A

Bible Survey

A Three Year Course of Study for Adults

Section Six: The Wisdom Literature
Year 2, Quarter 2

Compiled by Gene Taylor
Preface

These lessons were first compiled over a three year period from April 1988 through March 1991. The then Westside church of Christ in Tallahassee, Florida (Now the Centerville Road church relocated to 4015 Centerville Road in Tallahassee) determined to place all their Sunday morning Bible classes on the Amplified Bible Curriculum (Hereafter referred to as ABC) developed by JoLinda Crump and Cathy Valdes.

While their curriculum recommended materials from preschool through senior high, we desired to place our college, young adult, and adult classes on the same schedule. The volume of material in L.A. Mott’s studies, recommended in the ABC for source material and lesson development, did not easily lend itself to a once a week study since he designed his lessons to be studied twice each week.

Considering these factors, I took it upon myself to compile these lessons. We used them successfully while cycling through the curriculum twice in our senior high, college, young adult, and adult classes from April 1988 through March 1994. They were edited and revised prior to the second study of them. They have been revised a second time and reformatted in 1997.

I have tried to parallel the ABC as much as possible so that adults and children would be studying the same lesson at the same time only on different levels. But this series, or any one of its twelve study guides, may be used independently.

Each lesson contains a schedule for daily Bible reading. It can be used as a format for family devotionals in the home even if the whole family is not on the curriculum.

I hope you enjoy your study.

Gene Taylor
July 1997
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Lesson One: Job

Lesson Text

Job 1:1 - 2:13

A Description of Job (1:1-5)
1. Describe the character and life of Job.
2. Why is it important to have the above description at the beginning of the book?

The Council in Heaven: Job’s Affliction Decreed (1:6-12)
3. Since the name “Satan” means “adversary,” why is it such an appropriate name for this character?
4. What important point lies in the fact that Satan had to come before God before he could do anything against Job?
5. What is Satan’s charge against Job?
6. Considering the nature of his trial, what of Job’s is being tested?

Job’s First Trial (1:13-22)
7. List, in order, the things that happened to Job in these verses. Did these things happen over a long or short period of time?
8. What was Job’s reaction to this trial?

Job’s Second Trial (2:1-10)
9. Since he is not willing to admit defeat, what further proposal does Satan make?
10. What additional affliction was put on Job?
11. How did Job’s wife become an additional trial to his faith? What could she have done instead? What should be the role of a wife in such circumstances?
12. What was Job’s attitude after this second trial?

The Three Friends (2:11-13)
13. Why did these men come to Job?
14. What was the reaction of these men upon arriving and seeing Job?
15. What conclusion did these men reach about Job’s suffering?

Daily Bible Reading

Monday
Job 1-3
Tuesday
Job 4-7
Thursday
Job 8-12
Friday
Job 13-16
Saturday
Job 17-20
1 Corinthians 10:13
James 1:13

Lesson Concept

FAITH
Strengthening faith through trials
Lesson Two: Job - II

God’s First Speech (38:1 - 40:5)
1. What is the general subject of this questioning directed at Job?

2. What is the purpose of the questioning? What, do you think, God wants to accomplish by it, i.e., what does He want Job to see?

3. What does the examination in chapters 38 and 39 cause Job to realize? (40:3-5)

God’s Second Speech (40:6 - 42:6)
4. What is the implied charge against Job? (40:6-9)

5. What challenge is put to Job? Why is he challenged in this way?

6. From 42:1-6:
   a. Summarize the state of mind to which Job had been reduced.
   b. What is the significance of the statement made in verse five?

The Latter End (42:7-17)
7. Why are the friends of Job condemned? In what way had they “not spoken of me [God] what is right?”

8. Do you think Job lived in Patriarchal or Mosaic times? Provide support for your answer.

9. What lessons does James 5:11 draw from this book?

10. Considering the entire book of Job, what is meant by “the patience of Job?”
Lesson Three: Psalms of Praise

Lesson Text

Psalms 100; 139; 148; 36; 45

Daily Bible Reading

Monday
Psalm 100

Tuesday
Psalm 139

Thursday
Psalm 148

Friday
Psalms 97 and 36

Saturday
Psalms 47 and 65

Lesson Concept

INSPIRED SCRIPTURES
Praising God

Psalm 100
1. How is God to be praised? By whom is God to be praised?

