

See *Jesus* in the Old Testament

In Luke 24:27, Jesus walks with two disciples on the road to Emmaus and opens the Scriptures to them, showing how everything written in Moses and the Prophets pointed to Him. In Parts I and II of this endeavor, we followed that “scarlet thread” through the Law and Israel’s history – through Creation, covenant, sacrifice, and redemption to conquest, kingship, temple, and exile.

Now, as we move into the books often referred to as Poetry and Wisdom Literature, the biblical timeline will not always move forward in the same ways as it has before. This designation describes how these books communicate God’s truth differently, but they do not change the fact that they are true. Job, for example, stands outside the unfolding history we have been following, but his suffering and encounter with God are no less real. The Psalms give us the song and prayer book of God’s people, teaching us to worship, lament, trust, and hope in Him. Proverbs gives us wisdom from the Spirit for holy living in God’s world. Ecclesiastes wrestles honestly with life under the sun, while the Song of Solomon celebrates God’s good gift of covenant love.

*Together, these books teach us to fear the Lord and bring every part of life before Him. They also show how the **redemptive thread** is woven into the tapestry of every part of God’s Word, pointing us to JESUS – the Wisdom of God, the righteous Sufferer, the greater Son of David, and the King in Whom every prayer, longing, and hope finds its answer.*

Part III – Seeing Jesus in Poetry and Wisdom Literature

JOB | The Righteous Sufferer, the Living Redeemer, and the Wisdom of God

- September 19 – ch. 1 *God permits Satan to test Job, who loses his children, servants, and possessions yet worships the LORD, trusting Him amid overwhelming grief.*
- September 20 – ch. 2 *Job holds fast his integrity through bodily affliction, receiving both good and adversity from God as his friends come to mourn with him.*
- September 21 – ch. 3 *Job gives voice to the darkness of deep suffering, lamenting the day of his birth and longing for the rest he cannot find in life.*
- September 22 – ch. 4 *Eliphaz assumes Job’s suffering must prove hidden sin, a mistaken judgment that earthly circumstance always reveals a person’s spiritual standing.*
- September 23 – ch. 9 *Unable to contend with the Almighty, Job longs for an arbitrator to plead his case, anticipating Jesus, the one Mediator between God and man.*
- September 24 – ch. 14 *Job laments the brevity of human life and longs for renewal beyond death, anticipating the resurrection secured by Jesus for all who belong to Him.*
- September 25 – ch. 16 *Abandoned and falsely accused, Job looks beyond his miserable comforters to a witness in heaven, anticipating Jesus who intercedes for sufferers.*
- September 26 – ch. 19 *Rejected by those closest to him, Job declares that his living Redeemer will vindicate him and that even after death he will see God.*

JOB, continued

- September 27 – ch. 22 *Eliphaz falsely accuses Job of wickedness and urges him to repent, unaware that he himself will need Job's intercession and God's mercy.*
- September 28 – ch. 23 *Unable to find God or understand His purposes, Job trusts that He knows his way and will bring him through suffering like refined gold.*
- September 29 – ch. 28 *Though people uncover earth's treasures, true wisdom belongs to God, is found ultimately in Jesus, and teaches us to fear Him and turn from evil.*
- September 30 – ch. 31 *Job concludes his defense by recounting a life of integrity before God and asks Him to hear the charges against him and answer.*
- October 1 – ch. 32 *After Job's friends fall silent, young Elihu speaks in anger, insisting that understanding comes from the Almighty rather than age.*
- October 2 – ch. 33 *Though he misrepresents Job, Elihu says God may use suffering to warn sinners and describes a mediator, anticipating Jesus's saving work.*
- October 3 – ch. 37 *Elihu points to the storm as a display of God's awesome majesty, calling Job to consider His perfect knowledge, power, justice, and care.*
- October 4 – ch. 38 *The LORD answers Job from the whirlwind and questions him about creation, revealing that His sovereign rule is beyond human understanding.*
- October 5 – ch. 39 *God displays His wisdom and power through the wild creatures He governs and sustains, showing Job that all creation remains under His care.*
- October 6 – ch. 40 *Job humbly pledges silence, but the LORD continues, challenging his understanding of justice and displaying His power through Behemoth.*
- October 7 – ch. 41 *God describes the untamable Leviathan, showing that no creature stands beyond His rule and pointing toward Jesus's final victory over Satan.*
- October 8 – ch. 42 *Job repents before God, is vindicated before his friends, intercedes for them, and receives restoration, pointing to the mercy of Jesus.*

