

THE UNITED KINGDOM: THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE NATION

1 Samuel 1 - 1 Kings 10; 1 Chronicles 1 - 2 Chronicles 9

After about 300 years, during which the four-fold cycle of sin, punishment, repentance, and restoration was repeated seven times, the rule of the Judges came to an end. Read about the close of this era and the bright days which followed:

A. The Last of the Judges: Read 1 Samuel 2-8

1. Whose sin brought the judgment of God against Israel at the end of the era of the Judges? 1 Samuel 2:11-12, 23-24

2. What enemies did God permit to conquer the Israelites in battle? 1 Samuel 4:10

3. What was Samuel's position among the people at this time? 1 Samuel 3:20-21

4. What did he tell the people they must do to be delivered from their enemies? 1 Samuel 7:3

5. After Samuel became old, what did the people ask him to do for them? 1 Samuel 8:5

B. The First King: Read 1 Samuel 8:7-15:28

1. Why did God say the people wanted a king at this time? 1 Samuel 8:7b

2. For what was Saul, the first king, noted? 1 Samuel 9:2, 16:7

3. Why did God say his family could not continue being kings over Israel? 1 Samuel 15:22-23, 26, 28

C. The Second King:

1. What kind of person was David, the second king? 1 Samuel 13:14

2. What city did he conquer and make the capital of his nation? 2 Samuel 5:6-7, 5

3. What very important item did he then move to this city? 2 Samuel 6:2, 15, 17

4. What was the great desire of David's heart? 1 Chronicles 17:1, 28:2

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5. Why did God say he might not do what he wished? 1 Chronicles 28:3

6. What did God promise him instead? 1 Chronicles 28:5-6

7. What was one of David's chief contributions to the greatness of his nation? 2 Samuel 8:1a, 2a, 3a, 5, 14

8. What was the real secret of David's success? 2 Samuel 5:10, 8:6, 8:14

D. The Third King:

1. For what was Solomon, the third king, noted above all else? 1 Kings 3:12, 4:29-34

2. What was Solomon's greatest contribution to this nation? 1 Kings 5:3, 5

3. For what else was Solomon also noted? 1 Kings 10:23

4. From whom did Solomon receive all that he had? 1 Kings 3:5-13

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What caused the difference in the nation Israel between the days of the Judges and the reigns of David and Solomon?

2. How can I have golden days full of good things, rather than dark days full of evil? Psalm 84:11, Psalm 34:10.

THE WRITINGS OF DAVID

Although Saul was the first king of Israel's "Golden Age", he wrote no literature to immortalize his reign. It was not until the reign of David, the second king, that the literature of the kingdom period began to be written. Most of David's writings are found in the book of Psalms, often called "the Hymnbook of Israel." As you study some of these writings, notice how each piece grew out of some personal experience of David's, and reflects his innermost thoughts and emotions at this time.

DAVID'S LESSONS FROM NATURE

Psalms 8 and 19

Although we are not sure at what time in David's life many of the Psalms were written, Psalms 8 and 19 seem definitely to have grown out of his outdoor experiences, possibly during his early life. Study them in this connection now:

A. David's Earliest Experiences: Read 1 Samuel 16

1. For what reason did God choose David to be king? 1 Samuel 16:7b and THINK!

2. What was David doing when he was called to be anointed as king? 1 Samuel 16:11

3. What happened to David as soon as he was anointed to be king? 1 Samuel 16:13b

4. For what ability was David noted during his early years? 1 Samuel 16:14-18

5. What was he chosen to do because of this ability? 1 Samuel 16:19-23

B. Psalm 8: Read in its entirety before answering these questions:

1. About Whom was David thinking as he wrote this Psalm? Psalm 8:1, 9

2. Where was he looking? Psalm 8:1b, 3

3. What time of day was it? Psalm 8:3 and THINK!

4. What question came into his mind as he continued looking in this direction? Psalm 8:3-4

5. How do you think he felt in comparison with all he saw? Psalm 8:3-4

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6. Yet, what position had been given to him (and all mankind) by God? Psalm 8:5

7. From Whom had David received the right to be a shepherd? Psalm 8:6-8

8. To Whom must he give glory again as he concluded this Psalm? Psalm 8:9

C. Psalm 19: Read this Psalm in its entirety before answering these questions:

1. Where was David looking as he wrote this Psalm? Psalm 19:1 (Look up the word “firmament” in a dictionary)

2. How far could the glories of the heavens be seen? Psalm 19:3-4a

3. Can you tell what time of the day it was? Psalm 19:4b

4. To what two things did David compare the sun? Psalm 19:5-6

5. As David looked at God’s perfect works in nature, of what other perfect thing did it remind him? Psalm 19:7

6. Notice the many similar thoughts which describe God’s law: Psalm 19:7-11

7. When David thought of God’s perfect works and words, of what did it remind him? Psalm 19:12a

7. What did he do as a result? Psalm 19:12b-14

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What was the main lesson that David learned from nature? See Romans 1:19-20

2. Have I developed the habit of thinking about the things I see, and of learning lessons from them?

DAVID'S LESSONS FROM HIS SHEPHERD LIFE

Psalm 23

Although it is not certain just when David wrote Psalm 23, it is certain that he began early to learn the lessons set forth in this Psalm. Read of one experience which helped prepare him for writing the Psalm, and then study the Psalm itself:

A. David's Experiences As a Youth: Read 1 Samuel 17

1. Why did David leave the house of Saul where he had been harp player and armor bearer? 1 Samuel 17:15

2. Why did he later return to where Saul was? 1 Samuel 17:17-19

3. What happened shortly after he arrived? 1 Samuel 17:23, 1-13

4. How long had this been going on? 1 Samuel 17:16

5. How did Saul and all the soldiers of Israel feel because of this? 1 Samuel 17:11, 24

6. When David heard this, what was his main concern? 1 Samuel 17:26b

7. What did he offer to do? 1 Samuel 17:32

8. In whose power was he trusting as he made this offer? 1 Samuel 17:37a, c

9. What part of his life had helped prepare him for this moment? 1 Samuel 17:34a

10. What experience had he had then that gave him confidence now? 1 Samuel 17:34-37

11. What did David want to prove by his fight with the Philistine? 1 Samuel 17:46b

12. What was the result of David's trust in God? 1 Samuel 17:49-53

B. Psalm 23: Read this Psalm through carefully. Then answer these questions:

1. What was the chief overall duty of a shepherd? Psalm 23:1b

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2. What specific needs of the sheep are suggested by the following words?
 - a. "green pastures" _____
 - b. "still waters" _____
 - c. "lie down" _____
 - d. "he leadeth me" _____
 - e. "thou art with me" _____
 - f. "in the presence of mine enemies" _____

1. Do you think David as a shepherd felt obligated to meet all of these needs for his sheep?

4. What specific enemies did David's sheep have? See 1 Samuel 17:34-36

5. How many of the above needs of a sheep did David himself have?

6. Did he feel that he had to meet these needs himself?

7. Whose duty did he feel it was to meet these needs for him? Psalm 23:1a

8. Did he believe that these needs would be met? Psalm 23:1b

9. How long did he feel that he could count on the supply of his needs? Psalm 23:6

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Do I learn lessons about the Lord from my daily work, as David did?

2. Have I learned to rest in the Lord, confident that He will meet every need of mine? Or do I struggle and strive, trying to meet them myself - afraid that they will not be met? See Philippians 4:19.

DAVID'S ATTITUDE WHEN PURSUED BY SAUL

These two Psalms express very wonderful lessons which David learned, probably in connection with his being pursued by Saul. Review the historical events of this part of David's life, and then study the Psalms themselves:

A. Saul's Relationships with David: 1 Samuel 18 - 26

1. How had Saul felt toward David when he first met him? 1 Samuel 16:21

1. What position did Saul give David after he killed the giant? 1 Samuel 18:5b

2. What did the women say about David's victory over the giant? 1 Samuel 18:7

4. How did Saul feel about this? 1 Samuel 18:8

5. What did Saul try to do to David after this time? 1 Samuel 18:10-11, 19:1-7, 19:8-10, 19:11-17, 23:7-8

6. How did David respond when he had opportunity to kill Saul? 1 Samuel 24 and 26 (Read all of these two chapters)

7. Why did David say he could not kill Saul? 1 Samuel 24:6, 10b, 26:9, 11

8. Whom did David trust to solve this great problem? 1 Samuel 26:10

B. Psalm 27:

1. Read through this whole Psalm, and tell when you think David might have written it.

2. How had David felt all the time he was being chased by Saul? Psalm 27:1

3. Why had he been able to feel this way? Psalm 27:1

1. What happened to his enemies each time they tried to kill him? Psalm 27:2

5. Even when the armies of Saul came against David, how did he feel? Psalm 27:3

6. What happened each time his enemies were about to catch him? Psalm 27:5

7. What did David want to do as a result? Psalm 27:6b

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8. What else did David do at this time? Psalm 27:7-12

9. What did David say was the secret of his calmness and strength during this time? Psalm 27:13

10. What was his advice to others who might be in the same kind of circumstances? Psalm 27:14

C. Psalm 37:

1. Read this entire Psalm, and try to discover when David wrote it.

2. What was David's main advice in this Psalm? Psalm 37:1, 7b

3. What did David say would eventually happen to all who do evil? Psalm 37:2, 9-10, 12-15, 17, 20, 35-36, 38

4. What was David's advice to others in this connection? Psalm 37:3-5, 7

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. How do I feel in the midst of my great problems?