2. For what reason is God to be praised?

Psalm 139
3. What characteristics of God are emphasized in this psalm?

4. What effect do each of the characteristics of God you have listed above have on a person?

Psalm 148
5. Since this psalm calls upon the entire creation to praise God, what reasons does it give as to why He should be praised?

6. In what way(s) do such things as the sun, moon, stars, fire and hail, snow and vapor, stormy wind, etc., praise God?

Psalm 36
7. Summarize the main features in the character of the wicked set forth in verses one through four.

8. In contrast to the wicked, what characteristics of God stand out in verses five through nine?

9. How is the psalmist’s prayer (vv. 10-12) related to each of the preceding sections?

Psalm 65
10. In the following verses, find different functions of divinity for which God is to be praised.


b. Verses 5-8.

Lesson Four: Psalms of Guidance

Lesson Text

Psalms 23; 15; 125; 11; 133

Daily Bible Reading

Monday
Psalm 23

Tuesday
Psalm 15

Thursday
Psalm 125

Friday
Psalm 11
1 Corinthians 3:11-17

Saturday
Psalm 133
John 10:11
1 Peter 5:4

Lesson Concept

INSPIRED SCRIPTURES
Following God’s word for guidance

Psalm 23

1. In what way could God be described as a “shepherd?”

2. What is the meaning of the phrase “I shall not want” in relation to God as a shepherd?

3. What is the basic lesson this psalm teaches?

Psalm 15

4. Recalling the significance of the tabernacle, what is the significance of the question in verse one? How does such a question relate to us?

5. What characteristics are presented in this psalm of one who is fit to be in the presence of God? What promises are given to the one who is fit to be in God’s presence?

Psalm 125

6. To what does the psalmist liken those who trust in the Lord? Why?

7. What is the “scepter of wickedness?” (v. 3) Over what will it not be found?

8. What does the Lord do to those who are good? What is the fate of those who turn aside from the Lord and His ways?

Psalm 11

9. In whom is one to trust?

10. What does verse three mean by the statement “If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?”

11. What do the eyes of the Lord behold? What is God’s attitude toward the wicked?

Psalm 133

12. What is recommended in this psalm?

13. What are some of the “good” and “pleasant” consequences of brethren dwelling together in unity?
Lesson Five: Messianic Psalms

God’s Anointed
1. Describe the plot of the world rulers. Do you see evidence of a similar conspiracy among the people of today? What are the chances of such a plot succeeding?

2. What is meant by the phrase “His anointed” in verse two?

3. What New Testament application is made of verses one through three? (See Acts 4:23-28)

4. What is God’s reaction to the plot of the world rulers? Why does He laugh? Does the plot prevent Him from establishing His kingdom?


6. What advice is given at the close of the psalm?

Psalm 16: The Resurrection of the Christ

8. Discuss the extent to which this psalm applies to David himself. What in it goes beyond David’s experience so that it must be applied to him only as a type of the Messiah?

9. What can be learned from this psalm with regard to:
   a. Relationship with God?
   b. The value to be placed on God?

10. What is Sheol? Why would the soul of the “Holy One” not be left in it or allowed to “see corruption?”
Psalm 22: The Sufferings of the Christ and the Glories That Follow
11. Though this psalm deals with the suffering of David, since his sufferings are repeated with even greater intensity in Jesus Christ, compare the following verses in this psalm about the suffering of David with the New Testament passages that speak of the suffering of Jesus.

   a. Verse 1 with Matthew 27:46.
   c. Verse 8 with Matthew 27:43.
   f. Verse 22 with Hebrews 2:12.

11. Summarize, in your own words, the predominant theme of each of the two main parts of this psalm. (vv. 1-21 and vv. 22-31)

12. Relate the two parts of this psalm to 1 Peter 1:11.

Psalm 110: King and Priest
13. Point out the New Testament fulfillment of this psalm by comparing:


   b. Verse 4 with Hebrews 5:5-10 and Hebrews 7.

14. Discuss the significance of verses one through four and their application to Jesus Christ.
Lesson Six: Instructional Psalms

Lesson Text

Psalm 1: The Way of the Righteous
1. Describe the character of the righteous man as set forth in verses one and two.

2. Contrast the fate of the wicked to that of the righteous. What is the reason(s) for the difference between the fate of the wicked and that of the righteous?