PSALMS (Book I) | The Anointed Son, the Suffering Savior, and the King of Glory

- October 9 – ch. 1 *Jesus perfectly embodies the blessed man who delights in God's Word and flourishes like a watered tree, wholly unlike the wicked.*
- October 10 – ch. 2 *The nations rebel in vain against the LORD and His Anointed Son, Jesus, whose Kingdom reaches the ends of the earth and offers refuge.*
- October 11 – ch. 3 *Surrounded by enemies, David trusts the LORD as his shield and deliverer, confident that salvation belongs to God and asking His blessing.*
- October 12 – ch. 8 *David praises the majesty of God, who crowns humanity with honor and dominion – fulfilled perfectly in the Son of Man who rules over all.*
- October 13 – ch. 13 *David moves from cries of "How long?" to confident praise, trusting God's steadfast love and faithfulness while deliverance still seems distant.*
- October 14 – ch. 14 *David laments humanity's corruption and the oppression of God's people yet hopes for salvation, fulfilled in Jesus, who restores His people.*

PSALMS (Book I), continued

- October 15 – ch. 16 *David delights in the LORD as his portion and refuge, looking beyond death to the resurrection of Jesus and everlasting joy in God's presence.*
- October 16 – ch. 19 *Creation declares God's glory, His perfect Word revives and guides, and David asks the LORD, his Rock and Redeemer, to cleanse/guard from sin.*
- October 17 – ch. 22 *David's cry of suffering points to Jesus's crucifixion, while his answered prayer anticipates the risen King's praise among all people.*
- October 18 – ch. 23 *David trusts the LORD as his Shepherd, pointing to Jesus, the Good Shepherd whose presence leads His people safely home forever.*
- October 19 – ch. 24 *The earth belongs to the LORD, and only one with clean hands may ascend His holy hill – fulfilled by Jesus, the victorious King of Glory.*
- October 20 – ch. 27 *David seeks the LORD as his light and salvation, desiring His presence above all and waiting to see His goodness despite surrounding enemies.*
- October 21 – ch. 31 *In deep distress, David entrusts his life and times to the LORD – words Jesus fulfills as He commits His spirit to the Father on the cross.*
- October 22 – ch. 32 *David celebrates the blessing of forgiven sin, showing that honest confession brings release from guilt and pointing to justification by faith in Christ.*
- October 23 – ch. 34 *David invites the afflicted to taste the LORD's goodness and seek refuge in Him, while the righteous sufferer's unbroken bones point forward to Jesus.*
- October 24 – ch. 35 ¹ *Falsely accused and hated without cause, David asks the LORD to vindicate him, foreshadowing Jesus, the righteous Sufferer opposed by the world.*
- October 25 – ch. 36 *David contrasts the godless way of the wicked with the LORD's immeasurable steadfast love, under whose wings His people find refuge and life.*
- October 26 – ch. 37 *David calls the righteous to trust, delight in, and wait for the LORD rather than envy evildoers; Jesus promises the meek will inherit the earth.*
- October 27 – ch. 40 *David praises God for lifting him from the pit, while his obedience points to Jesus, who came to do God's will as the perfect sacrifice.*
- October 28 – ch. 41 *Sick, sinful, and betrayed by a close friend, David seeks God's mercy and restoration, foreshadowing the betrayal Jesus would endure.*

PROVERBS (Wisdom's Invitation) | The Fear of the LORD, the Path of Life, and the Wisdom of God