2. Have I learned to wait for God to solve my problems, or do I rush ahead and try to work things out for myself? Romans 12:19, Psalm 37:7, Psalm 27:14

DAVID'S LAMENTATION OVER SAUL AND JONATHAN

2 Samuel 1

Perhaps nowhere is the true heart attitude of David revealed so well as in his friendship with Saul's son, Jonathan, and in his reaction to the death of his enemy, Saul. Review these historical events, and then study David's final tribute to his best friend and his worst enemy:

A. David's Friendship with Jonathan: 1 Samuel 18 - 23

1. How did Jonathan feel about David as soon as he came to the palace after killing the giant? 1 Samuel 18:1

2. What did Jonathan do to David to prove his love? 1 Samuel 18:3-4

3. What did Jonathan do when he learned that Saul was trying to kill David?
 - a. 1 Samuel 19:2-3 _____
 - b. 1 Samuel 19:4-7 _____
4. When Jonathan later helped David escape from Saul, what did David promise him? 1 Samuel 20:14-17

5. What did Jonathan and David do when they knew that David must leave to flee from Saul? 1 Samuel 20:30-34, 41-42

6. What did Jonathan do while David was in hiding from Saul? 1 Samuel 23:16

7. How did Jonathan feel about David's replacing his father as king? 1 Samuel 23:17-18

B. The Death of Saul and Jonathan: Read 1 Samuel 31

1. What happened when the Philistines came against Saul and Israel? 1 Samuel 31:1

2. What happened to Jonathan and his brothers? 1 Samuel 31:2

3. What happened to Saul? 1 Samuel 31:3

4. What did Saul then do to himself? 1 Samuel 31:4b

5. What did the Philistines later do to Saul? 1 Samuel 31:8-10

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6. Who came and took the bodies of Saul and his sons from the Philistines? 1 Samuel 31:11-13
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C. David's Lamentation Over Saul and Jonathan: Read 2 Samuel 1

1. Who brought David news of the death of Saul and Jonathan? 2 Samuel 1:8, 13
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2. What had he done to Saul after Saul fell on his own spear? 2 Samuel 1:6-10
-
3. How did David and his men feel when they heard this news? 2 Samuel 1:11-12
-
4. What did David do to the man who had killed Saul? 2 Samuel 1:13-16
-
5. How did David describe Saul and Jonathan? 2 Samuel 1:19, 27
-
6. Why did David so greatly regret that Saul had died? 2 Samuel 1:21b
-
7. In spite of all Saul had done to David, what did David say of him? 2 Samuel 1:23
-
8. What was David's final tribute to Jonathan? 2 Samuel 1:26b
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QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Was there any real difference between David's heart attitude toward Jonathan and his heart attitude toward Saul?
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2. Do I love my enemies as much as I love my friends? Do I regret their misfortunes as much? See Matthew 5:43-48.
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DAVID'S LIFE ATTITUDE

Psalms 63, 40, 34, and Others

Both during the time that David was in hiding from Saul, and after he learned that Saul and his sons had been killed, David's actions revealed his basic attitude of life. Read the following to see what this life attitude was, and how it is expressed in many of his writings:

A. David's Attitude When Hiding From Saul: Read 1 Samuel 23:1-14

1. What did David do when he heard that the Philistines were fighting against the Israelite city of Keilah? 1 Samuel 23:2a

2. When David's men were afraid to obey the Lord's instructions, what did David do? 1 Samuel 23:4a

1. Notice the result of David's action. 1 Samuel 23:5b

4. When David heard that Saul was coming to capture him, what did he do? 1 Samuel 23:10-11

5. Notice the results of this in 1 Samuel 23:13a, 14.

B. David's Attitude After Saul's Death: Read 2 Samuel 2:1-11

1. What was the first thing that David did after mourning over Saul's death? 2 Samuel 2:1a

2. How did David know to which city of Judah he should go? 2 Samuel 2:1b

3. What happened as a result? 2 Samuel 2:4a

4. What took place in Israel after this? 2 Samuel 2:8-10, 3:1

5. After Ish-bosheth was killed 7 ½ years later, what happened? 2 Samuel 5:1-5

6. Notice how David won one of his earliest battles as king: 2 Samuel 5:17-25

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C. Psalm 63: Read this entire Psalm, noticing how the above attitude is reflected.

1. Copy the clauses which show David's intense desire for God:
 - a. Psalm 63:1a _____
 - b. Psalm 65:1b _____
 - c. Psalm 63:1c _____
 - d. Psalm 63:8a _____
2. When did David especially think of God? Psalm 63:6

3. What were two great results of such an attitude? Psalm 63:5a-b

D. Psalm 40: Read this Psalm in its entirety.

1. What was another very important result of David's life-attitude? Psalm 40:1b, 2

2. What did David say all those who seek the Lord should do? Psalm 40:16

E. Psalm 34: Read this Psalm in its entirety.

1. For what thing did David praise God over and over again in this Psalm? Psalm 34:4, 6, 7, 17, 19

2. What great reward of those who seek God is mentioned here? Psalm 34:10

F. Other Psalms:

1. So prominent is this theme of David's seeking God that it is found in many other Psalms also. See especially Psalm 3:4, 4:1, 8, 5:1-3, 27:4, 8

2. Some of the actual prayers of this period of David's life are recorded for us in Psalms 52, 54, 56, 57, and 59. You may wish to read these.

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What is the chief difference between David's life-attitude and my own?

2. Does God mean so much to me that I seek Him constantly - in each problem, before each decision, and just for communion and fellowship? See Isaiah 55:6, I Chronicles 22:19a, Jeremiah 29:13, Hebrews 11:6b.

DAVID'S ATTITUDE TOWARD PUBLIC WORSHIP

Psalm 24, 105, 96, 106

From the very beginning of David's reign, his attitude toward public worship began to be revealed. Read to see what this attitude was, and what it caused him to do:

A. David's Provision for Israel's Worship: Read 1 chronicles 13:1-4, 15:1-28

1. What was one of the first things that David wanted to do after he became king in Jerusalem? 1 Chronicles 13:1-3

2. What happened the first time he tried this? 1 Chronicles 13:7, 9-10

3. Why did David say this had happened? 1 Chronicles 15:2 (See Numbers 4:2, 15)

4. When the people again assembled to bring the ark to Jerusalem, what did David ask the Levites to do in honor of this occasion? 1 Chronicles 14:16

5. What were some of the musical instruments which were used at this time? 1 Chronicles 14:28

B. Psalm 24:

1. Many think this was one of the songs sung as the ark was brought into Jerusalem. As you read it, try to see in your mind's eye the procession carrying the ark. About Whom do they sing first? Psalm 24:1-2

2. What incident that had happened before this might have caused them to sing the words in verse 3?

3. What do you think each person in the procession would be thinking of as he sang verse 4?

4. Where do you think the procession had arrived by the time they began verse 7?

1. As you read verses 7-10, imagine what the song would have sounded like if there had been two groups of singers: one, representing the bearers of the ark, who gave the command; the second, representing the gatekeepers of Jerusalem, who asked the question; after which the first group gave the majestic answer. (Note: We do not know exactly how the song was sung.)

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C. David's Beautification of Israel's Worship: Read 1 Chronicles 16:1-43

1. After the ark was set up in its place, what did David ask some of the Levites to do continually? 1 chronicles 16:4-6

2. What else did David do on that day? 1 chronicles 16:7

3. Compare 1 Chronicles 16:8-22 with Psalm 105:1-15. Do you see any resemblance?

4. Compare 1 Chronicles 16:23-33 with Psalm 96:1-13. Is there a resemblance?

5. Compare 1 Chronicles 16:35-36 with Psalm 106:47-48. Are they alike?

6. Probably the Psalm written first for this one occasion was later broken up into several parts suitable for permanent use in the nation's worship. What was the primary purpose of this Psalm? 1 Chronicles 16:7b

7. When David saw the ark of God in the tent which he had set up for it, what desire did it arouse within him? 1 Chronicles 17:1, 28:2

8. Although God said he might not do this, what did David do before his death? 1 Chronicles 22:1-5

9. David also organized the priests and Levites and gave them new duties, since they no longer had to carry the Tabernacle. Notice how he organized the singers and musicians, 1 Chronicles 25:1-7. What were the "songs of the Lord" which they were taught to sing?

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What was David's real heart attitude toward public worship? See Psalm 122:1

2. Do I really love public worship? Have I done all in my power to make it possible (and beautiful) - both for myself, and for others?

