

Monday Night Discipleship: Week 17

Overview:

1. Review: Overview of Ruth through Proverbs
2. Longman Chapter 18 discussion:
 - a. Content: What Is Ecclesiastes About?
 - b. Authorship and Date: Who Wrote Ecclesiastes and When?
 - c. Genre: What Style of Literature Is Ecclesiastes?
 - d. Connections: How Does Ecclesiastes Connect to the Gospel?
3. REAP: Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

Review: Overview of Ruth through Proverbs

Ruth (week 8)

1. From a Famine to a Growing Family (Ruth 1:1-18) Ruth begins at the time of a great famine. It forced the family of Elimelek (Naomi, and their two sons) to the land of Moab. Naomi's two sons marry Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth. Sadly, Elimelek and the two sons die, leaving behind Naomi and her two Moabite daughters in law. Naomi wished to go back home to Bethlehem for help, and out of worry for her two daughters in law, she encouraged them to stay in their land, Moab. Orpah stayed, but in faith, Ruth went with Naomi to Bethlehem. This shows Ruth's faithfulness to God and God's provision to graft Ruth into God's family, Israel.
2. God's Providence (Ruth 1:19-4:12) By God's providence, Ruth meets Boaz and marries him. Boaz redeems Ruth, in the sense that he provided for her, and saved her family line from ending.
3. God's Promise Continues: Great Grandmother of David (4:13-22)- This book concludes with this happy ending, that Boaz and Ruth have a son, who will later become the father of Jesse, who is the father of David. And this last section emphasizes this genealogy that foreigners are grafted into God's family. And because of God's providence, Ruth's baby will continue to lead to the coming of David, and later the birth of Jesus Christ, the hero of God's grand story.

1-2 Samuel (week 9)

1. Samuel: The Last Judge (1 Samuel 1-7) God provides a son, Samuel, to a barren woman. He was empowered by God to be the last judge to deliver God's people. Samuel is described as faithful to God during a time that Israel was faithless. Once he became the judge of Israel, he led revival in Israel, he returned the ark of the covenant, and led Israel to defeat the Philistines.
2. Saul: The First King (1 Samuel 8-15) This is the beginning of the kingship/monarchy in Israel. Israel demanded that God give them a king. They wanted to be like the other nations, where a king would protect and provide for them. This was not God's plan and

shows how wayward Israel has become. The people chose a man named Saul simply because he was tall. Saul continued to show his unwillingness to follow God's instruction. His poor leadership led to his rejection by God's people and God Himself.

3. David: The First of a Dynasty of Kings (1 Samuel 16 - 2 Samuel 24) God responds to Saul's poor leadership by electing David as Israel's next king. Where the people elected Saul for his height, God elected David for his heart. After David's great victory over Goliath, Saul became jealous of David, which led to his paranoia. Saul dies and David is made king. God uses David to unite both the Northern and Southern kingdom of Israel. Through David's faithfulness, God brought national blessings to Israel in the areas of politics, spiritual faithfulness, and military victory. Sadly, David's sin leads to the rebellion of one of his sons, Absalom, forcing David to flee for his life and the great division between the tribes of Israel. Conflict continued between the 10 northern tribes of Israel and the 2 southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin.

1-2 Kings (week 10)

1. Solomon's Reign: A United Kingdom (1 Kings 1-14)- Through a great struggle, David's son (Solomon) is made the new king of Israel. In Solomon's obedience to God, he led wisely and God blessed them. God allowed him to complete the construction of the temple, the ark was returned to their place of worship, and it was filled with the glory of God. But in Solomon's sin, Israel falls prey to their enemies. Solomon dies and his son (Rehoboam) is made king. Rehoboam led foolishly which led Israel down this path of chaos, and eventually the breaking of the united kingdom.
2. History of the Divided Kingdoms (1 Kings 15 - 2 Kings 17) The narrative continues with a list of kings in both the northern and southern kingdoms. There were only two kings that did "what was right in the eyes of the Lord" 15:11; 22:43. The rest of the kings are recorded as being successfully wicked. These fluctuating narratives between the kingdoms continue until Assyria conquers the northern kingdom and they are taken into exile.
3. God's Remnant: What's Left of the Kingdom (2 Kings 18-25) In the midst of this chaotic narrative, Hezekiah becomes king of Judah. He is described as a faithful king.¹ Because of his faith and his desire to reform the kingdom, God blesses Judah and spares them from Assyria. God's provision over Judah continues until his idolatrous son, Manasseh, reigned as king. Judah's kings continue to lead wickedly which results in the further destruction of Israel and the Babylonian captivity. Nevertheless, the book of Kings ends with a reminder of God's work as He preserves a remnant for Himself.

