. Whatever your hands find to do, you should do it with all your might, because after this life there will be no more working and planning.

Solomon also saw that ðunder the sun time and chance happen to everyone. The fastest person doesn't always win the race. The strongest person doesn't always win the battle. The most intelligent person doesn't always have the most riches. Man can't guarantee his own success.

Wisdom many times goes unrewarded in this life, yet it is still the best way (9: 13 ó 18).

Much good can be destroyed by only one sinner. Just like dead flies cause a perfumer's ointment to stink, folly can outweigh the good of wisdom and honor ( 9: 18 ó 10:1). A wise man's heart leads him to do what is right. But, a fool is known to everyone by his actions (10: 2 ó 3).

Solomon saw an evil ðunder the sun regarding rulers. Many times a fool is put into a high position, while servants ride on horses and princes have to walk on the ground like a slave.

There are situations that man should be cautious in and use care. Wisdom is an advantage for success, for what is the profit of wisdom if one doesn't use it (10: 8 ó 11)? The words of a wise man will win him favor, but a fool's words will destroy him (10: 12 ó 15).

Woe to the land that doesn't have a wise ruler, but a child (*someone young and inexperienced*). This kind of ruler neglects the needs of his kingdom and he thinks money will be the answer to every problem (10: 16 ó 19). Ill is brought to a nation by a bad ruler, however be careful what you say about the king, for someone may hear and tell what you have said (10: 19 ó 20).

Whatever you give to others, it will come back to you. Give of what you have because you don't know what will be in the future.

The person who observes how the wind blows will not sow his seed, and the one who observes the clouds in the sky won't reap the harvest. We don't know how God works, so sow your seed because you don't know what you will prosper. Rejoice in the years that you live, but remember that there will be some bad days (11: 1 ó 8).

Rejoice, young man, in your youth! But remember that God will bring into judgment all the things that you do. Remove evil from your life and body. Youth and childhood are vanity (11: 9 ó 10).

*(In the last chapter of Ecclesiastes, Solomon reaches his conclusions about life “under the sun”. This is advice we all should heed.)*

Remember your Creator in the days while you are young, before the days come when you will say, “I have no pleasure in them.” Remember Him before the days when your body becomes aged and declines. Before your body returns to dust and your soul goes back to God who gave it. “Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher, “All is vanity.”

The Preacher taught the people knowledge; he weighed and studied, arranging many proverbs with great care. The words of the wise are like goads prodding us to do right. Many books are written by men, but man should be admonished by reading God’s divine book.

The end of the matter is this: FEAR GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, FOR THIS IS THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN.

God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil (12: 1 ó 14).

### MEMORY WORK

**Eccl 5:2**

**Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God.  
For God is in heaven, and you on earth; therefore let your words be few.  
(NKJ)**

### QUESTIONS

1. Explain Ecclesiastes 6:12: *(James 4:14)* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why is it better to go to a funeral than to a party? Eccl. 7: 2 ó 4; II Cor. 12: 9 ó 10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What does wisdom give to those who have it? Eccl. 7: 12 \_\_\_\_\_
4. What two different days does God send man, and how should man approach each day? Eccl. 7:14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What does wisdom give to a wise man? Eccl. 7:19 \_\_\_\_\_
6. How are we to regard the laws of a king (or government)? Eccl. 8:2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Why? *(Rom. 13: 1 – 6)* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What same event happens to all men, whether they are good or evil? Eccl. 9: 2 ó 3 \_\_\_\_\_
8. What two things happen to all men? Eccl. 9:11 \_\_\_\_\_

9. What damage does sin and folly do? Eccl. 9: 18 ó 10:1 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. How does one recognize a fool? Eccl. 10: 2,3, 12-14, 15 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

11. How does one recognize a wise man? Eccl. 10: 2, 10, 12; 12: 11, 13 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

12. What can we not know? Eccl. 11:5 \_\_\_\_\_

13. What does man need to remember as he lives? Eccl. 11: 8 \_\_\_\_\_

What does this mean? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

14. How should man approach youth? Eccl. 11:9; 12:1 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

15. What should a young person remember? Eccl. 11: 9b \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

16. Ecclesiastes 12: 1 ó 7 gives a description of what happens to man's body as he grows old. Match the following:

HAIR	12:3 "...keepers of the house tremble..."
TEETH	12:3 "...the grinders cease because they are few..."
EYES	12:3 "...the strong men are bent..."
LEGS	12:3 "...those who look through the windows are dimmed..."
ARMS	12:5 "...the almond tree blossoms..."