DAVID'S GREAT WARS

Psalm 18

Next to David's great spiritual leadership, perhaps his greatest single contribution to the nation Israel was his conquest of the surrounding nations, resulting in the geographical expansion of the nation. Read below about these conquests, and the literature which David wrote as a result of them:

MAP 7: THE EMPIRE OF DAVID AND SOLOMON, ILLUSTRATING 2 SAMUEL - 2 CHRONICLES

A. David's Geographical Conquests: Read 2 Samuel 8

1. On the map to the left, notice the size of Israel when the tribes were first given their territories. Then list the nations conquered by David, locating each on the map:

- a. 2 Samuel 8:1 _____
- b. 2 Samuel 8:2 _____
- c. 2 Samuel 8:3 _____
- d. 2 Samuel 8:5 _____
- e. 2 Samuel 8:14 _____
- f. 2 Samuel 10:14 _____

2. Who helped David in conquering all these nations? 2 Samuel 23:8-39

1. What was the real secret of all David's victories? 2 Samuel 5:10, 8:6, 14

2. What did David do after had had won all his battles? 2 Samuel 22:1

5. Compare 2 Samuel 22 with Psalm 18. What do you notice about them?

B. Psalm 18:

1. In this Psalm, what did David call the Lord? Psalm 18:1-2

2. When ungodly men made David afraid, what did he do? Psalm 18:4-6

3. Read the description of what took place as a result of this in Psalm 18:7-16. What was the main thing God did for David? Psalm 18:17

4. Why did God do this? Psalm 18:20-24

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5. To whom did David give credit for all that he had done for Israel? Psalm 18:29, 32, 34, 35, 39, 43, 47, 48

6. What great fact had David learned about God as a result of all his wars? Psalm 18:30a

7. What had David learned that God would do for him? Psalm 18:32b (See also Psalm 138:8a)

8. What did David do as a result of all God had done for him? Psalm 18:49

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What was the secret of David's greatness - in character and in accomplishments? Psalm 18:32

2. Who deserves credit for all my accomplishments? Who gets this credit?

DAVID'S GREAT SIN

Psalms 51 and 32

In spite of David's great love for the Lord and his usual attitude of complete trust in Him, there came a time when he was tempted and sinned greatly. Read about this sin, and the literature which was written as a result of it:

A. David's Sin: Read 2 Samuel 11:1 - 12:14

1. Which of God's ten commandments did David break? 2 Samuel 11:1-4 (See Exodus 20:14)

2. When David found out that his sin would be discovered, what did he try to do? 2 Samuel 11:5-13 (See Proverbs 28:13a)

3. When this failed, what did David do? 2 Samuel 11:26-27a

4. Then what did David do? 2 Samuel 11:26-27a

5. How did God feel about what David had done? 2 Samuel 11:27b

6. Whom did God send to help David realize the awfulness of his deeds? 2 Samuel 12:1-9

7. What did God have to do to David because of his sin? 2 Samuel 12:10-14

B. Psalm 51:

1. When was this Psalm written? See the title of the Psalm.

2. In this Psalm, what did David ask God to do? Psalm 51:1-2

3. How did David feel about his sin? Psalm 51:3-4

4. What did David realize after this sin? Psalm 51:6

5. What confidence did David have, even though he had sinned? Psalm 51:7

6. What did he ask God to do for him? Psalm 51:12a

7. What did he promise to do after this? Psalm 51:13

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8. What kind of sacrifice did God most want from David after this sin? Psalm 51:16-17
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C. Psalm 32:

1. Read Psalm 32:1-5. When do you think this Psalm was written?

2. What kind of man did David say is blessed? Psalm 32:1-2

3. What happened to David when he kept silence after his sin? Psalm 32:3-4

4. What happened when he acknowledge and confessed his sin? Psalm 32:5

5. What did David say God would give to him after this? Psalm 32:7b

6. What warning did David give to other after this? Psalm 32:8-10

7. How do you think David felt after his sin was forgiven? See Psalm 32:11

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Was David happier before he confessed his sin or afterwards?

2. Have I allowed God to show me every sin of mine, so that I could confess it and forsake it? Or is some sin still “hidden” in my inward parts? See Proverbs 28:13.

DAVID'S THOUGHTS ABOUT GOD

Psalm 139

Certainly David learned much about God through his great sin and the events which followed it. It may well have been after this experience or one similar to it that he wrote Psalm 139, which we now study:

A. The Extent of God's Knowledge: Read Psalm 139:1-6

1. Whom has God searched and known? Psalm 139:1

2. What two every common acts of ours does God see and know? Psalm 139:2a

3. What times of day does God watch us? Psalm 139:3a and THINK!

4. What three parts of our daily lives does God see and understand completely? Psalm 139:2b, 3b, 4

3. In what three directions has God enclosed or surrounded us? Psalm 139:5

6. Can human beings understand fully God's knowledge? Psalm 139:6

B. The Extent of God's Presence: Read Psalm 139:7-12

1. What three places might people try to go to escape from god? Psalm 139:8-9

2. What would they find in each of these places? Psalm 139:8, 10

3. What do people often feel hides their evil deeds from discovery? Psalm 139:11a

4. Can this ever hide anything from God? Why? Psalm 139:11b-12

5. What is the extent of God's presence?

6. How does this fact make one feel if he does not know and love God?

7. How does it make those feel who DO know and love God?

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C. The Extent of God's Power: Read Psalm 139:13-18

1. What supreme illustration of God's power is described here? Psalm 139:13-16

2. Look up the word "reins" in a dictionary. What part of us does God own? Psalm 139:13a

3. Why is this true? Psalm 139:13b-14

4. When did God begin to see us, and know all about us? Psalm 139:15-16

5. How many thoughts has God had toward each of us? Psalm 139:17-18

6. Is there any limit to God's power?

D. The Extent of God's Righteousness: Read Psalm 139:19-24

1. Could such a God as this overlook the wickedness of men?

2. What will He do to those who continue to disobey Him? Psalm 139:19-20

3. How does one who loves God feel toward such people? Psalm 139:21-22, 19b

4. What will he continually ask God to do, lest he become like them? Psalm 1139:23-24a

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What feelings do these wonderful thought about God arouse within me - love, admiration, and awe? Or uneasiness, fear, and terror?

2. Do I willingly bare my heart and soul daily to the all searching eye of God? Do I confidently rest in the fact that I can never wander beyond the limits of His love and care?

DAVID'S PRAISE TO GOD

Psalm 103

Of all the Psalms which show David's praise to the Lord, perhaps this is the most joyful. Study it as an example of the many of this type:

A. The Call to Praise: Read Psalm 103:1

1. Upon whom did David call to bless the Lord?

2. With how much of his being did David desire to bless the Lord?

B. The First Cause for Praise: Read Psalm 103:2-5

1. What is the first great reason David would bless the Lord? Psalm 103:2

2. List some of the benefits for which David praised the Lord:

a. Psalm 103:3a _____

b. Psalm 103:3b _____

c. Psalm 103:4a _____

d. Psalm 103:4b _____

e. Psalm 103:5a _____

f. Psalm 103:5b _____

C. The Second Cause for Praise: Read Psalm 103:6-10

1. For what great characteristic of God did David praise Him next? Psalm 103:6a

2. How is this Characteristic shown toward those who are oppressed? Psalm 103:6b

3. What is one great example of those to who God revealed this trait? Psalm 103:7

4. Notice the two sides to God's righteousness:

a. Psalm 103:8: On the one hand, He is _____

b. Psalm 103:9: But on the other hand, He _____

5. Although God is righteous, for what other great fact did David praise Him? Psalm 103:10

D. The Third Cause for Praise: Read Psalm 103:11-14

1. For what trait did David next praise God? Psalm 103:11

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2. How has this attribute of God been shown to us as human beings?

- a. Psalm 103:12 _____
- b. Psalm 103:13 _____
- c. Psalm 103:14 _____

E. The Fourth Cause for Praise: Read Psalm 103:15-18

1. To what is man compared in Psalm 103:15-16?

2. By contrast, how long will God's mercy last? Psalm 103:17a

3. Notice to whom this mercy is shown:

- a. Psalm 103:11b, 13b, 17b _____
- b. Psalm 103:18a _____
- c. Psalm 103:18b _____

F. The Fifth Cause for Praise: Read Psalm 103:19-22

1. What is the final reason David praised the Lord? Psalm 103:19

2. Upon whom did he call to join him in his praise? Psalm 103:29, 21, 22

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Do I have less for which to praise God than David had?

2. Do I make conscious effort to remember God's benefits to me, and His wonderful attributes, in order that I may continually praise Him?

DAVID'S PREDICTIONS CONCERNING THE FUTURE

Psalms 8, 40, 110, 41, 69, 22, 16, 68

In the Writings of David, there are many predictions which could not possibly have been planned by man, and yet God guided that they should foretell future events. Notice especially the following:

A. Psalm 8: Read Psalm 8:3-6

1. Of whom does the term "son of man" remind you? See Luke 19:10

2. Read these verses again, with this in mind. To whom does the writer of Hebrews say they refer? Hebrews 2:6-9a

3. Why was He given this position? Hebrews 2:9b-10

B. Psalm 40: Read Psalm 40:6-8

1. Compare these verses with Hebrews 10:5-10. To whom are they said to refer?

2. Notice at what part of His life these words were said: Hebrews 10:5a

C. Psalm 110: Read this entire Psalm.

1. How could "the Lord" talk to "my Lord"? (THINK!)

2. Compare this passage with Matthew 22:41-46. What did Jesus indicate that this proves about the Christ? (See also Psalm 2:7, 12)

3. Read again Psalm 110:4. To whom does the writer of Hebrews say this applies? Hebrews 5:5-6

4. Read again Psalm 110:5-6. Who is "the Lord at the right hand"? See Hebrews 1:2-3

5. When shall He do the things predicted in these verses? See Revelation 6:15-17, 17:14, 19:11-21, 20:7-15

D. Psalm 41: Read verses 5-9

1. Against whom besides David did people speak evil and devise hurt? Psalm 41:5, 7, Matthew 26:3-4

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2. Read Psalm 41:9. Who besides David's friend "lifted up his heel against" his friend?
See Matthew 26:14-16, 47-49
-