- October 29 – ch. 1 *Proverbs introduces wisdom as skill for godly living rooted in the fear of the LORD, warning against sinners and calling us to receive instruction.*
- October 30 – ch. 3 *The wise trust the LORD with all their heart, receive His loving discipline, treasure wisdom above riches, and practice love toward others.*
- October 31 – ch. 4 *A father urges his children to prize wisdom, avoid the way of wickedness, guard their hearts, and keep their whole lives on the path of righteousness.*

¹ Imprecatory psalms ask God to judge evil and defend His people. They do not authorize personal vengeance but place justice in God's hands (Deuteronomy 32:35, Romans 12:19). Christians may pray for evil to end, for enemies to repent, and for Christ's righteous Kingdom to come, remembering that we escape judgment only through His mercy.

PROVERBS (Wisdom's Invitation), continued

- November 1 – ch. 5 *A father warns that adultery's seductive path ends in ruin and death, calling his son to covenant faithfulness and joyful delight in his own wife.*
 - November 2 – ch. 8² *Wisdom calls everyone to reject pride and evil, treasure wisdom above riches, and walk in God's created order, ultimately pointing to Jesus.*
 - November 3 – ch. 9 *Wisdom and Folly offer rival feasts leading to life or death; those who fear the LORD choose wisdom's table, pointing to Jesus, the Bread of Life.*
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PSALMS (Book II) | The Royal Bridegroom, the Ransom from Death, and the King of All Nations

- November 4 – ch. 42 *Overwhelmed by sorrow, the psalmist thirsts for God, remembers His steadfast love, and repeatedly calls his downcast soul to hope in Him.*
- November 5 – ch. 43 *The psalmist asks God to vindicate him and send His light/truth to lead him home, where he will worship God, his exceeding joy.*
- November 6 – ch. 44 *Remembering God's past victories, His people lament present defeat and plead for help, yet in Christ no suffering can separate from God's love.*
- November 7 – ch. 45 *A royal wedding celebrates the anointed king and his bride, looking beyond David's sons to Jesus, the eternal Bridegroom who endures forever.*
- November 8 – ch. 46 *Though creation trembles and nations rage, God remains His people's refuge and fortress, dwelling among them and exalted throughout the earth.*
- November 9 – ch. 49 *No wealth can ransom life from death, but God redeems His people to Himself, pointing to Jesus, who gave His life as our sufficient ransom.*
- November 10 – ch. 50 *God summons His people to judgment, rejecting empty sacrifice and calling them to worship, obedience, and dependence upon Him in trouble.*
- November 11 – ch. 51 *Confronted with his sin, David casts himself on God's mercy, seeking forgiveness and cleansing and a new heart only God can create.*
- November 12 – ch. 61 *From the ends of the earth, David asks God to lead him to the higher Rock and preserve the King's throne forever, fulfilled in the reign of King Jesus.*
- November 13 – ch. 65 *God hears prayer, atones for sin, and blesses the earth with abundance, drawing all peoples to praise Him as the hope of the whole world.*
- November 14 – ch. 67 *God's people ask Him to shine His blessing among them so His saving ways will be known and praised with joy by every nation.*
- November 15 – ch. 68 *David celebrates God's triumphant march from Sinai to Zion and calls every kingdom to praise Him, anticipating the risen Christ's ascension.*
- November 16 – ch. 69 *David's unjust suffering, zeal for God's house, and bitter drink point to Jesus, who endured rejection and the cross before gathering His own.*
- November 17 – ch. 72 *Solomon prays for a righteous King who defends the needy, rules to the ends of the earth, and brings blessing to every nation – King Jesus.*

² Proverbs poetically personifies wisdom as a woman calling people to fear the Lord and live according to God's order. Proverbs 8 does not teach that God's wisdom – or Jesus – is a created being, nor should every detail be treated as a direct description of Christ. The New Testament nevertheless reveals Jesus as "the wisdom of God" and the eternal One through whom all things were made (John 1:1-3, 1 Corinthians 1:24, Colossians 1:15-17).