Psalm 37: A Psalm for the Fretful

4. What reason is repeatedly given through this psalm as to why one need not fret because of evil-doers and why theirs is certainly not an enviable position?

5. What counsel is given in this psalm for one’s life in view of what may be expected from God?

Psalm 119: The Importance of God’s Word
6. Since this psalm teaches the importance of understanding the word of God, what do the following verses teach about understanding God’s word?

   a. Verse 34.
   b. Verse 73.
   c. Verse 144.
   d. Verse 104.
   e. Verse 130.

7. Seeing that this psalm teaches a number of principles of good Bible study, what do the following verses teach in respect to studying God’s word?

   a. Verse 15.
   b. Verse 16.
   c. Verse 97.
8. Since this psalm shows the word of God to be the answer to man’s problem with sin, what do the following verses teach about how God’s word can keep one from sinning?
   a. Verse 11.
   b. Verse 133.
   c. Verse 128.

Psalm 127: The Blessings From Following God
9. What seems to be the main point of verses one and two?

10. What is meant in verse two by the phrase “To eat the bread of sorrows?”

11. How are children “a heritage from the Lord?”

12. What is meant by the following phrases found in verse four?
   a. “Arrows in the hand of a warrior?”
   b. “Children of one’s youth?”

Psalm 128: The Blessings From Fearing God
13. What seems to be the overall theme of this psalm?

14. What illustrations are used to show how one who fears the Lord will be blessed?

15. Can any application be made of this psalm today?
Lesson Seven: Psalms of Nature

**Lesson Text**

**Psalm 19: God’s Works and Words**
1. List the two ways in which God has revealed Himself that this psalm sets forth.

2. Name the characteristics, values and uses of God’s law as found in verses 7 through 11.

3. Name and explain the two types of sins specified in verses 12 and 13.

4. Summarize the prayer of verses 12 through 14 in relation to what precedes it.

**Psalm 33: The Reign of God in His Creation**
5. How is the earth “full of the goodness of the Lord?” (v. 5)

6. How were the heavens made? How should the earth’s inhabitants respond to that fact?

7. What characteristics of God are emphasized in the following verses?
   a. Verses 10-12.
   c. Verses 15-17.
   d. Verses 18-19.

8. In what way is the Lord “our help and our shield?” (v. 20)

9. Upon whom does the mercy of the Lord rest? Why?

**Psalm 8: The Glory of God in His Creation**
10. According to this psalm, why is God worthy of praise?

11. What is it that makes man’s position such a marvel to the psalmist?

12. What is man’s position in relation to the rest of creation? How does this correspond with his God-given responsibilities in Genesis 1:26-28?
# Lesson Eight: Psalms of Repentance

## Lesson Text

### Psalms 6; 32; 38; 51

## Daily Bible Reading

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Psalm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Psalm 32</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Psalm 38</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Psalm 51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Psalms 102 and 130</td>
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## Lesson Concept

**INSPIRED SCRIPTURE**

Changing man’s relationship with God

## Psalm 6: A Prayer in Time of Adversity

1. Why was the psalmist seeking the mercy of God?

2. What is the primary meaning of verse five?

3. What, in the psalm, showed the psalmist to be suffering?

4. What resulted when the Lord heard this prayer?

5. How does this psalm illustrate an attitude of penance?

## Psalm 32: Rejoicing in Forgiveness

6. What is the theme of this psalm as set forth in verses one and two?

7. What were the results of the “silence” of verses three and four? Contrast the “silence” with the confession of verse five. Describe David’s state of mind during each of these periods.

8. What caused David to confess his sin? What does he recommend after finding forgiveness for himself?

9. How does God provide refuge? What are some results of that refuge?

10. What advice does David give to others in verses eight and nine?

11. What are some results of trusting in the Lord?

## Psalm 38: A Prayer of David in Time of Chastening

12. What is chastening? What did the psalmist desire concerning it?

13. What were the direct results of the Lord’s chastening?

14. Who were the psalmist’s enemies? What characteristics did they possess?

15. Since the psalmist regarded the Lord as the source of his chastening, does that mean that God is the source of man’s suffering? Explain.

16. How was the Lord his “salvation?”
Psalm 51: David's Prayer of Repentance

17. What prompted the writing of this psalm?

18. What is the chief lesson to be learned from this psalm?

19. What is meant in verse five when David says he “was brought forth in iniquity” and that “in sin” his mother conceived him?

