



HIGHER GROUND  
CALVARY CHAPEL

# SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

Class Seven:

Poetry

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The Book of Job is the oldest book ever written [unless we accept the Book of Enoch as actually being written by Enoch]  
It is poetry and it seems to have been written as a play that should be performed and not just read

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Here is my quick overview of the book  
Job was a wealthy man  
I believe he may have not only been wealthy but I suspect he was the wisest man of his time and the most moral man in his world

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The Book of Job does two things:

1. It deals with a new world view
2. It demonstrates and predicts the need for a Messiah

The Book of Job begins in Heaven with a discussion between God and Satan

Obviously God revealed this to the author of Job

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God is not offering Job to Satan

God is recognizing Satan's desire to go after Job

God allowed this for a very specific reason

He needed Job to go through trials to reveal a third world view

Job, and only Job, fits God's criteria

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There were two prevailing world views at the time of Job:

1. You were good and God blessed you
2. You were evil and God punished you

God introduced God loving you, but you still suffered

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God allows His followers to go through trials to teach them and to help them grow as believers  
There was no philosophy in the world to teach this concept  
God put Job through trials so that he would question God and learn that God still put good men through trials for their own good

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The three friends were also wealthy and wise men  
They represented the two philosophies of the world:  
God loves you and blesses you because you are good  
God hates you and punishes you because you are evil

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God used these three friends to push Job when he stopped short of recognizing the need for a mediator between God and man  
There was a fourth person with Job's friends  
This was Elihu  
Most scholars misunderstand Elihu

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Elihu was a pre-Incarnate appearance of Jesus  
He declares that He will be this mediator who will be both God and man  
He gives the Plan of Salvation  
“I have sinned and it profited me not”

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He disappears and God then steps in and plays the Creator Card  
He lets Job know that as the Creator God has the right to do whatever He wants to do with His creation

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Job is humbled  
He seeks forgiveness  
The trial ends  
And God restores the blessing back to Job

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I did not pay that much attention to the Books of Poetry until I came across a verse in the Gospel of Luke.

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Luke 24:44:  
“And He said unto them, “These are the words which I spoke unto you while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the Psalms concerning me.””

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It was at that point that I realized that the Psalms were more than just a collection of poems and songs  
There is a collection of the Psalms called Messianic Psalms  
They speak of the coming Messiah

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As a result, this makes these  
Psalms prophetic  
Most of our lesson tonight will be  
focused on the Messianic Psalms  
I also want to focus on the Song  
of Solomon

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I believe that the Song of  
Solomon is more than a romantic  
poem  
I believe that it is a carefully  
coded prophetic work discussing  
Jesus' seeking the Jews during  
the Tribulation Period

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Now Hebrew poetry is not based  
upon sounds  
Our English poetry is based upon  
sounds  
We focus on rhyming words  
We focus on meter  
You need to read English poems  
out loud for the full effect

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Hebrew poetry is based upon content

It is as much what you say as it is in how you say it

Hebrew poetry employs repetition as one of its techniques

Some Psalms keep repeating, "And His mercy endures forever."

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This way you have no doubt as to what the Psalmist is trying to say

There is also a repetition of themes and this is why some Psalms sound alike

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Another Hebrew Poetry technique is exaggeration

David loved to do this:

"My bones ache"

"By bed is wet with my tears"

"Thousand shall fall"

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For this reason we do not take every comment in the Psalm literally

Hebrew Poetry also uses figurative language

“He shall abide under His wings”

“Your hand is upon me”

“The eye of the Lord...”

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The Latter Day Saints ignore the figurative language in the Psalms and in other places in the Bible

They claim that these passages teach that God has a physical body

They ignore Jesus’ comment that “God is a spirit.”

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There is also a poetic technique called Compare/Contrast

Here the Psalmist will compare something:

“Blessed is the man who does not  
Walk in the counsel of the ungodly  
Nor stand in the way of sinners  
Not sit in the seat of the scornful”

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There are things that are common among people

There are traits, actions and attitudes that are common among certain groups of people

The Psalmist will list these traits, actions and attitudes

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But there is also the Contrast.

These are the opposite reaction or attitude that a different group of people might have

Normally this will be used to show the godly compared to the ungodly

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We've already done the godly in Psalm 1

It also notes:

His delight is in the Law

He meditates day and night

He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers

He brings forth his fruit in season

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Then the Psalmist notes:  
The ungodly are not so  
They are blown like chaff in the wind  
They shall not stand in judgment  
The Lord knows the way of the  
righteous  
But the way of the ungodly shall  
perish

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Psalm Two is a Messianic Psalm  
But it is a look at the Messiah  
during the Millennium  
There is also some information  
about this Messiah, this King  
He will be God's Son  
He will be God's begotten Son

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Psalm 2:7:  
"I will declare the decree; the Lord  
has said unto me, 'You are my  
Son, this day have I begotten  
you.'"

