



BIBLE STUDY

MAJOR CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE



<https://campus.cru.org/college/bsu/community-group-material/>

STUDY

12

PSALMS & PROVERBS

PSALMS & PROVERBS

OVERVIEW

What Do I Need to Know About the Passage?

PSALM 2 & PROVERBS 8: 22-31

Throughout this semester we have been looking at characters of the Old Testament and how they point to or foreshadow the coming Christ. Almost all of what we have looked at and read this year has been from the lense of a specific literary style called “narrative,” or “historical narrative.” Each text we have read has been focused on a certain person in a certain place during a certain time. This is a great way of familiarizing ourselves with the Old Testament and the Bible as a whole! Although, as much of the Bible is written as a narrative, there are many other literary styles found throughout, that may seem confusing when we are so used to the story being told a specific way. When we come across the poetic books of the Bible such as: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon, we are encountering something very different than a narrative, yet equally as important to know and understand.

This study will be focused on the book of Psalms and the book of Proverbs. Two of the most well-known poetic books of the Bible, but possibly two of the most misinterpreted and misunderstood books. God desires for us to know His plan for His people and how He uses those people throughout history, and He makes those things known to us through historical narrative, but He also wishes for us to know him personally and emotionally, which can be captured in these books. When discussing this study with your group, think about why it might be important to understand the Bible as literature and all the different elements within the text as a whole.

Historical narrative is not necessarily meant for us to relate to and is not written so that we can “put ourselves in their shoes,” but rather to tell a story. Books like the Psalms and Proverbs allow us to relate to the text more and understand what emotional response to God looks like (eg. David fleeing from Saul and writing Psalms during). Help your group understand this!

Group Context Questions

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY AND HOW?

Who: are the authors of the Psalms & Proverbs in the Bible?

What: are the Psalms & Proverbs in the Bible?

When: were the Psalms & Proverbs written in the Bible?

Where: are the Psalms & Proverbs at in the Bible?

Why: should we know about the Psalms & Proverbs?

How: do the Psalms & Proverbs impact us?

VOCABULARY WORDS

- **Historical Narrative**

Biblical narrative consists of both recorded events and the dialogue, or speech, of characters appearing in those events. Sometimes, a bit of climactic dialogue will give you the clue that you need to understand why such events were recorded and what those events signify.

- **Poetry**

Hebrew poetry is very different from English poetry. Rhyme does not matter as much as meter and sound. Hebrew poetry focuses on an idea called parallelism.

- **Parallelism**

Parallelism in Hebrew poetry is an instance of two thoughts side by side that bear some relation to one another. Often, the parallelism is synonymous: the same idea will be stated in different ways; that is, instead of rhyming sounds, the lines have rhyming thoughts.

CONTEXT QUESTIONS

Allow your group to share some of their prior knowledge of who this character is and their significance. Familiarize yourself with this character so you can also answer. Make sure to do this in a way that is inclusive of those who may not have any prior knowledge.

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Watch This Video With Your Group**VIDEO LINK HERE: [PSALMS VIDEO](#)**

This video is a general overview of the entire book of Psalms. It discusses the content and structure of the Psalms.

Allow your group to discuss what they gathered from the video. What stuck out to them? Eg. “If you were to take notes over this video what would be some of the main ideas you write down?”

VIDEO

- Feel free to share these videos with your group so they can also watch. You may also find any other outside sources that you might think to be valuable to their understanding of the Word.

What Are the Questions?**PSALM 2 & PROVERBS 8: 22-31 (READ PSALM 2 THEN PROVERBS 8)****LAUNCH**

What is your experience with the poetic books of the Bible? Have you found them harder to read than other books? Do you have a favorite Psalm or Proverb?

PSALM 2

1. What sticks out to you? What are some repeated words or ideas?
2. What do you notice about this Psalm that is different from all the other passages we have read this semester?
3. What is going on in this passage?
4. Who is the author of this Psalm? What emotion is he expressing in this writing?
5. What picture does this Psalm paint in your mind? How does it describe God in verses 4-6?
6. Who is the King God has set on Zion? What is the significance of Mount Zion?

7. Who is this Psalm talking about? Who is the king? Can there be a simultaneous contemporary king and an eternal King?

8. What is promised in the Psalm (v. 8)? To who?

9. What does the Psalmist warn the kings of? What does it mean to kiss the Son?

PROVERBS 8: 22-31

10. What is this Proverb talking about? Who is the personified main character of Proverbs?

11. Who is the Wisdom of God?

12. If we see Jesus as the Wisdom of God, how does that effect our reading of this passage and our understanding of God? (This is very important.)