17. What does Eccl. 12:5 "...they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way..." mean? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

18. What does Eccl. 12:7 refer to? \_\_\_\_\_

19. What is the whole duty of man? Eccl. 12:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Why? Eccl. 12:14 \_\_\_\_\_

**LESSON TEXT: Song of Solomon 1 – 8**

**Introduction:**

*The Song of Solomon is a love poem or song written by King Solomon. There are several interpretations of the book. One interpretation is that the Song of Solomon is an allegory of the love God had for Israel, or the love that Christ has for His church. Another interpretation is that the book is about the love between Solomon and his bride – a book of married love.*

*Another interpretation, and the one that we will take, is that the song is about a maiden who loves a shepherd. King Solomon brings the maiden to his palace and tries to woo her; however she loves her shepherd and chooses him instead of Solomon.*

*The book is about the kind of love that results in courtship, and moves a man and woman to desire marriage.*

*The characters of the Song are:*

- **Solomon** – *The king who can offer the young Shulamite maiden all the riches and luxuries that money can provide.*
- **The Shulamite maiden** – *Solomon sees her and brings her to his palace to win her love. However, she is in love with a shepherd.*
- **The Shepherd** – *The Shulamite maiden loves him and dreams of him. He is from the Shulamite town.*
- **The ladies of the harem or court** – *These are women in Solomon's harem. It seems they take care of the Shulamite maiden, and they do not understand why she would turn down an opportunity to be Solomon's wife.*
- **Narrator** – *This is one who gives the reader of the Song explanations or additional information.*
- **The Shulamite's brothers** – *They speak to the Shulamite maiden at the end of the song.*

*As you read the song, remember that it is nearly 3,000 years old. We cannot approach it with the same view of courtship that is used today because our view has been colored, in many ways, by the society in which we live.*

*The message of the book is that true love triumphs! When a man and woman truly love one another, they will cleave to one another, and no one can break them apart.*

*The book also teaches young people that they can remain pure and chaste until marriage.*

**As the Song begins**, the young Shulamite maiden desires her lover's kisses, but she has been brought to the palace by the king (1: 1 ó 4).

The Shulamite has ladies of the court who attend to her needs. Solomon woos her by using his wealth. He compliments her beauty. However, she doesn't love Solomon, she loves her shepherd. As Solomon woos her, she is thinking of the one she loves (1: 12 ó 14). She remembers how her shepherd complimented her (1:15), and she daydreams of being with him (1: 16 ó 17).

To the shepherd, she stands out from all other women (2:2).

The Shulamite maiden continues thinking of her shepherd (2: 3 ó 6), and she tells the ladies of the court "Do not stir up or awaken love until it pleases." (2:7).

The Shulamite maiden hears the words that her shepherd speaks to her, and she desires his protection as she dreams of him (2: 8 ó 17). As she dreams, she gets up and she seeks her lover, going into the streets to search for him (3: 1 ó 4). She tells the maidens again, "Do not stir up or awaken love until it pleases." (3:5).

The Narrator tells us that Solomon is coming with his mighty men (3: 6 ó 7). Solomon arrives in a carriage made of cedar, silver, gold and purple. He is wearing the crown that his mother has given him for the day of his wedding (3: 9 ó 11).

When Solomon sees the Shulamite maiden, he compliments her on her beauty (4: 1 ó 5).

But, the shepherd tells the Shulamite maiden that she has captivated *his* heart. Her lips are sweet as honey, and she is like a locked garden with precious fruits (4: 7 -15).

The Shulamite tells her shepherd that it is he that she wants to give herself to (4:16), and the shepherd tells her how happy he is to have her (5:1). He bids those who are there to come to the marriage feast.

The Shulamite maiden dreams of her shepherd. In her dreams she hears him knocking at the door, and she gets up hoping to see him. But, when she opens the door, he is not there. She searches for him in the city, but does not find him. The watchmen of the city do not know who she is, so when they see her in the streets they slap her and take her veil. But, she doesn't find her shepherd, and she is sick with love for him (5: 2 ó 8).

The ladies of the court ask the Shulamite maiden, "What is so special about your beloved. Why is he more special than anyone else?" (5:9).

So, the Shulamite maiden tells them how special her shepherd is (5: 10 ó 16). The ladies of the court ask, "Where has your beloved gone?" (6:1).

The Shulamite maiden replies, "He is in his garden (6:2-3).

Solomon compliments the Shulamite maiden again (6: 4 ó 9). The ladies of the court say how beautiful she is ó like an army with banners.

The Shulamite tells them that she has gone to the orchard to see the flowers there (6: 11- 12). The ladies of the court ask her to return (6:13). And the Shulamite maiden asks why they would want to look upon her (6:13b).

The ladies of the court describe her beauty to her (7: 1 ó 5).

Solomon tells her that he wants to claim her for his own (7: 6 ó 9a), but she tells him that she belongs to her beloved shepherd, and that he desires her (7: 9 ó 13). She wants her shepherd to take her away so that they can be married.

The Shulamite maiden tells her shepherd that she has longed for him (8: 1 ó 3). She tells the ladies of the court again ð Do not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.ö (8:4).

The young shepherd comes. He tells the Shulamite maiden of how he came to love her (8: 5 ó 7).

The Shulamite maiden's brothers are there and they speak up. They ask, ðWhat can we do for a little sister to protect her?ö (8: 8 ó 9).

