

Outline for Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon

Proverbs Outline:

Proverbs 1-9 – Solomon’s Wisdom for the Young Man

Proverbs 10-29 – Solomon’s Collection of Independent Proverbs

- Chapters 10-24: The proverbs of Solomon
- Chapters 25-29: The proverbs of Solomon, collected by Hezekiah

Proverbs 30-31 – Non-Solomonic Proverbs

- Chapter 30: The words of Agur
- Chapter 31: The words of Lemuel which his mother taught him

Central Theme

- *“Wisdom is fearing the LORD, being teachable, and having skill in godly living; and the LORD is the source, the means, and the goal of wisdom”*

Ecclesiastes Outline:

Introduction: Life is a Vapor – Chapter 1:1-3 (negative)

- Life Under the Sun: Cycles, Knowledge, Pleasure, Wealth, Work – Chapter 1:4-2:23 (negative)
 - *Life Above the Sun*: The God-Centered Life – Chapter 2:24-26 (positive)
 - *Two Views of Time*: Human and Divine Perspectives – Chapter 3 (positive)
- Life Under the Sun: How Life Fails to Satisfy – Chapter 4:1-5:17 (negative)
 - *Life Above the Sun*: The God-Centered Life – Chapter 5:18-20 (positive)
- Life Under the Sun: Observations about Life’s Disappointments – Chapter 6:1-9:6 (negative)
 - *Living with Zest*: An Alternative to the Problems Just Posed – Chapter 9:7-10 (positive)
- Life Under the Sun: Observations about Human Folly – Chapter 9:11-10:20 (negative)
 - *Life Above the Sun*: Enjoying Life with God at the Center – Chapter 11:1-12:7 (positive)

Conclusion: The Speaker’s Quest satisfied – Chapter 12:9-14 (positive)

Central Theme

- *Meaningful! Meaningful! All is meaningful because all is ordered by an eternal, sovereign, and purposeful God. Therefore, we should fear God and rejoice in what He has given us to do and to have.*

Song of Solomon Outline

I. The Courtship: “Leaving” (1:2–3:5)

- The Lovers’ Remembrances (1:2–2:7)
- The Lovers’ Expression of Reciprocal Love (2:8–3:5)

II. The Wedding: “Cleaving” (3:6–5:1)

- The Kingly Bridegroom (3:6–11)
- The Wedding and First Night Together (4:1–5:1a)
- God’s Approval (5:1b)

III. The Marriage: “Weaving” (5:2–8:14)

- The First Major Disagreement (5:2–6:3)
- The Restoration (6:4–8:4)
- Growing in Grace (8:5–14)

Central Theme

- *The Song of Solomon sings of the son of David, who is the ideal king of Israel, who is the seed of the woman, seed of the Abraham, seed of Judah, seed of David, who enjoys uninhibited, unashamed intimacy with his beloved, in a garden that belongs to him.*