E. Psalm 69: Read this entire Psalm.

1. Who besides David was hated without a cause, and became a stranger to his brethren, and an alien to his mother's children? Psalm 69:4, 8; John 15:25, 1:11, 7:5
-
2. Whose throat was dried besides David's? Psalm 69:3, John 19:28
-
3. What was done for them both? Psalm 69:21, Matthew 27:34, 48
-

F. Psalm 22: Read verses 1-21.

1. Who besides David said the words of verse 1? Matthew 27:4;6
-
2. Who besides David's enemies said the words of verses 7 and 8? Matthew 27:39-44
-
3. Notice how the words of verses 13-18 could also have been true of another than David. Mark in your Bible every phrase that reminds you of someone else. See how these predictions were fulfilled in Matthew 27:35, 39.
-

G. Psalm 16: Read verses 8-11.

1. Of whom besides David were these words written? See Acts 13:33-35
-
2. How did Paul prove that these words were spoken of Him? Acts 13:36-37
-

H. Psalm 68: Read verse 18. Of whom is this spoken? See Acts 1:9, Ephesians 4:7-8

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Of whom are all these prophecies spoken? Luke 24:26, 44
-
2. How should I feel about a God who predicted so many details a thousand years before they happened? What has He surely done concerning MY life?
-

THE WRITINGS OF OTHER PSALMISTS

Besides David, several others wrote Psalms. Although not all of these lived during the United Kingdom, their most well known writings are mentioned here so as to give a more complete picture of the Book of Psalms. These may be classified as follows:

A. Psalms Before David's Time:

1. By whom was Psalm 90 written? See title of Psalm.

2. Although the author of Psalm 91 is not given, many feel that it is a companion to Psalm 90, and was written by the same author. Compare the first verse of each Psalm with Deuteronomy 33:27. What do you notice?

B. Psalms Probably of David's and Solomon's Time:

1. Read Psalm 1. Who is described by the portraits of the tree and the chaff?

2. Glance briefly through Psalm 119. Which of these portraits is enlarged upon here?

3. Read Psalms 42 and 43. Of what other Psalm that we have studied do these Psalms remind you? See page 37.

4. Compare Psalm 42:4 and 43:3-4 with Psalm 84. For what does the author long in each case?

5. Although no author is named for any of the above Psalms, do you see anything in them to remind you of David's time?

6. From the titles of the following Psalms, list their authors:
 - a. Psalm 78: _____
 - b. Psalm 88: _____
 - c. Psalm 89: _____
7. From I Chronicles 14:16-19, tell who these men probably were:

8. Notice that Psalm 78 is a summary of Israel's history. In whose time did the author probably live? Psalm 78:67-72

9. Another Heman and another Ethan are mentioned in I Chronicles 2:1-6. Notice that they were grandsons of Judah, and lived about the time Jacob's family went to Egypt. How do we know that the Ethan who wrote Psalm 89 lived during David's time or later? Psalm 89:20, 35-36

C. Psalms Probably of the Divided Kingdom Period:

1. Read II Chronicles 32:1-2, 6-9, 19-23. Then read Psalm 46. Do you think this Psalm could have been written after this experience?

2. Read Psalm 121. How does this remind you of what Hezekiah did in II Chronicles 32?

3. Since no author is given for either of these Psalms, the date of their writing cannot certainly be determined. But many think they were written at the time of Hezekiah, and possibly by him.

D. Psalms of the Captivity and Restoration:

1. Read Psalm 137:1-4. Where and when was this Psalm written?

2. Read Psalm 126:1-3. When might this Psalm have been written? (Note: Some think this was written by Hezekiah at the time mentioned above. Notice how this could be true. See especially verse 4.)

2. Read Psalm 107:1-9. What had God done for the people when this was written? Psalm 107:??

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Throughout the ages of Israel's history, what prompted the writing of each Psalm? How are Psalms different from the rest of the Bible?

2. Should people today write and sing songs about their personal relationship to God, and their great experiences with Him?

THE WRITINGS OF SOLOMON

The writings of Solomon will be studied in the order in which they probably were written? The Song of Solomon, in his youth; Proverbs in the prime of his life; and Ecclesiastes, in his old age.

THE SONG OF SOLOMON: INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK

In this first study of the Song of Solomon, seek to get an over-all picture of the book in its historical setting. Later, we will study its significance for us today:

A. The Main Characters of the Song:

1. Who is the first main character mentioned? Song of Solomon 1:1

2. With whom is he speaking? Song of Solomon 6:13

3. What position did she have in Solomon's affections, compared with all the other women he knew? Song of Solomon 6:8-9

4. There are differences of opinion as to just who this bride of Solomon was. What is one possibility? 1 Kings 3:1

5. Another possibility is that she was Abishag the Shunamite, whom Solomon refused to give to his brother after the death of his father. (See 1 Kings 1:2-4, 2:21-24.) However, it is not definitely known that Solomon married this girl.

4. In addition to these two main characters, several minor characters appear in this Song. Notice especially the "daughters of Jerusalem", to whom the bride speaks several times: 1:5, 2:7, 3:5, 5:8, 16, 8:4.

B. The Main Figures of Speech in the Song:

1. In what different roles is the bride pictured in this Song? Song of Solomon 1:6, 1:8, 7:1

2. In what different roles is the groom pictured? Song of Solomon 1:4, 1:12, 3:9, 11, 1:7

C. The Main Form of the Song:

1. How many songs did Solomon write? I Kings 4:32b

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2. Notice that this Song is called “the Song of Songs”, which is a Hebrew expression similar to “the Holy of Holies”. If the Holy of Holies is the Most Holy Place of the temple, then what does this expression show about this Song?

3. Although this Song is divided into 8 chapters in our Bible, it was originally divided into five parts, or songs. Mark and number these five divisions in the margin of your Bible: (1) 1:1 - 2:7; (2) 2:8 - 3:5; (3) 3:6 - 5:1; (4) 5:2 - 8:4; (5) 8:5 - 14.

4. Notice what words occur at the end of three of these divisions: Song of Solomon 2:7, 3:5, and 8:4. What underlined word on page 10 would describe these verses?

5. Notice that the whole Song is written in the words of the main characters mentioned above. Most of it is a dialogue between the bride and the groom. Read through the entire 8 chapters, marking the speaker’s name in the margin of your Bible every time you think the speaker changes, using pencil, so that corrections may be made in class. This is probably the best way to understand the meaning of the Song. Although some of these divisions are indefinite, many of them are quite plain.

6. Notice the ending of each part of the Song: 2:3-6, 3:4, 4:16 - 5:1, 8:1-3, and 8:13-14. Would you say that this bride and groom had a happy marriage?

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What has God planned for every marriage to picture? See Ephesians 5:22- 33.

2. Has my marriage (or my plan for marriage) been turned over completely to God, so that He might make it all that He planned for it to be?

THE LOVE OF THE BRIDE AND GROOM

Song of Solomon 1:1 - 2:7

As a sample of the theme of several of its parts, study Part One of the Song of Solomon in detail. Note especially its significance for us today:

A. The Figurative Language of the Song:

1. In the Old Testament, who is often spoken of as a bride and groom? Isaiah 54:5-7, 62:5-6

2. In the New Testament, to whom is this figure of speech applied? Ephesians 5:27, Revelation 19:7-8

3. God's people of all ages have felt that this song was given a place in the Bible to show the fullness of the love between God and His people. It is an "allegory": The description of one thing under the image of another. With this fact in mind, study now the first Part of the Song:

B. The Bride's First Speech: Read Song of Solomon 1:2-7

1. What shows the great love of the Christian for Christ? Song of Solomon 1:2

2. What makes possible this great love? Song of Solomon 1:4a

3. Of what is the result when the Christian cries out for a closer relationship to Christ? Song of Solomon 1:4b

4. Of what is the Christian always aware as he comes into the presence of Christ? Song of Solomon 1:5a

5. When does the Christian want to be with Christ? Song of Solomon 1:7

C. The Groom's Answer: Read Song of Solomon 1:8-11

1. Does Christ tell the Christian where to find Him? Song of Solomon 1:7-8

2. By what names does Christ call the Christian? Song of Solomon 1:8a, 9a

3. Notice how Christ admires the Christian? Song of Solomon 1:9-11

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D. The Continued Conversation: Read Song of Solomon 1:12 - 2:2

1. By what name does the Christian call Christ? Song of Solomon 1:13a, 16a

2. What does Christ say of the Christian? Song of Solomon 1:15

3. What does the Christian reply of Christ? Song of Solomon 1:16

4. To what does the Christian compare himself? Song of Solomon 2:1 (Note: These are very lovely flowers.)

5. By contrast, to what does Christ compare the Christian? Song of Solomon 2:2

E. The Bride's Final Speech: Read Song of Solomon 2:3-7

1. To what does the Christian compare Christ? Song of Solomon 2:3a

2. How does the Christian feel, just to be near Christ? Song of Solomon 2:3b

3. Notice the tenderness of the love with which Christ rewards those who take time to "sit under His shadow", and "eat of His fruit". Song of Solomon 2:4, 6

4. How would you say that Christ and the Christian feel toward each other at the end of this part of the Song?

5. Parts Three and Five of the Song are very similar to Part One. Study these to appreciate more fully the complete satisfaction of Christ and the Christian with each other. Notice especially Christ's words in 4:7.

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Do I long to be constantly in the presence of my Lord, enjoying His love?