1-2 Chronicles (week 11)

1. Genealogies Leading to David: His Royal Line (1 Chron. 1-9) In this section, the author records the history of Israel to the reign of David. Chronicles starts from the very

¹ 2 Kings 18:3.

beginning with the genealogies of Adam, Abraham, Jacob, and David. Then it moves us to the twelve tribes until the time of King Saul.

2. David's Reign (1 Chron. 10-29) In this section, the author records the history of David's reign to the reign of Solomon. Chronicles gives us an understanding of David's faithfulness to God. The ending of 1 Chron. captures David's final exhortations, his final preparations for the building of the Temple, the coronation of Solomon, and his death.
3. Solomon's Reign (2 Chron. 1-9) In this section, the author records the history of Solomon's reign to the end of the united kingdom. Solomon did just as David, his father, instructed and God blessed Israel with a united kingdom and extended its borders. This was the golden age of Israel, national providence. The bulk of this section focuses on the temple's construction and dedication to God.
4. The Succession of Judah's Kings (2 Chron. 10-36) In this section, the author records the downfall of Israel. After Solomon's death we see the downward spiral of Israel continue. We see yet again that the nation turns away from God and the worship of Him at the temple, which results in war and political unrest.

Ezra/Nehemiah (week 12)

1. The People Return and Rebuild (Ezra 1-6) Ezra picks up where the books of the monarchy end. After the Babylonians conquered Israel, they were in exile and held captive for about 70 years. Persia defeated Babylon and the king allowed the Jewish people to return to their homeland. The first thing they do when they arrive is they worship God. When they began building, they faced opposition. But through God's providence, he uses the new king of Persia to provide the means necessary for Israel to finish the reconstruction.
2. The People Are Rebuilt (Ezra 7-10) - After about 81 years later, Ezra is introduced. He is a scribe and a priest. God uses Ezra to bring the people out of their sinful and moral failings which led to a great revival.
3. The Walls Are Rebuilt (Nehemiah 1-7) - Nehemiah learns of the destruction in Jerusalem and the great trouble they are facing because the walls securing the people were destroyed again. Nehemiah prays to God and God responds. By God's providence, he uses King Artaxerxes to provide the materials and protection for the rebuilding of the walls.
4. The People Are Rebuilt (Nehemiah 8-12)- After the completion of the wall, the people worship God. Ezra, the priest, reminded them again of their covenant with God as he read them the law. This leads to their repentance and their covenant law keeping.
5. The Sad Ending (Nehemiah 13) - The revival of Ezra is brief and the people return back to their sinful ways. Sadly, Nehemiah ends with a record of the continuing sin of God's people.

Esther (week 13)

1. The Great Banquet (Esther 1-3) The book of Esther records the narrative of those who chose to remain in Persia instead of going back to their homeland to rebuild. Esther begins with a feast. The point of this feast was to show off his power and riches. But his wife didn't want to participate. Therefore the enraged king started a search for his new queen. Through his search, the king chose Esther as his new queen. Esther's cousin, Mordecai, told her to not tell the king that she is Jewish. With his help, Esther is able to warn the king that some are plotting to assassinate him. This won Mordecai favor with the king.
2. The Great Threat (Esther 3-4) Haman is introduced in this section and was given a high position under the king. Per the king's command, all were to bow before Haman as a sign of honor. Mordecai didn't bow, which caused Haman to become angry at Mordecai and all the Jews in their kingdom. Haman devised a plot to annihilate the Jews and used the king to make an evil decree against the Jews. Mordecai went to Esther for help. She agreed and they fasted before God.
3. God's Great Providence (Esther 5-10) Esther bravely went before the king and he agreed to give her whatever she requested of him. She requested a banquet with her, Mordecai and Haman; and it was granted to her. Haman schemed against Mordecai, but God protected him and provided protection for all of Israel. Mordecai then inaugurated the feast of Purim to remember all that God had done, and how He delivered them from their enemies.

Job (week 14)

1. The Prologue (Job 1-3)- These first two chapters introduce the characters and sets the stage for the rest of Job. There is: 1) God, who is all powerful and absolutely sovereign, 2) Satan, who can only do what God allows him to do, 3) Job, who is described as "blameless and upright, [and] one who feared God and turned away from evil."² Satan wanted to prove that Job was only faithful to God because God protected him and provided for him. So God allowed Satan to take away his kids, his riches, and his health. At first, Job still praised God. But later, Job accuses God for this great injustice against him.
2. Man's Debates (Job 4-37)- After these seven days, Job's three friends break their silence to lecture him with philosophical debates explaining why he was suffering. In summary, Job's friends conclude that his suffering is due to his sin. Throughout this section, Job is determined to confront God and prove that God has wronged him. To conclude this section, a new character is introduced that emphasizes that all human wisdom falls short compared to the wisdom of God.

² The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Job 1:1. All passages of Scripture will come from this translation unless otherwise referenced.

