

Job, Proverbs & Ecclesiastes



Faculty Contact

Paul Birston paulbirston@shaw.ca paulbirston@glbc.ca (204) 471-7720 (cell/text)

Please contact me anytime you have comments, suggestions, questions or you would like to talk about this course or your overall learning and ministry goals.

Course Description

An in-depth study of Job, Proverbs & Ecclesiastes beneficial for personal spiritual growth, preaching, teaching, worship, prayer, evangelism, apologetics and counselling. Through the wisdom writings of Scripture God has much to teach us about practical living successfully and righteously with God through the pressures and challenges of life as well as the big picture questions of why and theodicy (the justice of God in the face of evil). The course will explore the important features and power of Biblical poetry, Wisdom Literature types and forms, collections within the Wisdom Literature in relation to other books in the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. In addition to standard introductory matters such as authorship, date, audience, etc., the study will also examine the books of Wisdom Literature in their historical contexts, theology, themes, prophetic importance and messages and applications for today.

Course Objectives

1. Know God, Father, Son and Spirit and their wisdom and will for our lives.
2. Read through and study Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes together and understand their tremendous historical, theological, prophetic and spiritual importance.
3. Develop awareness of the features of wisdom writings and the power of Biblical Hebrew poetry through understanding their intentional organizational, linguistic and formal characteristics.
4. Gain knowledge of the importance of Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes in knowing God's wisdom and will and living with Him in and through the challenges and rewards of daily righteous living in the twenty-first century.
5. Keep a notebook journal (based on assignment 1) while reading through these books to record insights and information that will be valuable in our spiritual growth and ministry.
6. Develop skills in preaching and teaching these foundational books through thorough research, exegesis, hermeneutics and application of their important messages to our lives to today.
7. Learn how to apply the message and meaning of Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes today in personal spiritual growth, preaching, teaching, worship, prayer, evangelism and counselling.

Required Readings

Primary Text

The Bible. Job, Proverbs & Ecclesiastes

Secondary Literature

For Job: Shackelford, Don. *Job.* Truth for Today Commentary. Searcy, AK: Resource Publications, 2010. (Also available electronically through www.throughthescritures.com.)

For Proverbs: Bland, Dave. *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs.* Joplin, MO: College Press, 2002.

For Ecclesiastes: Petrillo, Denny. *Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon.* Truth for Today Commentary. Searcy, AK: Resource Publications, 2016. (Also available electronically through www.throughthescritures.com.)

Reading & Assignment Schedule

See Course Assignments on Pages 3–4

Week 1	Job 1–3 Introduction to Job and the Course
Week 2	Job 4–10 Eliphaz, Bildad & Job's Replies, Speech Cycle Ia
Week 3	Job 11–14 Zophar & Job's Replies, Speech Cycle Ib
Week 4	Job 15–21 Speech Cycle II, <u>Job Presentation Topic Due</u>
Week 5	Job 22–27 Speech Cycle III
Week 6	Job 28–31 Job's final speech
Week 7	Job 32–36 Elihu speaks
Week 8	Job 38–42 YHWH speaks, conclusion <u>Presentation 1 (Job), Quiz 1</u>
Week 9	Proverbs 1–6 Introduction to Proverbs, Wisdom Poems & Speeches Part 1
Week 10	Proverbs 7–12 Poems II, Sentence Sayings of Solomon, <u>Pres. 2 Topic Due</u>
Week 11	Proverbs 13–19 Sentence Sayings of Solomon
Week 12	Proverbs 20–25 Sentence Sayings of Solomon, Words of the Wise
Week 13	Proverbs 26–31, <u>Presentation 2 (Proverbs or Ecclesiastes), Quiz 2</u>
Week 14	Ecclesiastes 1–6 and Introduction
Week 15	Ecclesiastes 7–12, Presentation 2 (Ecclesiastes), <u>Quiz 3</u>

Course Assignments & Evaluation

Weekly Chapter Readings, Chapter Summaries & Feedback	35%
Job Class Presentation 1	25%
Proverbs or Ecclesiastes Class Presentation 2	25%
Quizzes 1–3	15%
Based on readings, class instruction, discussions and notes.	
Bonus: voluntary student journal notebook review	5%

