**Overview of the Entire Bible Schedule**

**Week 1 – Content Overview of the Entire Bible**

**Week 2 – Storyline Overview of the Entire Bible**

**Week 3 – Jesus in the Old Testament**

**Week 4 – Pentateuch, Part 1 (Genesis 1-11)**

**Week 5 – Pentateuch, Part 2 (Genesis 12 – Deuteronomy)**

**Week 6 – Historical Writings, Part 1 (Joshua – 2 Samuel)**

**Week 7 – Historical Writings. Part 2 (1 Kings – 2 Chronicles)**

**Week 8 – Historical Writings, Part 3 (Ezra – Esther)**

**Week 9 – Poetry (Job – Song of Solomon)**

**Week 10 – Prophets (Isaiah – Malachi)**

**Week 11 – Gospels & Acts (Matthew – Act)**

**Week 12 – Letters & Revelation (Romans – Revelation)**

For any questions, email bnistor@sheridanhills.org.

***Core Seminars—Overview of the Entire Bible***

**Class 9: Job – Song of Solomon**

*“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”* (2 Timothy 2.15)

**SIMPLE OUTLINE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Job 1-42 | How do we live in a world with evil and suffering?  |
| Psalm 1-150 | How do we praise God? |
| Proverbs 1-31 | How do we live in an ordered world?  |
| Ecclesiastes 1-12 | How do we live in a meaningless world? |
| Song of Solomon | How do we understand love and sex?  |

**SUMMARY OF THEMES COVERED IN POETIC AND WISDOM LITERATURE**

* Suffering and evil
* Justice and righteousness
* Praise and exaltation
* Lament
* Thanksgiving
* Fear of the Lord
* Human knowledge
* The meaning of life
* Love as a gift from God

**JOB**

Uniqueness of the book: Author wants us to focus on the questions raised by Job’s suffering.

Job: blameless, righteous, honors God

Satan: Job is only righteous because God rewards him. Let him suffer then see how righteous he is.

God: Why did God allow Job to suffer? No answer…

The real questions of the book:

 1. Is God just?

2. Does God run the universe on the strict principle of justice?

3. How is Job’s suffering to be explained?

Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar represent the best of ancient thought on suffering and human wisdom

Three cycles in the book:

Job-->Friend-->Job-->Friend-->Job-->Friend

Big Assumption:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **HUMAN ACTION** | **GOD’S JUSTICE** |
| Wise & Good | Success and Reward |
| Evil & Foolish | Disaster and punishment |
| We think we have enough perspective of the world to make large claims about God’s justice. |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **ARGUMENT** | **IMPLICATION** | **CONCLUSION** |
| **JOB** | I’m innocent | My suffering is not just | 1. God doesn’t run the world with justice | 2. God is unjust |
| **FRIENDS** | God is just | God rules the world with justice | Job must have sinned to cause his punishment (Job 22) |
| **ELIHU** | God is just | God rules the world with justice | Suffering may be a warning to avoid future sin because it builds character. |

God’s Response:

1. The universe is a vast and complex place that only God can control (38-39)

2. Job doesn’t have a universal vantage point of the universe like God does.

3. Therefore, Job cannot accuse God of injustice.

4. We live in an amazing world that is not designed to prevent suffering.

5. Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar are wrong

6. Job has spoken rightly about me (not about everything though…)

Theme Two: Joy of Physical Attraction

 Described by elaborate metaphors (see handout)

 NOT VISUAL

What is Love? 8:6-7

 Beautiful and life-giving

 OR

 Dangerous and destructive

Humans have a longing to know and be known

Love (i.e. sexual love) is a gift from God

Open-ended ending – 8:13-14

Some interpretations:

 1. God and Israel – Jewish Tradition

 2. Christ and the Church – Christian Tradition

 3. Collection of Ancient Love Poetry

Key Feature: Garden Imagery --> Adam & Eve

* + - Man and Woman naked and vulnerable, yet unified and safe
		- Vision of a relationship untainted by sin
		- Meant to point us to God’s greater love

Behemoth and Leviathan

 Symbols of disorder and danger

God’s world is good, ordered, and beautiful, but imperfect, wild, and dangerous.