20. What are some natural consequences of one who has been forgiven by God?
Lesson Nine: Child/Parent Relationships

Lesson Text


Daily Bible Reading

Monday
Proverbs 4:1-7

Tuesday
Proverbs 20:11

Thursday
Proverbs 1:7-10

Friday
Proverbs 6:16-23

Saturday
Proverbs 3:1-10

Wise Counsel From a Father to His Son (4:1-7)
1. What is implied in this chapter as to the responsibility of a father?

2. What does verse three suggest as to why parents teach and guide children as they do?

3. What one thing stands out as of such supreme importance that it must not be missed? Why?

Reputation Gained and Earned (20:11)
4. By what is a child known? Is this a fair measurement? Explain.

5. What relationship, if any, does the principle set forth by Jesus in Matthew 7:16 have with this passage? Explain.

A Warning to Listen to Parents and to Avoid Sinners (1:7-10)
6. How is “fear of the Lord...the beginning of knowledge?”

7. What is meant by the “instruction of a father” and the “law of a mother?” In what ways are they “an ornament on your head” and “chains about your neck?”

8. Why would one be “enticed” by sinners? What reason is given in this chapter for avoiding them?

The Need For a Child to Remember the Ways of the Lord (6:16-23)
9. Give, along with a brief summary of each, the seven things listed in these verses which are an abomination to God. Can any of these be applied to the way an adolescent typically views his parents? Explain.

10. In relationship to the commands of the law of God, what does it mean to:
   a. Bind them continually upon your heart?
   b. Tie them around your neck?

11. How will the commands of the Lord:
   a. Lead you when you roam?
   b. Keep you while you sleep?
   c. Speak with you when you awake?

Lesson Concept

INSPIRED SCRIPTURE
Building family love
12. How are “reproofs of instruction” (v. 23) the way of life?

**Wise Guidance For the Young (3:1-10)**

13. How do verses one and two relate to Exodus 20:12? Why does obedience to parents make life longer and better as a general rule?

14. List as many points as you can from verses 3 through 10 which define the proper relation to God?

15. What benefits come to the one who, in relation to God, lives right?

16. What are some differences between “wisdom” and ordinary human intelligence which are contrasted in verses five through eight? Why is it important to know those differences?
Lesson Ten: Purity

1. What good results can be expected from following “the way of wisdom?”

2. Summarize the instruction in “the way of wisdom” given in verses 14 through 17.

3. Discuss the wisdom of the above advice in light of verses 18 and 19.

4. Discuss the meaning and application of the wise counsel (vv. 20-27) with regard to:
   a. Heart.
   b. Mouth.
   c. Eyes.
   d. Feet.

Purity In Marriage (5:15-21)
5. What shows the complete folly of falling for the seductive woman of verse three? List the consequences of yielding to her seductions.

6. What is the divine alternative to being with the sinful woman?

7. Is the sexual relationship a sinful thing in itself? Is it something which cannot be enjoyed by God-fearing people? According to this chapter, where is the real joy to be found in these matters?

The Dangers of Adultery (6:25-33)
8. What results of sexual immorality are listed in this text? Give the meaning of each figure of speech used to describe them.

9. Summarize the differences in the contrast between a thief and an adulterer.

10. Since permanent physical and emotional scarring which Scripture compares to no other (1 Cor. 6:18) results, discuss some of the great damage that can be done by the sin of adultery.

The Way to Keep Morally Pure (7:1-5)
11. What is set forth in this passage that provides protection against sin?

12. What is the meaning of verse four?
Lesson Eleven: The Worthy Woman

Lesson Text
Proverbs 31:10-31

Daily Bible Reading

Monday
Proverbs 31:10-14

Tuesday
Proverbs 31:15-18

Thursday
Proverbs 31:19-23

Friday
Proverbs 31:24-27

Saturday
Proverbs 31:28-31

Lesson Concept

INSPIRED SCRIPTURE
Describing a virtuous woman

1. List all the phrases which describe the worthy woman’s care of her family.

2. List all the phrases which describe the worthy woman’s personality traits.

3. List all the phrases which describe the worthy woman’s attitude toward herself.

4. What are the implications of this passage for a young woman?

5. What are the implications of this passage for an older woman?

6. What are the implications of this passage for a young man of marriageable age who ought to consider “What am I looking for in a woman?”

