



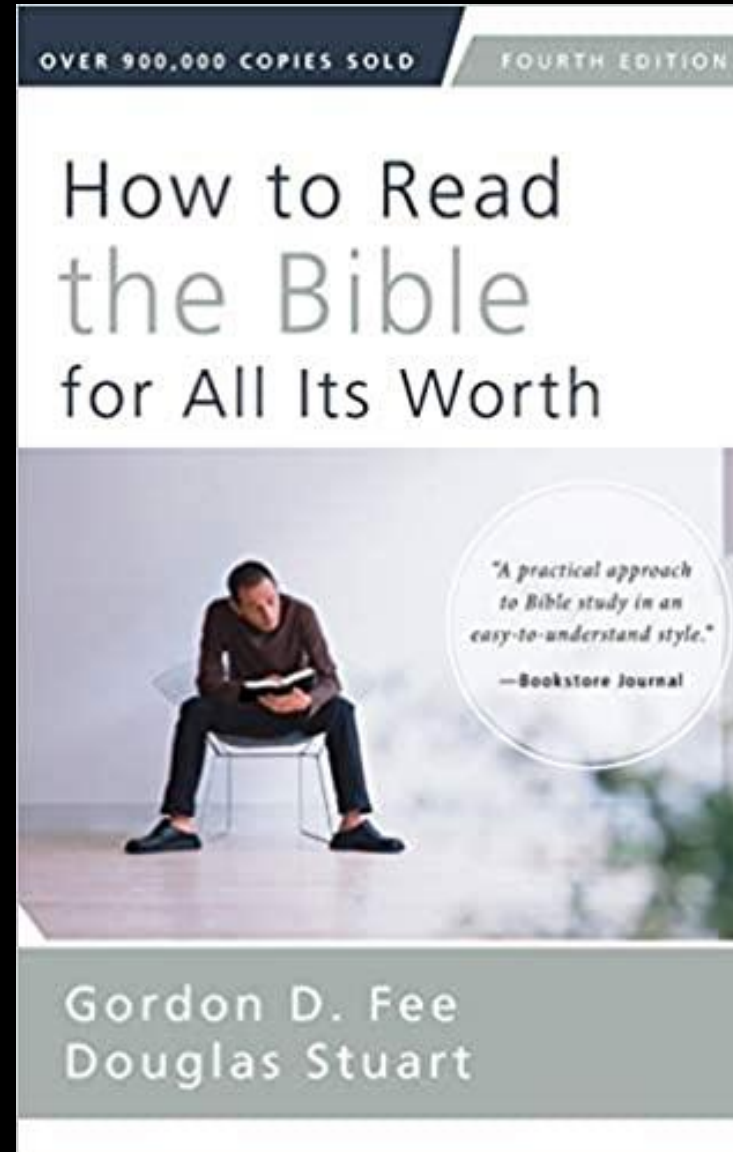
# Welcome

## How to study the Bible

Session 6: The Songs, The Wisdom & The Hope

# How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth

Gordon D. Fee & Douglas Stuart



# ground rules:

- be present
- be interactive
- be curious

# agenda:

- psalms – Israel's prayers & ours
- wisdom books – then & now
- Revelation – images of judgment & hope



psalms:

Israel's prayers & ours

exegetical observations

# the Psalms as poetry

1. Hebrew poetry *was addressed* the mind through the heart
2. the psalms *themselves* are musical poems
3. *the* vocabulary *of poetry* is purposefully metaphorical

the Psalms as literature



the use of Psalms  
in ancient Israel

# the types of Psalms

1. laments
2. thanksgiving
3. hymns of praise
4. salvation or history
5. affirmation & celebration
6. wisdom
7. songs of trust

the imprecatory psalm

hermeneutical observations

# the benefits of the Psalms

1. a guide to worship
2. demonstrate how we can relate to God
3. demonstrate the importance of reflection & meditation on what God has done



wisdom books:  
then & now

what is 'wisdom'?

- o wisdom is the ability to make godly choices in life.

Leave the presence of a fool,  
for there you do not meet  
words of knowledge.