2. Am I greatly delighted with my Lord? Have I found my complete satisfaction in Him? See Psalm 107:9.

THE PROBLEMS OF THE BRIDE AND GROOM

Song of Solomon 2:8 - 3:5, 5:2 - 8:4

Just as problems often arise between newly married couples, so problems often arise between the Christian and his Lord. Study the following to discover the cause of these problems, and how they may be solved:

A. The First Problem: Read Song of Solomon 2:8 - 3:5

1. What is it that rouses the Christian from the rest enjoyed at the end of Part One of the Song? Song of Solomon 2:8a

2. What does Christ ask the Christian to do? Song of Solomon 2:10-14

3. What does Christ desire from the Christian? Song Of Solomon 2:14

4. What does Christ tell the Christian to do? Song of Solomon 2:15

5. What do you suppose the “little foxes that spoil the vines” represent?

6. Does it seem that the Christian in this story obeyed the command of Christ? Song of Solomon 2:16-17

7. What happened as a result? Song of Solomon 3:1

8. Was the Christian satisfied to remain this way? What did the Christian decide to do? Song of Solomon 3:2a

9. What was the first result? Song of Solomon 3:2b

10. Of whom did the Christian as help? Song of Solomon 3:3

11. Whom do you suppose these men represent?

12. What happened shortly after the Christian asked for help? Song of Solomon 3:4a

13. How did the Christian feel after this? Song of Solomon 3:4b

14. Notice that once more, the perfect rest and satisfaction in Christ is restored to the Christian. Song of Solomon 3:4-5

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B. The Second Problem: Read Song of Solomon 5:2 - 8:4

1. What was the Christian doing at this point? Song of Solomon 5:2a

2. Where had Christ already been? Song of Solomon 5:2b

3. What did Christ ask the Christian to do? Song of Solomon 5:2b

4. What was the Christian's answer to this request? Song of Solomon 5:3

5. What finally moved the Christian to grant Christ's request? Song of Solomon 5:4

6. What had happened by the time the Christian obeyed? Song of Solomon 5:6a

7. How did the Christian feel after this? What did the Christian do? Song of Solomon 5:6b

8. Notice what happened to the Christian this time: Song of Solomon 5:7.

9. Notice the description of Christ which the Christian gave to those whose help was sought in locating Him once more: Song of Solomon 5:10-16

10. Notice the assurance that came to the Christian when Christ was found once more (Song of Solomon 6:1-3), and the sweetness of the fellowship which followed (Song of Solomon 6:4 - 8:4).

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Who is always at fault when a problem arises between my Lord and me?

2. What can I do to avoid problems which cause me to lose the consciousness of the presence of Christ? John 15:10, 14.

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS: INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK

Before beginning your study of the various topics which are covered in the Book of Proverbs, consider the following over all facts about the book:

A. Introduction to Common Proverbs:

1. There are many common proverbs, such as "A stitch in time saves nine." Give another common proverb that you have heard:

2. What is a proverb? Look up this word in a dictionary and write its meaning:

3. What kind of person would be able to make up proverbs? (THINK!)

B. The Writers of the Book of Proverbs:

1. Who wrote most of the book of Proverbs? Proverbs 1:1, 10:1

2. How did he get the wisdom required to be able to write such a book? I Kings 3:5-13, 4:29-31

3. How many proverbs did Solomon make up? 1 Kings 4:32a

2. What are some of the subjects about which Solomon's songs and proverbs were written? 1 Kings 4:33

5. Who came to hear Solomon's wise teachings? 1 Kings 4:34

6. What else did Solomon do besides write proverbs? Ecclesiastes 12:9b-10

7. By whom were some of Solomon's proverbs arranged and preserved? Proverbs 25:1

8. What are the names of two others who wrote small parts of the book of Proverbs? Proverbs 30:1, 31:1

9. From Commentaries, Bible Dictionaries, etc., discover all you can about the latter of these:

C. The Contents of the Book of Proverbs:

1. The book of Proverbs is classified as Didactic Poetry: poetry which is intended to teach. It has been called "Laws from Heaven for Life on Earth."

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2. Notice the following contrasts between Psalms and Proverbs:

a. Psalms is very devotional; Proverbs is very practical.

b. Psalms stresses man's relationship to God; Proverbs stresses man's relationship to his fellow-man.

b. Psalms is called "The Hymn book of the Bible"; Proverbs is called "The 'Emily Post' Book of the Bible,"

d. Psalms lays the foundation; Proverbs builds on it. Only as a man is rightly related to God, can he be rightly related to his fellow-man.

D. The Value of Studying Proverbs: Proverbs 1:2-5

1. What are three general benefits of studying Proverbs? Proverbs 1:2-3

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

2. What specific benefits may the following receive from studying Proverbs?

a. The simple: Proverbs 1:4a _____

b. The young man: Proverbs 1:4b _____

c. The wise man: Proverbs 1:5a _____

d. The man of understanding: Proverbs 1:5b _____

3. Is there anyone who would NOT benefit from studying Proverbs?

4. In the study of the book of Proverbs, what must one seek to understand, in addition to the proverb itself? Proverbs 1:6a

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Although Solomon was wise enough to write out these proverbs, did he really get the greatest possible benefit from them? Why?

2. If I would get the greatest possible benefit from my studies in Proverbs, what must I do besides learning what each proverb says? See John 13:17.

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Since many of the proverbs are complete in themselves, and since many of them have no relationship to the verses which come before and after them, someone has called them "Unstrung Pearls". Mr. Martin A. Hopkins, long time missionary to China, made a special study of the proverbs, and re-arranged them topically, according to their relation to the various phases of man's life. (This study, called "The God-Centered Life", available from C.A. Rowland, Box 351, Athens, GA, at 35 cents a copy, is highly recommended for your private study.) In order to get the most from our studies in Proverbs in the time allowed, we will follow his topics rather than the chapter divisions in our Bibles. The first of these topics is:

GOD IN THE INDIVIDUAL LIFE OF MAN - PUTTING GOD FIRST

Mr. Hopkins lists ten qualities a person will have if he puts God first in his life. We re-arrange these qualities for ease and continuity in classroom discussion:

A. Reverential Fear of God:

1. Why is it important to have a fear of God? Proverbs 1:7a, 9:10a, 15:33a

2. What does a fear of the Lord cause a person to do? Proverbs 8:13a, 16:6b, 3:7b

3. What are some of the things which are promised to one who has a fear of the Lord? Proverbs 14:26a, 10:27a, 19:23a, b, c, 22:4

B. Practice of God's Presence:

1. What parts of man does God know about? Proverbs 5:21, 16:2b, 15:11b

C. Whole-Hearted Trust in God:

1. What things are promised to those who trust in the Lord? Proverbs 16:20b, 29:25, 3:5-6

2. What else might one put his trust in? Proverbs 3:5b, 28:26a

D. Submission to God's Sovereign Will:

1. What happens many times to the plans we make? Proverbs 16:9, 19:21

E. Agreement with God's Loves and Hates:

1. What are some of the things God loves? Proverbs 15:19b, 11:20b, 12:22b

2. What are some of the things God hates? Proverbs 8:13b, 1:16-19

F. Obedience to God's Word:

1. At what times can God's Word help a person? Proverbs 6:22

2. What happens to one who does not keep God's Word? Proverbs 13:13

G. Confession of Sin to God - Keeping Right with God:

1. What does one do if he does NOT confess his sin? Proverbs 28:13

H. Acceptance of God's Chastisements (or Punishments):

1. What does God's chastening prove? Proverbs 3:11-12

I. Effectual Prayer to God:

1. What will God do about the prayer of the righteous? Proverbs 15:29b, 15:8b, 10:24b

J. Offering of One's Substance to God:

1. What will God do for the one who gives to Him? Proverbs 19:27, 10-22, 3:9-10

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. How many of these ten qualities do I have? Is God really FIRST in my life?

2. What would God have me to do about any of these qualities I do not have?

GOD IN THE FAMILY LIFE OF MAN - MAKING THE HOME

Every person is interested in building a happy home of his own. Proverbs has a great deal to say about the requirements for establishing a happy home. Read the following to see what these requirements are:

A. Various Types of Women in the Home:

1. What kind of woman could establish a good home?
 - a. Proverbs 12:4a _____
 - b. Proverbs 11:16a _____
 - c. Proverbs 14:1a _____
2. What kind of woman might be very attractive and yet not be a good home-maker?
 - a. Proverbs 31:30a _____
 - b. Proverbs 11:22 _____
3. What kind of woman would definitely be a hindrance in establishing a home?
 - a. Proverbs 27:16 _____
 - b. Proverbs 21:19b _____
 - c. Proverbs 21:9 _____
 - d. Proverbs 14:1b _____
 - e. Proverbs 12:4b _____

B. Description of the Good Home-Maker: Read carefully Proverbs 31:10-31, and then answer the following:

1. How does the good home-maker spend her days? Proverbs 31:13b, 27b

2. What are her hours of work? Proverbs 31:15a, 18b

3. In one word each, name five of her main tasks: Proverbs 31:13, 19, 22, 14-15, 16a, 24, 16b

4. What does she have that makes such work possible? Proverbs 31:17, 25a

5. How does she feel about the future? Why? Proverbs 31:21

6. How does she treat the following?
 - a. Her husband: Proverbs 31:12 _____
 - b. Her household: Proverbs 31:27a, 15 _____
 - c. Those less fortunate than she is: Proverbs 31:20 _____
7. What do the following think of her as a result?
 - a. Her husband: Proverbs 31:11a, 28b _____
 - b. Her children: Proverbs 31:28a _____
 - c. The community: Proverbs 31:31, 23 _____