**PSALMS**

A collection of 150 Hebrew poems written by various authors like David, Asaph, Sons of Korah, Heman & Ethan, Solomon, Moses, and Anonymous.

Many written for choir, but NOT a hymnbook

Designed as five books, mirroring the Pentateuch – A New Torah

Two themes: Torah and King

Psalm 1 – Blessed is the man who meditates on the Torah

Psalm 2 – Reflection on 2 Samuel 7; Blessed are those who take refuge in the King

Book 1 emphasis:

 1. Psalm 15 and 24 are a call to covenant faithfulness

2. Psalms 16-18 and 20-23 are about the king’s deliverance and rule over the nations.

3. Psalm 19 is the center and it focuses on Torah

Book 2 emphasis:

1. Psalms 42-43 opens with the hope for a future return to the Temple in Zion

2. Psalm 72 closes the book and emphasizes the future reign of a messianic King that will bring fulfillment to Abrahamic promises.

Book 3 emphasis:

1. Book 3 concludes with a psalm focusing on the promise of a messianic kingdom in light of Israel’s crisis of exile.

Book 4 emphasis:

1. Book 4 responds to the crisis of exile in book 3. Psalm 90 is a psalm of Moses who calls upon God to have mercy.

2. Psalms 93-99 celebrate the day when God will establish himself as king and justice and righteousness will rule the world.

Book 5 emphasis:

1. Opens with the promise of a messianic king who will defeat evil and bring God’s kingdom

2. Psalms 113-118 (aka Hallel Psalms) and Psalms 120-136 (aka Songs of Ascent) are about the future messiah who will save his people and bring future restoration.

3. Center of Book 5 is Psalm 119

4. Concludes with Psalms 146-150, Psalm 148 being the center that alludes back to Hannah’s song in 1 Samuel 2. The “horn” is a symbol for the future messianic king.

Types of Psalms: Lament and Praise

* Lament can be found primarily in the first part of Psalms
* Praise is found primarily in the end of Psalms
* Shift between lament and praise propels readers forward to hope.

**PROVERBS**

Wisdom not knowledge

Wisdom is skill or applied knowledge

 How to live well in God’s world

Not good advice—invitation to learn wisdom from previous generations

Fear of the Lord

* Awe and reverence
* A moral mindset
* Humble oneself before God

A Father’s Instruction

 Wisdom and Fear of God

 --> Virtue, Integrity, Generosity

 --> Success and peace

 Folly and Evil

 --> Selfishness and Pride

 --> Ruin and Shame

Lady Wisdom – Proverbs 1:20-33, 3:13-20, 8, and 9

How to read proverbs

* Proverbs are probabilities
* Proverbs are not promises
* Proverbs focus on general rules not exceptions

**ECCLESIASTES**

Author’s Goal: To let the teacher deconstruct all the ways we find meaning and purpose apart from God.

The structure of the book:

 Author (1:1) – Teacher (1:2-12:7) – Author (12:9-14)

“Smoke, Smoke, everything is utterly smoke”

 1. Everything is temporary and fleeting

 2. Everything is an enigma and paradox

Time

* Nothing really ever changes
* Mountains don’t care about what you do
* Time erases everything

Death

* Great equalizer
* Renders everything meaningless

How do we live in a smoke-filled world?

* Accept that all of life is out of your control
* Enjoy God’s gifts and life as it comes
* Fear God and obey him (12:13-14)

**SONG OF SOLOMON**

“Song of songs” – Hebrew Idiom, meaning greatest song

Solomon likely not the author – likely written in the tradition of Solomon

Theme One: Intense Desire, Seeking and Finding

Separated --> hunting for one another--> find each other and embrace --> scene ends before getting racy