Weekly Readings, Chapter Outlines and Feedback 35%

Introduction: Each week at least one day before class read the Scripture chapters and one chapter of your choice from the related secondary literature commentaries according to the reading schedule below. By 5:00 p.m. on the *day before class* send the following three items to me by email in one word processing file that you update weekly in the chronological and Bible book order of our studies:*

1. A brief one to two line summary of each chapter of the Bible texts we are scheduled to discuss in the upcoming class. By the end of the course you will have complete summaries of all three books that help you recall their contents, structures and locations of passages for future reference. A “mental map” of the books is extremely helpful in the work of preaching, teaching, apologetics and evangelism.
2. Your brief reflections on any aspect of the Biblical text of any one of the the chapters scheduled for discussion in class. Briefly discuss any aspect of the text you find spiritually and practically meaningful. Minimum 150 words.
3. Your brief reflections on any aspect of the one chapter of the secondary literature you choose to read for the Bible texts we are scheduled for discussion in class. Briefly discuss any aspect of the textbook linguistic features and comments you find spiritually and practically meaningful. Minimum 150 words.

*Your word processor file with your weekly submission can form part of your class journal notebook.

Job Paper or Visual Class Presentation 1 25%

1. Research paper or visual presentation on any passage in **Job** and its related historical, literary and eternal truths that you consider important for the church and the world today. Submit your choice of passage to me and prepare your presentations according to the weeks indicated in the schedule above.
2. Papers will be 8 to 10 pages, plus bibliography. Use SBL format. Double spaced 12 point Times New Roman font. Present your paper to our class.

3. Visual presentations will include twenty-five to thirty-five high quality slides with text, pictures, maps, charts, etc., including bibliography and picture credits. Suitable for viewing in church Bible classes and one-on-one discussions. Format may be PowerPoint, Apple Keynote, LibreOffice (<http://www.libreoffice.org/download/libreoffice-fresh/>), Prezi or a Word to pdf document in landscape orientation.
4. In your paper or visual presentation conclusion discuss how a fuller understanding of your chosen passage can help us in our personal growth and in our ministry with God and His church. Your concluding applications should be 20% of the length of your paper or visual presentation (i.e. 2 pages for paper, 5 slides for visual presentation).
5. Research at least 10 high quality primary and secondary sources of relevant literature. Cite all sources you use in your bibliography. Focus on high quality peer-reviewed resources. Do not use internet sites. I am available to help you find high quality scholarly sources.

Proverbs or Ecclesiastes Paper or Visual Class Presentation 2 25%

1. Research paper or visual presentation on any passage in **Proverbs or Ecclesiastes** and its related historical, literary and eternal truths that you consider important for the church and the world today. Submit your choice of passage to me and prepare your presentations according by the weeks indicated in the schedule above.
2. Papers will be 8 to 10 pages, plus bibliography. Use SBL format. Double spaced 12 point Times New Roman font. Present your paper to our class.
3. Visual presentations will include twenty-five to thirty-five high quality slides with text, pictures, maps, charts, etc., including bibliography and picture credits. Suitable for viewing in church Bible classes and one-on-one discussions. Format may be PowerPoint, Apple Keynote, LibreOffice (<http://www.libreoffice.org/download/libreoffice-fresh/>), Prezi or a Word to pdf document in landscape orientation.
4. In your paper or visual presentation conclusion discuss how a fuller understanding of your chosen passage can help us in our personal growth and in our ministry with God and His church. Your concluding applications should be 20% of the length of your paper or visual presentation (i.e. 2 pages for paper, 5 slides for visual presentation).
5. Research at least 10 high quality primary and secondary sources of relevant literature. Cite all sources you use in your bibliography. Focus on high quality peer-reviewed resources. Do not use internet sites. I am available to help you find high quality scholarly sources.

Quizzes 1–3*

15%

Three brief quizzes. Short objective questions based on the introductory material for each

Bible book. One short essay question based on any passage of your choice from each book. Based on readings, class instruction, discussions and notes.

Bonus: voluntary student journal / notebook review

5%

Submit your journal notebook hardcopy or computer file for review the last week of class.

Online Class Resources Folder

<https://app.box.com/s/nv79pfujvqgie56it3donj0ijk1soxpr>

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