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8. What is the one great secret of her success as a home-maker? Proverbs 31:30b
-

C. The Husband's Part in Making a Happy Home:

1. What must a young man realize before he will want to establish his own home?
Proverbs 18:22
-
2. How should a young man go about finding a wife? Proverbs 19:14
-
3. What is the young man's responsibility toward the woman he chooses as his wife?
Proverbs 5:15-20
-
4. What will help him to carry out this responsibility? Proverbs 5:21
-

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Am I right now the kind of person who would make a good wife or husband? Proverbs 31:30.
-
2. Am I putting God first in my plans for establishing a home? See Matthew 6:33
-

GOD IN THE FAMILY LIFE OF MAN - MAINTAINING THE HOME

Once the home is happily begun, each member of the family has a responsibility to see that it continues in that way. Read the following to see what some of these responsibilities are:

A. The Responsibility of the Children to the Parents:

1. What is the chief responsibility of children to their parents? Proverbs 1:8

2. What are some of the things promised to those who fulfill this responsibility?
 - a. Proverbs 3:1, 2, 4:10, 20-22 _____
 - b. Proverbs 3:4 _____
 - c. Proverbs 4:12a _____
 - d. Proverbs 4:12b _____

B. The Responsibility of the Parents to the Children:

1. What is the chief responsibility of parents to their children? Proverbs 22:6

2. Why is this necessary? Proverbs 22:15a

3. Why do some parents fail to carry out this responsibility? Proverbs 19:18, 23:13

4. What are some of the values of parental discipline?
 - a. Proverbs 20:30 _____
 - b. Proverbs 22:15 _____
 - c. Proverbs 29:15a _____
 - d. Proverbs 23:14 _____
5. What does it prove if children are:
 - a. chastened? Proverbs 29:17 _____
 - b. not chastened? Proverbs 29:15 _____

C. The Responsibility of the Parents Toward Their Household:

1. What will the wise parents do for their family? Proverbs 24:3, 4, 27b

What may happen if the parents do not provide a suitable dwelling for their family?
(THINK!)

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D. The Responsibility of All Toward Each Other:

1. How would the members of the family treat each other and any animals they may have?
Proverbs 11:17, 12:10

2. What different members may be found in various households? Proverbs 17:6, 16:1, 20:29

- _____
3. How do you think old people in the family should be treated? Proverbs 16:31, 20-29, 17:6

- _____
4. Many times, the various members of the family are told to be diligent in their work. Look up this word in a dictionary and write its meaning:

- _____
5. What are some of the things one will have if he is diligent?

a. Proverbs 27:23, 26 _____

b. Proverbs 27:27 _____

c. Proverbs 21:5a _____

d. Proverbs 12:24a _____

3. What is the opposite of diligence? Proverbs 12:24b, 27a

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Am I right now fulfilling my responsibility in maintaining my home?

2. Am I really putting God first in my home life at the present time.

GOD LEFT OUT OF THE FAMILY LIFE - WRECKING THE HOME

All too often a home which begins happily does not continue so. The book of Proverbs mentions four things which may rob the home of its happiness, and even break up the home itself. Read the following to learn about these four things:

A. Disobedient Children:

1. What are some of the things children may do to rob the home of happiness?
 - a. Proverbs 15:5, 20 _____
 - b. Proverbs 30:17a, 20:20a, 28:24a _____
 - c. Proverbs 19:26a _____
 - d. Proverbs 28:7b _____
 - e. Proverbs 29:3b _____
2. What will be the result to the parents of such children?
 - a. Proverbs 10:1b _____
 - b. Proverbs 17:21 _____
 - c. Proverbs 17:25 _____
 - d. Proverbs 19:13a _____
 - e. Proverbs 19:26 _____
 - f. Proverbs 29:3b _____
3. What will be the result to such children themselves? Proverbs 30:17, 20:20
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

B. Slothfulness:

1. Look up the meaning of the word "slothful" in a dictionary, and write it out:

2. What is the name given to a person who is slothful? Proverbs 6:6, 10:26, 26:16

3. What are some of the characteristics of the slothful person?
 - a. Proverbs 6:10, 24:33, 19:15a, 10:5b, 26:14 _____
 - b. Proverbs 19:24, 26:15 _____
 - c. Proverbs 10:4, 21:25 _____
 - d. Proverbs 12:27a _____
 - e. Proverbs 20:4a _____
4. What are some of the results of being slothful?
 - a. Proverbs 10:4, 20:13, 24:34, 6:11 _____
 - b. Proverbs 20:4, 13:4a, 19:15b _____
 - c. Proverbs 10:5b _____
 - d. Proverbs 12:24b _____

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5. From what could the slothful person take a lesson? Proverbs 6:6
-

C. Strong Drink:

1. What kind of person will fall into this evil habit? Proverbs 20:1
-

2. What are some of the results of this sin?

- a. Proverbs 23:21, 21:17 _____
b. Proverbs 23:29- 30 _____
c. Proverbs 23:31-33 _____

D. Lust and Sensuality:

1. What kind of person will fall into this sin?

- a. Proverbs 7:7, 9:16, 6:32a _____
b. Proverbs 9:13, 7:11 _____

2. What are some of the results of this sin?

- a. Proverbs 6:26a _____
b. Proverbs 5:11 _____
c. Proverbs 6:32b, 33, 7:26-27 _____

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Am I guilty of anything which could rob my home of happiness or break it up?
-

2. If so, what can I do about it? See Proverbs 28:13.
-

GOD IN THE INTELLECTUAL LIFE OF MAN - WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE

There are many passages in Proverbs on wisdom and knowledge. Study these to find out what God has to say about the intellectual life of man:

A. Wisdom's Call: Read Proverbs 1:20-21, 8:1-21

1. As what is wisdom pictured in these passages?

2. To what three groups does she especially call? Proverbs 1:22 (See also 8:4-5, 9:4)

3. What does she ask them to do? Proverbs 1:23a

4. What does she promise to do for them if they will do this? Proverbs 1:23b

5. What four kinds of things does wisdom speak? Proverbs 8:6-8

6. Than what four things is her instruction better? Proverbs 8:10-11 (See also 8:19, 16:16)

7. What are some of the things which are accomplished by wisdom? Proverbs 8:15-16

B. Wisdom's Challenge: Read Proverbs 4:5-7, 2:1-11

1. What does wisdom challenge people to do? Proverbs 8:17, 21

2. Why is it important to seek after wisdom? Proverbs 4:5-7

3. What are two great results of seeking after wisdom?
 - a. Proverbs 2:1-5 _____
 - b. Proverbs 2:9 _____
4. From Whom does all wisdom come? Proverbs 2:6

C. Wisdom's Rewards:

1. To Whom is wisdom's reward promised? Proverbs 24:13-14, 8:17

2. What are some of the things promised to such people?
 - a. Proverbs 3:13, 18 _____
 - b. Proverbs 3:16 _____
 - c. Proverbs 3:17 _____
 - d. Proverbs 3:21-22 _____

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- e. Proverbs 3:23 _____
- f. Proverbs 3:24 _____
- g. Proverbs 4:8-9 _____
- h. Proverbs 19:8b _____

D. Wisdom's Warnings: Read Proverbs 1:24-32

1. To what people does Wisdom give a warning? Proverbs 1:24-25, 29-30

2. What does she say will happen to them? Proverbs 1:26-27

3. What will Wisdom do when they call on her after this? Proverbs 1:26, 28

1. What will be the end of such people? Proverbs 1:31-32

E. Wisdom's Testimony: Read Proverbs 8:22-36

1. Notice the unusual things that Wisdom says of herself in Proverbs 8:22-31. Could these things be said of any human being? (THINK!)

2. Who else besides Wisdom could have spoken the invitation of Proverbs 8:32-36?

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Who is the Wisdom described in Proverbs? See John 1:1-3, 14

2. Have I sought the One Who is True Wisdom? Have I found Him, and am I enjoying His rewards?

GOD IN THE SOCIAL LIFE OF MAN - TREATMENT OF OTHERS

There are many groups of people with whom a person comes in contact each day. Study the following to see how one should treat people in each of these groups:

A. Treatment of Friends:

1. What is a good rule to remember in forming friendships? Proverbs 18:24a

2. What kind of people should one choose for his friends? Proverbs 2:11, 20, 20:6, 13:20a

3. What kind of people should one avoid as his friends? Proverbs 13:20b, 22:24-25, 19:22

4. What are some of the things that good friends will do for one? Proverbs 27:9, 17, 19, 20:5, 27:5-6

5. What are two great characteristics of a true friend? Proverbs 17:17, 18:24b, 27:10

6. What are two kinds of false friends? Proverbs 14:20, 19:4, 6, 7, 25:19

B. Treatment of Enemies:

1. What are two wrong ways to treat one's enemies? Proverbs 20:22, 24:29, 24:17-18, 17:5b

2. What is the correct way to treat one's enemies? Proverbs 25:21-22

3. What does God want to do to all of one's enemies? Proverbs 16:7

C. Treatment of Neighbors:

1. How would one treat his neighbors? Proverbs 3:27, 29, 25:9-10

2. How do people sometimes mistreat their neighbors? Proverbs 14:21a, 11:12a, 11:9a, 29:5, 26:18-19, 25:18, 16:29

3. What is a good rule to remember concerning one's neighbors? Proverbs 25:17 (See marginal reading)

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D. Treatment of the Poor:

How should one treat the poor? Proverbs 14:21b, 19:17a, 29:7a, 22:9

What is one really doing when he helps the poor? Proverbs 19:17

What are some of the results of helping the poor? Proverbs 14:21b, 22:9a, 28:27a, 19:17b

How do people sometimes treat the poor? Proverbs 17:5a, 14:31a, 28:3, 22:16a, 22:22-23, 21:13a, 28:27b

What is one really doing when he mistreats the poor? Proverbs 14:31a, 17:5a, 22:2

What will happen to such people? Proverbs 28:27b, 21:13, 22:16, 22:22-23

Things to Avoid in the Treatment of Others:

What are two great things to avoid in one's relationships with others? Proverbs 20:3a, 17:14, 3:30, 22:10, 15:18

What kind of people cause these things? Proverbs 20:3b, 16:27-28, 26:20-21, 17:19, 29:22, 28:25, 22:10

What are two other things one should avoid? Proverbs 10:12, 15:17, 11:13, 20:19, 18:8, 26:22, 17:9

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Who is our example in how to treat others? Matthew 5:43-48, I Peter 2:21-23
 2. How may I receive power to treat others rightly? John 1:12, Matthew 5:45a
-

GOD IN THE INNER LIFE OF MAN - THE HEART AND ITS ISSUES

The book of Proverbs has much to say about the heart of man, and the things which come out of it. Read the following to discover some of these things:

A. The Heart As the Center of Man's Life:

1. What is God's basic command to man concerning his heart? Proverbs 4:23

2. What does the Lord do to the heart of man? Proverbs 17:3b

3. What does the Lord use in doing this? Proverbs 20:27

B. The Issues of the Heart in Thoughts and Actions:

1. What do a man's thoughts reveal about him? Proverbs 23:7a

2. What is found within the righteous man? Proverbs 12:5, 14:33

3. What does this cause him to do? Proverbs 10:8

4. What is found in the heart of the wicked man? Proverbs 12:20, 6:14a

2. What does this cause him to do? Proverbs 6:14b, c, 18

C. The Issues of the Heart in Words:

1. What determines what a man says? Proverbs 16:23, 15:7

2. Who will be able to speak as he should? Proverbs 16:23, 21, 22:11, 15:2, 10:31-32

3. What will be the results of wise words? Proverbs 15:4a, 10:11a, 12:18b, 14:3b, 12:14a, 10:21a

4. To what are such words compared? Proverbs 25:11, 20:15b, 16:24a

5. Who will not speak as he should? Proverbs 15:7b, 14b, 24:-12, 10:11b, 32b

6. What will be the results to such people? Proverbs 10:13b, 31b, 13:3b

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7. Is it possible to speak too many words? Proverbs 10:19, 17:28

8. What four rules should one follow in giving answers? Proverbs 18:13, 15:28a, 1:23b

9. What kind of words does God especially speak against? Proverbs 29:5, 28:25, 26:28, 20:17, 10:18

10. From what kind of words should one refrain? Proverbs 27:2, 25:27

D. The Issues of the Heart in Attitudes and Feelings:

1. What can a man's heart help him to do? Proverbs 16:32, 15:18, 14:29, 19:11, 17:27

2. What does a man's heart sometimes cause him to believe? Proverbs 14:12, 12:15, 16:2

3. What is the cure for this? Proverbs 3:5-6 (See also 28:26)

4. What qualities does God want man to cultivate in his heart? Proverbs 18:12b, 16:19, 3:34b, 22:4

5. What will the opposite of this cause? Proverbs 16:18, 18:12, 29:23, 11:2, 21:4, 24

E. The Effect of the Heart on Health and Happiness:

1. What will be the effect of a merry (or glad and cheerful) heart? Proverbs 15:13, 15, 17:22a

2. What will be the effect of a sorrowful, heavy heart, and a broken spirit? Proverbs 15:13b, 12:25a, 17:22b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Is there anything I think, do, say, believe, or feel which does not begin in my heart? Proverbs 4:23

2. Are my heart and all that comes from it pleasing to God? Why, or why not?

GOD IN THE ETHICAL LIFE OF MAN - RIGHTEOUSNESS AND WICKEDNESS: WISDOM AND FOLLY

The dictionary defines “ethics” as the science of ideal human character. As you do this page, check to see how you measure up to God’s standard of the ideal?

A. The Path of the Righteous:

1. To what is the path of the righteous (or just) compared? Proverbs 4:16, 15:19, 16:17

2. What will one’s righteousness (or uprightness or integrity) do for him? Proverbs 11:3a, 5a, 6a, 13:61

3. What are some of the characteristics of the righteous? Proverbs 10:9a, 11:23, 21:15, 28:1, 12:12b, 21:8b, 24:16a

4. What things are promised to the righteous? Proverbs 11:18b, 13:21b, 28:10b, 2:21, 13:25a, 10:3a, 12:28, 21a, 21:21, 3:32, 12:2a, 10:6a, 3:33b, 13:9, 10:28, 14:22, 14:32, 20:7b

B. The Way of the Wicked:

1. To what is the way of the wicked compared? Proverbs 4:19

2. How do the wicked feel toward the righteous? Proverbs 29:27b, 10a

3. What are some of the characteristics of the wicked? Proverbs 4:19b, 17:4, 28:1, 12:12a, 28:14b, 21:29a, 21:7b

4. What will the evil deeds of the wicked do for them? Proverbs 13:6b, 11:3b, 21:7a

5. What will happen to the wicked? Proverbs 11:23b, 21:15b, 13:5b, 11:19b, 12:7a, 14:11, 2:22, 24:16b, 28:18b, 11:5b, 6, 7, 10:28b; 13:25b, 28:17, 5:23, 13:9b, 24:20, 12:2b, 10:3b, 3:33a

6. What two things concerning the wicked should one avoid?
 - a. Proverbs 24:1, 2, 19, 20, 23:17-18, 3:31, 32 _____
 - b. Proverbs 1:10-19, 2:11-15, 4:14-17, 29:24, 22:5 _____

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C. The Wise and the Foolish:

1. What are the outstanding characteristics of a fool? Proverbs 19:3, 1:7, 22, 24:7, 16:16, 23:9, 17:12, 29:9

2. Will it help a fool to punish him? Proverbs 27:22, 26:11, 3, 10:13, 19:29

3. How do fools feel about sin and wickedness? Proverbs 10:23, 13:19, 14:9, 27:3

4. What comes forth from the mouth of a fool? Proverbs 14:7, 15:2, 18:6, 7, 26:7, 9, 19:1

5. What will happen if one tries to use a fool for work? Proverbs 26:10, 6, 25:13

6. How does the wise man differ from the fool? Proverbs 10:14, 17:24, 11:29, 12:16, 23, 29:11

7. List the rewards of wisdom: Proverbs 3:35a, 14:24a, 16:22a, 14:18b

8. List the rewards of folly: Proverbs 3:35b, 26:1, 8, 19:29, 26:3, 10:13

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Do I qualify according to God's standard as a righteous and wise person?

2. Where may I obtain God's righteousness and wisdom? I Corinthians 1:30

GOD IN THE BUSINESS LIFE OF MAN - AS THE INVISIBLE SENIOR PARTNER

Since God is interested in very part of man's life, He has rules for man's business life as well as for other parts. Study the following to learn these rules:

A. The Primary Aim of One's Business:

1. What should be one's primary aim in carrying on his business? Proverbs 22:1, 10:7

2. What too often is the aim of business people? Proverbs 23:4-5

3. What will be the result of the first aim? Proverbs 13:22, 28:20a, 13:11b

4. What will be the result of the second? Proverbs 28:20b, 22b, 20;21, 13:11, 10:2a, 15:27a

B. The Proper Way to Work at One's Business:

1. How should one go about his business, whatever it may be? Proverbs 22:29, 12:24, 10:4b

2. What will be the result of this? Proverbs 12:14b, 27b, 21:5

C. Things to Avoid in One's Business:

1. What is sometimes used by some people in their businesses? Proverbs 11:1a

2. What does God think of this? Proverbs 11:1b, 20:10, 20:23, 16:11

3. What do people sometimes do to get a better bargain? Proverbs 20:14

4. What does God call such tricks? Proverbs 12:22

5. What do people sometimes use to get their way in business? Proverbs 17:23, 8, 18:16, 19:6, 21:14, 25:14

6. If a gift is used "to pervert the ways of judgment" (Proverbs 17:23), what would we today call it?

7. How should one feel toward such gifts? Proverbs 15:27

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8. What else does God warn against? Proverbs 17:18, 11:15, 6:1-5, 22:26-27, 20:16, 27:13

9. What would be a particular temptation to those who own property or those who are in the real estate business? Proverbs 22:28, 23:10-11

10. What very common practice does God speak clearly against? Proverbs 14:5, 25, 12:17, 24:28, 25:18, 19:28

11. What will happen to people who do not heed God's warning in this regard? Proverbs 19:5, 9, 21:28, 6

D. The "Golden Rule" of Business:

1. What are two good rules to remember in all our business dealings?

a. Proverbs 15:16 _____

b. Proverbs 16:8 _____

2. What is the greatest riches one could ever gain? Proverbs 10:22

E. How to Use the Profits of Business:

1. What are the two extremes as to the amount of money one may have? Proverbs 30:8-9

2. What do the rich sometimes do? Proverbs 11:28a, 18:11

3. What is much better than riches? Proverbs 28:11, 6, 11:4

4. What do some people do with their money? Proverbs 11:24b

5. What does God want people to do with their money? Proverbs 11:24a, 21:27b, 11:25, 22:9

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Is God the Senior Partner in all my business dealings?