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The Messiah must be God's Son  
He must be God's begotten Son  
This means the Messiah must be  
God  
When Jesus admitted to being the  
Messiah, He was claiming to be  
God among them

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In Psalm 16 we have another  
Messianic Psalm  
This one speaks of the  
Resurrection Psalm 16:10:  
"You will not leave my soul in Hell;  
neither will You suffer Your Holy  
One to see corruption."

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There is an interesting pattern in  
how the Psalms were compiled  
It seems this was God's doing and  
not the decision of man because  
the Jews do not recognize their  
Messiah as a suffering servant

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Psalm 22, Psalm 23, and Psalm 24 gives us the phases of the work of the Messiah

Psalm 22 shows the Messiah upon the cross

Psalm 23 shows the Messiah as the Good Shepherd

Psalm 24 is the Messiah as King

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Psalm 22 appears to be a vision given to David of the Messiah on the cross

It opens with the very cry of Jesus on the cross

“My God! My God, why have You forsaken me?”

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Psalm 22: 7 – 8 shows the ridicule of Jesus by the crowd

It even quotes the priest claiming that Jesus saved others, now He needs to save Himself

Psalm 22:12 refers to bulls surrounding Jesus

Roman soldiers worshiped a bull

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Psalm 22:14 describes the physical condition of a person who is crucified

There is dehydration

There is the dislocation of the shoulder joints

The heart will eventually rupture

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Psalm 22:15 continues:

There is dehydration so the tongue sticks to the mouth

Those on the cross are given drink not out of mercy, but to continue the suffering

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Psalm 22:16 describes the method of execution

“They pierce my hands and feet”

This was a thousand years before crucifixion was used

How can you die from wounds to your hands and feet?

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Psalm 22:16 tells us that the guards who performed the execution will cast dice for Jesus' garments

Normally the clothes are torn and divided among the soldiers as payment

The robe was woven and so they kept it whole and gambled for it

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Psalm 23 is the Good Shepherd  
After Jesus had been crucified and resurrected, the Church was established

Jesus' role changed to shepherd the flock – the believers

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Psalm 24 is believed to be part of the inspiration for Handel's Messiah Psalm 24:7:

“Lift up your heads, O you gates, and be lifted up you everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in.”

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Psalm 24:8:

“Who is the King of Glory? The  
lord strong and mighty, the Lord  
mighty in battle.”

Jesus is now a physical King  
coming to claim His throne

This is the final role of Jesus

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Psalm 40:7 was quoted by Jesus  
and He claimed it spoke of Him:

“Then said I, ‘I come in the  
volume of the book, it is written of  
me.’”

The “book” is God’s Word – the  
Bible

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Psalm 41:9 speaks of the betrayal  
of the Messiah:

“Yea, my own familiar friend, in  
whom I trusted, who did eat of  
my bread, has lifted up his  
heel against me.”

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Psalm 49 is a discussion of the Law of the Kinsman Redeemer  
“None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give God a ransom for him.”  
“But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, for He shall received me...”

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Psalm 51 is a Psalm David wrote seeking God’s forgiveness for the affair with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband  
“Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me.”

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“Cast me not away from Your presence and renew a right spirit within me”  
“Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me with Your free spirit.”

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“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God You will not despise.”

David is now speaking of forgiveness based upon repentance and not sacrifice  
This is how Jesus will save

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Psalm 68:18 speaks of Jesus' work in the Bosom of Abraham  
“You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive...”

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Psalm 69 has several important pieces of information  
“They gave me gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.”  
This was the final prophecy Jesus fulfilled while He was on the cross

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But Psalm 69 establishes the spiritual blindness of Israel  
For their treatment and rejection of the Messiah, King David prayed for God to make the nation of Israel spiritually blind so that they would not be saved

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“Let their table become a snare before them, and that which should have been for their welfare, let it become a trap.”  
David is speaking of the Passover Table – the Passover Meal  
It is a picture of Jesus and they are blind to it

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“Let their eyes be darkened that they see not, and make their loins continually to shake.”  
“For they persecute Him whom You have struck; and they talk to the grief of those whom You have wounded.”

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“Add iniquity unto their iniquity  
and let them not come into Your  
righteousness”

“Let them be blotted out of the  
book of the living and not be  
written with the righteous”

David was not happy with them

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Satan quoted Psalm 91 to  
describe the protection God had  
given Jesus:

“For He shall give His angels  
charge over You, to keep you in  
all Your ways

They shall bear You up in their  
hands lest You dash Your foot on  
a stone”

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Psalm 103:12 discusses the result  
of God’s Plan of Salvation:

“As far as the east is from the  
west, so far has He removed our  
sins from us.”

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Psalm 109:8 describes the fate of the one who betrays the Messiah:  
“Let his days be few and another take his office.”