PSALMS & PROVERBS

QUESTIONS

What Are the Questions? (Continued)

I CORINTHIANS I: 22-25

NEW TESTAMENT CORRELATION

In light of this passage, how can we look at these New Testament passages and better understand the character of Christ? How can we use these passages and interpret scripture using other scripture?

I CORINTHIANS I: 22-25

13. What sticks out to you? What is going on?
14. What does Paul say that Jesus is in verse 24?
15. If Jesus is the Power and Wisdom of God, how does that effect our reading of Psalm 2 and Proverbs 8?
16. How does the Power and Wisdom of God surpass our own understanding? What exactly does the Power and Wisdom look like? Who personifies these traits and how?
17. How can a passage like 1 Corinthians help us better understand passages like Psalm 2 and Proverbs 8?

APPLICATION

18. Do you view God as authoritative and powerful? Think about Psalm 2 and the language that is used. Do you view God as King of the world, or is Christianity just a Western religion? How does Psalm 2 effect our view of the world?
19. Where do you go when looking for wisdom? Do you turn to experiences you have had or trust in yourself or do you look to Christ? If you find it hard to look to Christ first, why do you think that is and how can you work on that?
20. What does God's Power and Wisdom do/mean for us? What does it mean for you? How can you practically apply these things?

FALLEN CONDITION

“What do these passages reveal about our fallen condition?”

- Help your group understand and identify the broken state of humanity due to our sin and where we see that evident in these passages.

CHRIST CENTERED SOLUTION

“What do these passages tell us about Christ's response?”

- Amidst our broken, sinful nature, what does Jesus offer as a solution? Where do we see a solution in these passages?

GRACE ENABLED RESPONSE

“What do these passages teach us about how we should live?”

- How should we live now with these two truths in mind? Develop a one or two sentence long summary of each section to form a summary of what you can learn from these passages.

What Are the Answers?

1. Allow your group to discuss.
2. Allow your group to discuss. Help them understand that this is a completely different type of literature than what we have been reading.
3. Allow your group to discuss.
4. David. He is seemingly frustrated with the state of the world, but recognizes God's authority and power.
5. Allow the group to discuss. In verses 4-6, God is described as laughing and mocking the worldly kings while we also see the threat of his wrath and fury. He has established his King, while other kings are establishing themselves.
6. This Psalm can simultaneously speak of David (contemporarily) and Jesus (eternally). God has anointed David as King, while David is only a foreshadow of Christ.
7. This Psalm is about Jesus. He is King and He is the Son of God mentioned in verse 7.
8. God promises to give His Son the nations and the ends of the earth for His own possession.
9. The Psalmist warns the kings to serve the LORD. To kiss the Son is to submit to God.
10. This Proverb is talking about the presence of Wisdom throughout all of God's creating of the world. This personified character is known as Lady Wisdom.
11. The Wisdom of God is ultimately Jesus Christ. We will see this more clearly in 1 Corinthians.
12. Allow the group to discuss. It is important to note that in these passages, if Jesus is the Power and Wisdom of God, then the world will be conquered by Jesus (Power) and Jesus was present in creation (Wisdom). This effects our theological understanding of Jesus as a member of our triune God.
13. Allow your group to discuss. Take your time walking them through the events of this passage.
14. Paul says that Jesus is the power of God and the wisdom of God.
15. Allow your group to discuss. It makes Jesus very present in both OT texts.
16. Paul says the foolishness of God is wiser than men and the weakness stronger. We can look to Christ as the ultimate example of these traits lived out. Have your group think of examples when Jesus shows these traits.
17. Allow your group to discuss.
- 18-20. Allow group to discuss.

NEXT STEPS

What's Next?

DISCUSS WITH YOUR GROUP:

Should we continue discussion on this passage or move on through the text next week?

Do you guys feel confident in your understanding of what was discussed tonight?

Any questions? (Allow anyone to come to you in private if needed)

Announcements

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Where is Cru at this week?

What upcoming events do we have?

Any other announcements? Should be in the slack.

Prayer

BREAK OFF AND PRAY

Take this time as an opportunity to model prayer to those who are younger in their faith.

Provide opportunities for those who wish to pray.

Model different types of prayer like the ACTS model.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [How to Read Biblical Poetry](#)
- [Jesus in the Proverbs](#)
- [Christ in the Psalms](#)
- [Finding Christ in the Proverbs](#)