2. Am I willing to follow God's rules for business, even if it means I may not get as much money as I might otherwise have had? Proverbs 10:22, 22:1

GOD IN THE NATIONAL LIFE OF MAN - KINGS AND RULERS

God is vitally interested in the national life of man. Study the following to see what advice He gives concerning this area of man's life:

A. The Personal Life of Rulers:

1. What four things should rulers avoid in their personal lives? Proverbs 17:7, 28:16b, 31:1-3, 4-5

2. What could the last of these cause a ruler to do? Proverbs 31:4-5

B. The Public Life of Rulers:

1. What should a king try to avoid completely in his rule of the people? Proverbs 20:8, 16:12a

2. What will establish the rule of a king? Proverbs 16:12, 25:4-5, 29:4a, 14, 31:8-9, 20:28

3. What will a wise king do? Proverbs 20:26

4. What is one of the chief needs of all rulers? Proverbs 11:14, 15:22, 24:5-6, 20:18, 29:8, 28:2, 21:22

5. Without this, what will a king's people do? Proverbs 29:18, 11:14a

C. The Two Kinds of Rulers:

1. What are the two kinds of people who may rule a nation? Proverbs 29:2

2. What will righteous leaders bring to their nation?

- a. Proverbs 29:2a, 11:10a _____

- b. Proverbs 14:34a, 11:11a _____

- c. Proverbs 28:12a _____

- d. Proverbs 24:25 _____

- e. Proverbs 28:2 _____

3. What will wicked leaders bring to their nation?

- a. Proverbs 29:2b, 38:28, 12 _____

- b. Proverbs 29:16a _____

- c. Proverbs 14:34b _____

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- d. Proverbs 28:15-16 _____
- e. Proverbs 11:11 _____
- 4. What are some of the things wicked leaders will do?
 - a. Proverbs 29:12 _____
 - b. Proverbs 17:15, 26, 18:5b _____
 - c. Proverbs 18:5a, 24:23, 28:21 _____
- 5. How will the people feel about such a leader? Proverbs 24:24

D. Proper Behavior Before Rulers:

- 1. What two rules should one remember when he appears before rulers? Proverbs 25:6-7, 25:1-3

- 2. What kind of person will please a ruler? Proverbs 25:15, 16:13a, 14:25, 13:17, 25:13

- 3. What should one try to avoid? Proverbs 20:2, 14:35b, 19:12, 16:14-15

E. The Ruler of All Rulers:

- 1. Who controls all rulers? Proverbs 21:1, 24:21a, 8:15-16

- 2. How can a leader rule his people as he should? Proverbs 28:5, 29:26

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

- 1. Do I behave toward my city, county, state, and national leaders as I should?

- 2. How can I help my people to have better leaders? I Timothy 2:1-2

GOD IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF MAN - THE SOUL WINNER

Although very few verses in Proverbs actually mention winning souls, there are many which can be applied to this phase of a man's life. Notice these in this study:

A. The Soul-Winner As God's Ambassador:

1. Whose messages does an ambassador carry?

2. How does God's ambassador know what to say? Proverbs 1:23

3. Whose words does he speak? Proverbs 1:23b

4. What will happen to a wicked messenger or ambassador? Proverbs 13:17a

5. What kind of ambassadors does god want? Proverbs 13:17b

6. What will this kind of messenger do to his Master? Proverbs 23:13

B. The Soul-Winner's Solemn Obligation:

1. What people will become soul-winners? Proverbs 11:30

2. What is the condition of the people to whom God's ambassador is sent? Proverbs 24:11

3. What should God's ambassador do to such people? Proverbs 24:11

4. What do some messengers say when faced with this responsibility? Proverbs 24:12a

5. Who knows whether this is really true? Proverbs 24:12b

6. What determines the rewards that God's soul-winners will received? Proverbs 24:12c

C. The Soul-Winner As a Faithful Witness:

1. What will the faithful or true witness be able to do? Proverbs 14:25a

2. What will a deceitful witness do? Proverbs 14:25b, 5

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D. The Soul-Winner As a Bearer of Good Tidings:

1. To what could the person to whom God's soul-winner is sent be compared? Proverbs 25:25a

2. To what could the good tidings which he brings be compared? Proverbs 25:25b

3. What effect do these good tidings have on those who hear them? Proverbs 15:30

E. The Soul-Winner's Faithful Warnings:

1. Against what specific things does the soul-winner warn others?
 - a. Proverbs 14:12, 16:25 _____
 - b. Proverbs 10:17b _____
 - c. Proverbs 29:25a _____
 - d. Proverbs 27:1 _____
2. What does the soul-winner ask these people to do?
 - a. Proverbs 10:17a _____
 - b. Proverbs 29:25b _____
 - c. Proverbs 15:24 _____
3. What does he warn will happen to them if they do not do this?
 - a. Proverbs 13:15b _____
 - b. Proverbs 29:1 _____

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Am I faithful in listening to God's Spirit, and witnessing every time He tells me to do so? See Acts 1:8, Jeremiah 23:28

2. What will be my reward when I stand before Him that weigheth the hearts?
I Corinthians 3:13-15.

GOD IN THE LITTLE THINGS OF LIFE, WHERE MEN THINK HE IS NOT CONCERNED

In the book of Proverbs, a great many small things are mentioned, showing God's interest in even the small parts of man's life. Notice these things below:

A. Miscellaneous Warnings:

1. Against what four things does God warn through the writers of Proverbs?
 - a. Proverbs 27:7, 25:16; _____
 - b. Proverbs 18:1 _____
 - c. Proverbs 27:4 _____
 - d. Proverbs 20:25 (See Judges 11:30-40 for an example of one who needed this warning.) _____

B. Six Series of Four: Proverbs 30:11-31

1. What four generations (or kings of people) displease God? Proverbs 30:11-14
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
2. What small creature is often thought of as being insatiable (not capable of being satisfied)? Proverbs 30:15a

3. What four other things are described as insatiable in Proverbs 30:15-16?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
4. What four things were so wonderful that the writer of Proverbs 30:18-19 could not understand them?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
5. What four things are unbearable, disquieting the earth? Proverbs 30:21-23
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

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6. List four things which are little, but wise; tell also what shows their wisdom: Proverbs 30:24-28
- a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
7. What four things are pleasing to watch as they travel? Proverbs 30:29-31
- a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

C. A Final Warning:

1. To what does God compare a man who wanders out of his place? Proverbs 27:8

2. What would you say is man's rightful place in relationship to God? See II Peter 3:9b

3. What will happen to a man who wanders out of this place? Proverbs 21:16

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Is there any part of my life about which God is not concerned? I Peter 5:7

2. Does God have His rightful place in every area of my life?

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES; LIFE “UNDER THE SUN”

Evidently toward the end of his long and prosperous reign as King of Israel, Solomon wrote a summary of his life experiences and the conclusions he had drawn from them in the book of Ecclesiastes. Study this summary below:

A. Introduction to the Book:

1. Look up the word “vanity” in a dictionary, and write its meaning as used in Ecclesiastes 1:2:

2. What question does Solomon seek to answer in this book? Ecclesiastes 1:3

(Note: This is a question philosophers of all ages have sought to answer: “What is the chief good in life? What will really satisfy man’s heart?” Notice how Solomon sought to answer it.)

B. Solomon’s Search for the Chief Good in Life: Read Ecclesiastes 1 - 2

1. In searching for the chief good in life, Solomon tried a number of things. List below the things he tried, and his conclusion about each of them:

- a. 1:4-8, 1:9-11 _____
- b. 1:13-16, 1:17-18 _____
- c. 2:1, 2:2 _____
- d. 2:3 _____
- e. 2:4-6 _____
- f. 2:7-8 _____
- g. 2:10 _____
- h. 2:12 _____

2. What did Solomon’s discoveries concerning these things cause him to do? Ecclesiastes 2:17, 20

3. What did he conclude that all these things brought to man? Ecclesiastes 2:23

C. Solomon’s Observations concerning the Chief Good in Life: Ecclesiastes 3-6

1. As Solomon looked about him, he saw others also seeking for the chief good in life. List the things they tried, and Solomon’s conclusions about them:

- a. 4:4a, 4:4b-6 _____
- b. 4:8a, 4:8b _____
- c. 4:9-12, 7:26-28 _____
- d. 5:1-6, 5:7 _____
- e. 5:10a, 5:10b _____
- f. 5:13, 5:14-16 _____

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g. 6:2a, 6:2b _____

h. 6:7-9a, 6:9b _____

2. What did Solomon say about all these things? Ecclesiastes 6:11-12

D. Solomon's Conclusion Concerning the Chief Good in Life: Ecclesiastes 7 - 12

1. In Chapters 7 - 11, Solomon listed many things that are good for men, but warned again that all of these are vanity. What is the last of these? Ecclesiastes 11:10 - 12:8

2. After considering every area of man's life, what did Solomon finally conclude was the chief good in life - the one thing that would satisfy man's heart? Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Is my life empty and meaningless, in spite of all I have, do, and enjoy? See Mark 8:34-38

2. Who can bring true satisfaction? John 4:13-14, 15:10-11.