Proverbs 14:7 (ESV)



The wicked man writhes  
in pain all his days,  
through all the years  
that are laid up for the ruthless.

Job 15:20 (ESV)

who is wise?

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;  
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1:7 (ESV)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,  
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

Proverbs 9:10 (ESV)

# alternate sources of wisdom

1. wise men and women (Titus 1:5-9, 2:3-4)
2. parents (Proverbs 1:8, 4:1-2)
3. colleagues (2 Timothy 2:22)
4. Poetry

wisdom in the Proverbs

27 Can a man carry fire next to his chest  
and his clothes not be burned?

28 Or can one walk on hot coals  
and his feet not be scorched?

29 So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife;  
none who touches her will go unpunished.

Proverbs 6:27-29 (ESV)

Commit your work to the Lord,  
and your plans will be established.

Proverbs 16:3 (ESV)

# guidelines for studying Proverbs

1. they are not legal guarantees from God
2. check the content



<sup>4</sup> Give your eyes no sleep  
and your eyelids no slumber;

- <sup>1</sup> My son, if you have put up security for your neighbor,  
have given your pledge for a stranger,
- <sup>2</sup> if you are snared in the words of your mouth,  
caught in the words of your mouth,
- <sup>3</sup> then do this, my son, and save yourself,  
for you have come into the hand of your neighbor:  
go, hasten, and plead urgently with your neighbor.
- <sup>4</sup> Give your eyes no sleep  
and your eyelids no slumber;
- <sup>5</sup> save yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter,  
like a bird from the hand of the fowler.

# guidelines for studying Proverbs

1. they are not legal guarantees from God
2. check the content
3. memorable vs accurate

wisdom in Job

wisdom in Ecclesiastes

# five points from Ecclesiastes

1. God is the only enduring reality & the source of life & true wisdom (Eccl 3:14)
2. we don't always understand God's ways (Eccl 3:11)
3. things do not always add up & do not appear to be as they should be (Eccl 5:13-14)
4. most of the issues of life are repetitive & vanity (Eccl 1:9-10)
5. the great equalizer for all men is death (Eccl 3:19-20)

wisdom in Song of Solomon

allegorical or historical?



3

Revelation:

images of judgment & hope

the nature of Revelation

Revelation as an epistle

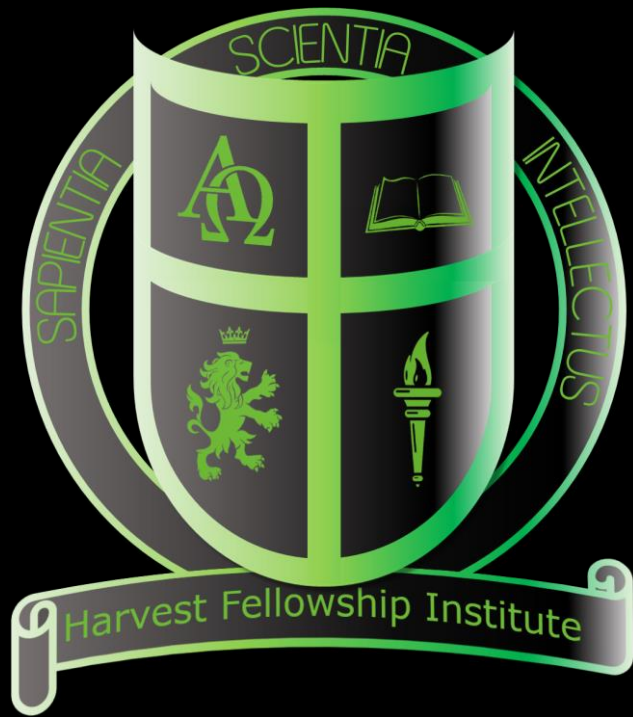
Revelation as an prophecy

Revelation **as** apocalyptic

Revelation's *literary* context

# principles of interpretation

1. determine the author's intended meaning
2. don't overuse the principle of the "analogy of scripture"
3. symbols of revelation
4. the Old Testament is the primary source of background
5. focus on the general rather than the specific



Questions?