7. What are the implications of the passage with regard to an older, married man who has such a wife as is described in this passage?
Lesson Twelve: The Whole (Duty) of Man

Lesson Text
Ecclesiastes 1:1 - 12:14

Daily Bible Reading

Monday
Ecclesiastes 1-2

Tuesday
Ecclesiastes 3-4

Thursday
Ecclesiastes 5-7

Friday
Ecclesiastes 8-9

Saturday
Ecclesiastes 10-12

Lesson Concept

Introduction (1:1-11)
1. What basic view of the world is set forth in these verses?

2. Explain the word “vanity?”

The Pursuit of Wisdom and Knowledge (1:12-18)
3. According to these verses, for what was the writer of the book looking?
   To what extent did he go in his investigation? What were his results?

The Pursuit of Pleasure and Wealth (2:1-11)
4. What was the author now testing? For what was he striving? What did he want to find out?

5. How is the thoroughness of his quest brought out? What conclusion was reached?

An Evaluation: Wisdom and Folly (2:12-17)
6. What is the author’s comparative evaluation of wisdom and folly?

7. Why is even wisdom not ultimately satisfying?

An Evaluation: Human Labor (2:18-23)
8. Why does the author see that hard work and accumulation of wealth on the part of a wise man does not provide ultimate satisfaction?

One’s Dependence on God For the Ability to Enjoy Life (2:24-26)
9. What is set forth in these verses as being necessary to the enjoyment of life?

Man in Relation to an Overruling Divine Providence (3:1-15)
10. What is meant by the statement in verse one, which is elaborated in verses two through eight, that there is a time for everything?

11. What characteristics of divine providence are set forth in verses 11 through 14?
12. With God having such control as set forth in this passage, what would seem to be essential to human happiness in the world?

The Problem of Injustice in the World (3:16-22)
13. What confidence does the believer have to keep him from being overwhelmed with frustration over the problem of injustice?

14. What divine purpose is seen in such world conditions as described in verse 16?

15. In what way are people like beasts?

Illustrations of the Vanity of Earth Life (4:1 - 6:12)
16. Describe the author’s treatment of the following by explaining each.
   a. The futility of earthly endeavor. (4:4-6)
   b. The futility of the acquisition of wealth. (4:7-12)
   c. The vanity of the quest for high position. (4:13-16)
   d. The warning against vanity in religion. (5:1-7)
   e. The vanity of riches. (5:10-20)
   f. The possession of wealth without the enjoyment of it. (6:1-6)
   g. The insatiability of human desire. (6:7-9)
   h. Man’s limitations. (6:10-12)

Wise Counsel For Living in a World of Vanity (7:1 - 12:14)
17. Summarize the three comparisons made in 7:1-10 as to some things which were “better.” Why are these things to be considered better?

18. Of what value is wisdom? (See 7:11-12) Why, according to 7:13-14, is complete understanding beyond man’s reach?

19. Summarize the findings of the author’s search for wisdom. (See 7:27-29)

20. What is the wise person’s position in relation to government? (See 8:2-8)

21. List two points that a wise person must realize with regard to the work of God under the sun. (See 8:16 - 9:1)

22. Discuss the author’s observations which caused him to see two points with regard to wisdom as it bears on life. (See 9:13-16)

23. What view of life is taken in 11:1-8? What does the writer recommend as to how life should be approached? Give details to support your answer.

24. What reason is given in 11:9-12:8 as to why one should begin early in life to serve God?

25. What is the author’s final conclusion on life and living? Why is this a valid conclusion?
Lesson Thirteen: The Song of Solomon

Lesson Text

Song of Solomon
1:1 - 8:14

Daily Bible Reading

Monday
Song of Solomon 1

Tuesday
Song of Solomon 2-3

Thursday
Song of Solomon 4-5

Friday
Song of Solomon 6-7

Saturday
Song of Solomon 8

1. Very briefly describe the theme of this book.

2. What do you think is the possible connection of this book with the other books in the Bible, i.e., why do you think it is included in Scripture?

3. What lessons did Solomon learn which he tries to teach in this song?

4. What do verses six and seven of chapter eight teach about love and the person one marries?

5. How different are lust and love? Which one gives fulfillment? Explain.

6. What applications can be made of the teachings of the Song of Solomon today?

Lesson Concept

INSPIRED SCRIPTURE
Committing yourself in marriage
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