3. God's Final Verdict (Job 38-42) God appears before Job. But instead of answering Job's questions, God begins by rebuking Job for speaking against His divine character. God explains that He is the source of all wisdom because He alone is wise. He evidences this eternal truth by asking Job many questions that He alone, the Creator, can answer. Job is humbled and confesses that he spoke foolishly. In response to God's challenges, Job confesses his sin and repents. He was repenting from his false accusations against God of being unjust. Job concludes with God rebuking Job's "Friends" and he restores Job with more than he previously had.

Psalms (week 15) Below are Ten types (or classifications) of Psalms³:

1. Individual Lament Psalms- these Psalms are an individual's direct petition to God for His rescue and protection.
2. Communal Lament Psalms- Much like the Individual Lament Psalms, these psalms are on behalf of the nation instead of just an individual.
3. Individual Thanksgiving Psalms- these Psalms are an individual's public thanks to God for either something God's done or will do in the future.
4. Communal Thanksgiving Psalms- Much like the Individual Thanksgiving Psalms, these psalms are on behalf of the nation instead of just an individual.
5. General Praise Psalms- Similar to the Thanksgiving Psalms, these seem to be more focused on exalting God and His greatness.
6. Descriptive Praise Psalms- these psalms focus on God's praise for His attributes and acts.
7. Enthronement Psalms- these psalms proclaim God's sovereign rule over all.
8. Pilgrimage Songs- these were psalms sung by pilgrims that made the long trek up to Jerusalem for the three annual Jewish festivals (Passover, Pentecost, and the feast of Tabernacles).
9. Royal Psalms- these psalms focused on either the earthly king or heavenly Kings.
10. Wisdom and Didactic Psalms- these psalms gave instruction to the readers in the way of God's righteousness.

Proverbs (week 16)

1. Preamble (1:1-7) - This section gives an overview of the whole book. The author is Solomon and its purpose is to impart true wisdom to all who fear God because He is the source of all wisdom.
2. Proverbs for the Young (1:8-9:18) This section contains a series of statements that start with "My son". It is understood as a father's efforts to convince his son to seek wisdom and pursue it in order to obtain God's blessings in life. Proverbs defines a fool as someone who lives self-sufficiently, as if God did not exist.

³ George Knight, James Edwards, *Compact Bible Handbook*, Nelson's Compact Series (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishing, 2004), 101-103.

3. Proverbs of Solomon and the Wise (10:1-29:27) Many of the proverbs are somewhat disconnected from each other. Most of them are from Solomon, but others are from a group called the Wise. Many are proverbs about money and speech.
4. An Appendix The last two chapters form an appendix, that ends with two unknown sages, Agur and King Lemuel. Agur's sayings conclude that it is through the canon of Scripture that God reveals who He is. King Lemuel's sayings conclude that it is wise for a king to fear the Lord and select a wife who fears the Lord.

Longman Chapter 18 discussion:

1. Content: What Is Ecclesiastes About?
 - a. The Assembler and an Unnamed Wisdom Teacher- Ecclesiastes seems to have two voices. The first voice identifies himself as the Assembler. Following this first speaker, a second unnamed wisdom teacher comments on the first speaker's wisdom.
 - b. Vanity- The keyword of Ecclesiastes is vanity. He uses this word _____ times to describe a life that tries to find satisfaction apart from God.
 - c. Outline:
 - i. The Assembler's Conclusions: Under the sun living (Ecc. 1:1-12:8)
 1. The Argument: All is Vanity- (Ecc. 1:1-11) -
 2. The Evidence (Ecc. 1:12-6:12) -
 3. Instructions for under the sun living (Ecc. 7:1-12:7) -
 4. Conclusion: All is Vanity (Ecc. 12:8) -
 - ii. The Unnamed Teacher's Evaluation: Above the sun living (Ecc. 12:9-14) -

2. Authorship and Date: Who Wrote Ecclesiastes and When?

- a. Author: Anonymous, possibly King Solomon-
- b. Date: Unknown, possibly 965-828 BC (Solomon authorship)

3. Genre: What Style of Literature Is Ecclesiastes?

Wisdom Literature

4. Connections: How Does Ecclesiastes Connect to the Gospel?

Romans 8:18-20- ¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to **futility**, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope”

R.E.A.P.

Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

⁹Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care. ¹⁰The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth.

¹¹The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. ¹²My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

¹³The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. ¹⁴For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.⁴

1. **Read aloud together**

⁴ The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ecclesiastes 12:9-14. All passages of Scripture will come from this translation unless otherwise referenced.

2. Explain by answering the three questions: What does this passage teach us about ____?
 - a. God:

 - b. Man:

 - c. Christ:
3. Ask- What question/s would help you understand the text more fully?
4. Pray- Using some of your observations and questions, write out a prayer to God.