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Psalm 110 is a picture of Jesus both after and before His crucifixion: Psalm 110:1:  
“The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit You at my right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool.’  
After the Resurrection Jesus is sitting at God’s right hand

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Psalm 110:4:  
“The Lord has sworn and will not repent, ‘You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.’  
This took place before the Crucifixion and gave Jesus the legal authority to offer Himself as a sacrifice to God

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Psalm 118 is another Messianic Psalm. It is the Psalm the people were singing during the Triumphant Entry

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Psalm 118:22 – 24:  
“The stone which the builders rejected has become the head stone of the corner.  
This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

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This is the day which the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”  
Psalm 118:26:  
“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; we have blessed You out of the house of our God.”

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The Book of Proverbs is written mostly by King Solomon, although there are some proverbs and sections of the book that were written by others and they were added to this book.

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A proverb is a concise lesson which is normally one or two sentences long.  
The Compare/Contrast method is very common throughout the book

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Proverbs 12:7:  
“The wicked are overthrown and are not; but the house of the righteous shall stand.”

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Proverb 12:19:

“The lip of truth shall be established forever; but a lying tongue is but for a moment.”

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The Book of Proverbs gives advice on:

1. Marriage
2. Relations
3. Business dealings
4. Finances
5. Raising children

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Some of the better-known proverbs are...

Proverbs 3:5 – 6:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding

In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.”

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Proverbs 4:23:

“Keep your heart with all diligence  
for out of it are the issues of life.”

Proverbs 5:15:

“Drink waters out of your own  
cistern, and running waters out of  
your own well.”

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Proverbs 6:27:

“Can a man take fire to his bosom  
and not be burned?”

Proverbs 9:10:

“The fear of the Lord is the  
beginning of wisdom, and the  
knowledge of the holy is  
understanding.”

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Proverbs 13:24:

“He who spares his rod hates his  
son; but he who loves him  
chastens him...”

Proverbs 22:6:

“Train up a child in the way that  
he should go, and when he is old,  
he will not depart from it.”

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One of the longest proverbs is  
Chapter Thirty-One:  
“Who can find a virtuous woman?  
For her price is far above rubies.”  
This is normally used as a sermon  
each Mother’s Day

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Ecclesiastes is also written by  
Solomon  
It is believed to have been written  
after he had been led away from  
God and then come back later in  
his life  
It involves a character called the  
Preacher who is looking at life

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A famous passage from this book  
is Ecclesiastes 3:1 – 9  
It declares that there is a time and  
a season for every thing  
It became the song, *Turn, Turn,  
Turn* by the Byrds

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The over-all theme is found in Ecclesiastes 1:2:  
“Vanity of vanities,’ says the Preacher, ‘vanity of vanities; all is vanity.’”

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The final conclusion of the Preacher is that all our work and efforts are vain except for the work and effort we make for the Lord.

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Song of Solomon is also called The Song of Songs  
It is written by Solomon  
Most teach that it is about the relationship between a man and a woman  
A Jewish boy cannot read it until he is thirty years old

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Some teach that it was written by  
Solomon for the Queen of Sheba  
Bible Scholars, trying to give it a  
spiritual slant, claim that it is  
Christ's love for the Church  
I would like to propose a different  
interpretation

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This was Solomon's Masterpiece  
– his Song of Songs  
Solomon was the wisest man who  
ever lived  
So I do not believe you can take  
this passage at face value  
Solomon was too clever for that

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I went through and used all my  
skills as a writer and as an  
English Major and tried to  
decipher all the symbols and  
images the way that you would an  
epic poem  
I came away with a different view

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I suggest that the Daughters of Zion are the Jewish believers  
As Daughters of Zion they were born to Israel  
But there is also the Daughters of Jerusalem  
Who was born in Jerusalem?  
The Church – Christian believers

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This poem speaks of a third person – a little sister to these two  
It begins with the Daughters of Jerusalem [the Church] in a chamber with the King  
This is not a sexual thing  
The King [God] and the Church are together

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I would suggest that God and the Church are in Heaven [after the Rapture]  
They are watching the Shepherd [Jesus] wooing the Jews of the Tribulation Period  
She went looking for her Beloved who was no longer there

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She was abused by the guards  
who caught her out at night  
The nation of Israel will be  
attacked by the world  
The Beloved Shepherd returns  
skipping on hills the way Jesus  
returns at the Battle of  
Armageddon

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There are references throughout  
the poem to spices, fruits, trees  
and other items that all apply to  
things God describes in His Law  
and prepared for the priests of  
Israel  
So I suspect that this describes  
Jesus seeking the Jews after the  
Rapture and during the  
Tribulation

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Which brings us to the last Book  
of Poetry: Lamentations  
Lamentations was written by  
Jeremiah after the Fall of  
Jerusalem  
He is lamenting all that was lost  
because of their sin

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There are three passages I want to focus on out of this book

Lamentations 3:22 – 23:

“It is because of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed because His compassion fail not. They are new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness.”

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Lamentations 3:26:

“It is good that a man should hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.”

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Lamentations 3:40:

“Let us search and try our ways and turn again unto the Lord.”

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Next Week:  
The Prophets

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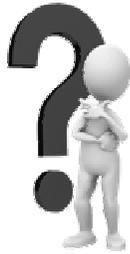
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## QUESTIONS



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