The Shulamite maiden tells her brothers, ð I was like a wall ó strong.ö(8:10).

The Shepherd says, ðI have what is mine before me.ö (8: 10 ó 12).

The Shulamite calls for her love one to hurry! (8:14).

### QUESTIONS

1. Where did the king bring the Shulamite maiden to court her? 1:4 \_\_\_\_\_
2. How does the Shulamite maiden describe herself? 1:5-6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What did Solomon compare her to? 1:9 \_\_\_\_\_
4. As the king courts her, the Shulamite maiden smells the aroma of fragrance from the sachet that is between her breasts. Who does this make her think of? 1: 12 ó 14 \_\_\_\_\_
5. What does the shepherd compare the Shulamite maiden to? 2:2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What did the Shulamite maiden compare her shepherd to? 2:3 \_\_\_\_\_
7. What was the shepherd's manner toward the Shulamite maiden? 2:4 \_\_\_\_\_
8. Read 2: 8 ó 17 and give a brief description of how the Shulamite maiden feels about her shepherd: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What statement does she make to her court in 2:7; 3:5 and 8: 4? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. How does Solomon arrive for the wedding, and how is he arrayed? 3: 7 ó 11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What does Solomon compare her eyes to? 4:1 - 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Hair? \_\_\_\_\_  
Teeth? \_\_\_\_\_ Lips? \_\_\_\_\_  
Cheeks? \_\_\_\_\_ Neck? \_\_\_\_\_  
Breasts? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Does Solomon see any faults with the Shulamite maiden? 4:7 \_\_\_\_\_

13. What does Solomon compare her to? 4:12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. Who is the Shulamite thinking about as Solomon makes his comparison? 4:16b \_\_\_\_\_
15. Read 5: 2 ó 8 and give a brief description of the Shulamite's dream about her shepherd: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
16. What do the ladies of the court want to know? 5:9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
17. Read 5: 10 ó 16 and give the Shulamite's answer to the ladies of the court in one short sentence: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
18. Where is the Shulamite's shepherd? 6: 2 ó 3 \_\_\_\_\_
19. Is 6:4 a compliment from Solomon, or the shepherd? \_\_\_\_\_ How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
20. What do the ladies of the court praise her about in 7: 1 ó 5? \_\_\_\_\_
21. What does the Shulamite declare to Solomon in 7:10? \_\_\_\_\_
22. What does the Shulamite maiden say about love in 8: 6 ó 7? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
23. What two things do the Shulamite maiden's brothers compare their little sister to? 8:9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
24. What does the Shulamite maiden say she is? 8:10 \_\_\_\_\_
25. What does the shepherd mean when he says, *õMy own vineyard is before me...ö* 8:12? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
26. What does the Shulamite want her shepherd to do? 8:14 \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMORY WORK

Review and say from Memory:

**Psalms 119: 9 – 11; Job 23: 11- 12; Proverbs 23: 17 – 18; and Ecclesiastes 5:2**

## MEMORY WORK

Review and say from Memory:

**Psalms 119: 9 – 11; Job 23: 11- 12; Proverbs 23: 17 – 18; and Ecclesiastes 5:2**

Each Student is to take the subject assigned and give a 5 minute talk on her subject during the class period. Bible verses are provided, but you can add to these if you want to. (You do not have to use all the verses listed, but are encouraged to use as many as possible.) All of the verses listed are from the book of Proverbs.

**TRUTH:** Proverbs 12:17; 14:22; 8:1, 6 ó 7; 22: 17 ó 18, 21; 3: 3 ó 4; 14: 25; 16:6; 12:19; 6: 16 ó 19; 13:5; 29:24; 21:6; 19: 5, 9; 19:22

**FRIENDS:** Proverbs 12:26; 23: 24 ó 25; 17:9,17; 27:6, 9, 10, 17; 14:20; 19:4,6,7; 18:1; 16:28; 17:9; 20:19; 24: 21 -22, 28 - 29; 29:24; 25:17

**WORK (or labor):** Proverbs 27: 23 ó 27; 10:4 ó 5; 12:11; 13:11; 28:19; 12:24; 22:29; 16:26; 23:4 ó 5; 13:1; 14:23

**THE HEART :** Proverbs 23:7; 14:30;16:23; 18:15; 23: 17 ó 18, 22; 15:13, 15; 14:13; 27:19; 21:2; 20:27; 19:3; 17:20; 24: 17 ó 18

**THE POOR:** Proverbs 14: 20 ó 21; 22: 22 ó 23; 28: 8, 27; 29:13; 19:17; 14: 20 ó 21, 31; 14:31; 21:13; 22:9; 29:7; 18:23; 10:15; 19:4, 7; 22:7; 13:7

**INSTRUCTION:** Proverbs 22: 17 ó 21; 15: 5, 32 ó 33; 12:1; 19:20, 27; 23:12; 8:33; 1: 1 -3, 7-9; 4:1; 8:10; 5:13; 19:20; 13:1; 21:11; 9:9; 4:13

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