PROVERBS (Wisdom for Daily Life)³ | The Righteous Life, the Gracious Word, and the Just King

- November 18 – ch. 10 *Solomon contrasts righteousness and wickedness in work, wealth, speech, and relationships, showing wisdom gives life but sin leads to death.*
 - November 19 – ch. 11 *The LORD delights in honesty, humility, trustworthy speech, and generosity, showing that righteousness blesses a community while sin leads to ruin.*
 - November 20 – ch. 14 *Those who fear the LORD consider their ways, avoid evil, care for the poor, and find secure refuge in God, while folly destroys homes and nations.*
 - November 21 – ch. 15 *The LORD sees every heart, delights in the prayer of the upright, and teaches that gentle words, correction, and humility belong to wisdom's path.*
 - November 22 – ch. 16 *The LORD weighs motives, establishes plans, and rules all outcomes; His wisdom produces righteousness and the life-giving justice of a king.*
 - November 23 – ch. 18 *Words carry life or death, but the righteous find true security in the LORD, listening before answering, resisting gossip/pride, and valuing friendship.*
 - November 24 – ch. 20 *No one can claim a pure heart, so wisdom receives correction, waits for the LORD's justice, and looks to the faithful King for redemption.*
 - November 25 – ch. 21 *The LORD directs kings and weighs hearts, desiring righteousness over empty worship; no human wisdom can prevail against His purpose.*
 - November 26 – ch. 22:1-16 *Because the LORD made rich and poor alike, wisdom prizes character over wealth, trains children in life's right path, and gives generously.*
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PSALMS (Book III) | The Ruined Sanctuary, the Restoring Shepherd, and the Never-Failing Covenant

- November 27 – ch. 73 *Envious of wicked prosperity, Asaph enters God's sanctuary and sees their end, confessing that God's presence and strength are his portion.*
- November 28 – ch. 74 *With the sanctuary ruined and God's people seemingly abandoned, the psalmist appeals to the covenant and asks the King to redeem His flock.*
- November 29 – ch. 78 *Israel's history must be taught to every generation: though God's people rebel, He remains merciful and chose David, pointing forward to Jesus.*
- November 30 – ch. 79 *With Jerusalem reduced to rubble, God's flock confesses sin and pleads for mercy and justice so the nations may know and His people praise Him.*
- December 1 – ch. 80 *God's desolate vine cries to Israel's Shepherd for restoration, asking His face to shine and His hand to rest upon the royal Son at His right hand.*
- December 2 – ch. 82 *God condemns rulers who favor the wicked and neglect the vulnerable, pointing to His own righteous judgment over every nation.*
- December 3 – ch. 84 *Longing for the courts of the LORD, the pilgrim finds strength and blessing in God's presence, where one day is better than thousands elsewhere.*

³ Proverbs describes the way God has ordinarily ordered life, not unconditional promises that every outcome will occur immediately or without exception. Each proverb should be read alongside the rest of Scripture – especially Job and Ecclesiastes, where the righteous sometimes suffer and the wicked may prosper for a time. These sayings teach us to trust and live according to God's wisdom, not treat Him as bound to a mechanical system of reward.

PSALMS (Book III), continued

- December 4 – ch. 85
God's people plead for renewed mercy, and He promises a restoration in which steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, and peace meet – a beautiful anticipation of Christ's coming.
- December 5 – ch. 87
The LORD welcomes former enemies as citizens born in Zion, anticipating Jesus's gathering of every nation in His heavenly city, where all find their source of life.
- December 6 – ch. 88
Surrounded by suffering, loneliness, and darkness, the psalmist finds no resolution yet continues crying to the God who saves, showing that despair need not silence faith.
- December 7 – ch. 89
Though the fallen crown makes God's promise to David appear broken, His covenant stands forever and finds its certain fulfillment in Jesus, the King above all kings.



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