

Discipleship University Bible Reading Guide

Middle Old Testament History: 1 Kings 10-11, 2 Chron. 9, Proverbs 25-31, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon

(For class to be held on December 17, 2016)

Read 1 Kings 10, 2 Chron. 9 – The Highpoint of Solomon’s Kingdom

1. Who heard of Solomon’s wisdom and prosperity and came to see if it was true? _____
2. What was this visitor’s conclusion? _____. What does that mean? _____
3. To whom was credit and praise given by the visitor? _____. To her this proved that God _____ Israel.
4. How many targets of gold did Solomon have made? _____. How many shields of gold? _____. Of what was his great throne made? _____. Of what were all his drinking glasses made? _____
5. What impressed you most about the greatness of Solomon’s kingdom? _____
6. See 2 Chronicles 9:26-31 for a final summary of Solomon’s kingdom. How many years did he reign? _____. What were the boundaries of his kingdom to the North? _____ to the South? _____.

Read Proverbs 25-29 – Relationships and Activities

1. What is the advice of Prov. 25:17? _____
2. What do verses 21-22 teach us on how to treat our enemies? _____
3. What are your favorite verses in chapter 25? _____
4. What is the counsel of Prov. 26:17? _____
5. What are your favorite verses in chapter 26? _____
6. What are your favorite verses in chapter 27? _____
7. In Proverbs 28, what makes a person’s prayers an abomination to the LORD? _____
8. Instead of hiding or denying our sins, if we confess and forsake them, what do we receive according to verse 13? _____. What other verses did you like in chapter 28? _____
9. What does the fool lack that the wise man has in Prov. 29:11? _____
10. What are your favorite verses in chapter 29? _____

Read Proverbs 30-31 – Words of Agur and Lemuel: The Virtuous Woman

1. What did you find interesting in Proverbs 30? _____
2. In Prov. 31:1-9 what advice from the mother to the king seems really important? _____
3. What are the five most impressive traits of the virtuous woman in Prov. 31:10-31? _____

***Suggested Reading, *Prophets and Kings*, chapter 3 (pages 51-60)

Read 1 Kings 11 – Solomon’s Apostasy and the Rise of Adversaries

1. What seems to be the first major mistakes Solomon made? _____. What sins resulted from these first major mistakes? _____
2. What was prophesied about the future of Solomon’s kingdom because of Solomon’s apostasy? _____
3. Who were the three adversaries against Solomon that God raised up, and where was each one from? _____

4. What was Jeroboam offered if he would obey God and do what was right? _____
5. To where did Jeroboam flee when Solomon sought to kill him? _____
6. What son of Solomon became king of all Israel upon Solomon's death? _____

***Suggested Reading, *Prophets and Kings*, chapter 4 (pages 61-74)

Read Ecclesiastes 1-6 – All Is Vanity; No Satisfaction in Wisdom, Pleasure, Labor, Popularity or Wealth

1. In chapter 1:4-11 Solomon illustrates vanity seven or more ways. Which illustration is the most clear and connects with you? Explain. _____
2. By what search or pursuit is meaning for life disappointed in verses 12-18? _____
3. By what pursuit is satisfaction defeated at the beginning of chapter 2? _____
4. What does Solomon say was vanity and vexation from verses 4-11? _____
5. What is the main point of Eccl. 3:1-9? _____
6. What truth or principle is explained in verse 14? _____. What two principles are in verse 15? _____
7. In verses 18-21, in what way is a man equal to a beast? _____
8. Eccl. 4:1 starts with the unfair things of life. What help for handling the trials of life is alluded to in verses 9-11? _____
9. Most of Eccl. 5 sounds like Proverbs. Which verses resonated best with you? _____. What verse best captures the element in common that runs from verses 4-16? _____. What is the conclusion of verses 18-20? _____
10. In Eccl. 6, what blessings of life are described as without significant meaning or as vanity? Verses 1-2 _____, Verses 3-6? _____, Verses 7-8? _____
11. What does Eccl. 6:12 look forward to for life meaning but without any guarantee? _____

Read Ecclesiastes 7-12 – Counsel for Living in a Wicked World with the Uncertainties of Life

1. What is so distressing about the first verses of chapter 7? _____
2. What is the advice of verse 10? _____
3. Why are verses 23-24 so surprising? _____
4. What did Solomon get from many of his wives according to verse 26? _____
5. What is good about Eccl. 7:29 and 8:8? _____
6. What does Eccl. 8:11-13 tell us about Solomon's purpose in writing Ecclesiastes? _____
7. In Eccl. 9:1-6 what do all men have in common whether they have done good or evil? _____
8. What does Solomon recommend in verses 7-10? _____. What's the point of verses 11-12? _____
9. What is the point of Eccl. 10:4? _____. Does Solomon see himself in verse 5? _____. What are your favorite verses from Eccl. 10:1 to 12:1? _____
10. What does Eccl. 12:7 mean? _____. For Solomon what does life come down to? _____

***Suggested Reading, *Prophets and Kings*, chapter 5 (pages 75-86)

Read Song of Solomon 1-8 – The Song of Songs or Canticles: Historical Event or Allegory?

This book is the subject of many different opinions and interpretations. Most agree that it is a love story of Solomon and a country girl from northern Palestine whom he married for love instead of political expedience. Some aspects of the story illustrate the love between Christ and his people. It is an ancient Eastern poem with much imagery that is challenging to our Western minds. Enjoy Solomon's greatest song!