

OLD TESTAMENT

Poetry

August 19, 2018

Psalm 150

Proverbs 1: 1-7

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

Psalm 150

¹ Praise the Lord!

Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty firmament!

² Praise him for his mighty deeds;

praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

³ Praise him with trumpet sound;

praise him with lute and harp!

⁴ Praise him with tambourine and dance;

praise him with strings and pipe!

⁵ Praise him with clanging cymbals;

praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

⁶ Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

Proverbs

¹ The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:

² For learning about wisdom and instruction,

for understanding words of insight,

³ for gaining instruction in wise dealing,

righteousness, justice, and equity;

⁴ to teach shrewdness to the simple,

knowledge and prudence to the young—

⁵ let the wise also hear and gain in learning,

and the discerning acquire skill,

⁶ to understand a proverb and a figure,

the words of the wise and their riddles.

⁷ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;

fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Ecclesiastes 3

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵ a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

There is wisdom to be heard when we listen to people of faith from Old Testament days.

Are you ready to take a quick look at the OLD TESTAMENT? The Hebrew Scriptures. The Bible: not a book but a library... CHECK OUT the image on the screen ... the books on a shelf ...

We have five weeks to cover the five sections of the OLD Testament part of this library:

LAW

Genesis / Exodus / Leviticus / Numbers / Deuteronomy

HISTORY

Joshua / Judges / Ruth

1 Samuel / 2 Samuel

1 Kings / 2 Kings

1 Chronicles / 2 Chronicles

Ezra / Nehemiah / Esther

POETRY

Job / Psalms / Proverbs / Ecclesiastes / Song of Solomon

MAJOR Prophets

MINOR Prophets

Our Bible, A library of books to teach us to live with GOD Loving us!

We started with The TORAH ... Last Week Pastor Matt reviews the Section called History! THIS WEEK we dance through POETRY!

Job

Psalms

Proverbs

Ecclesiastes

Song of songs / Solomon

Five more books in this HEBREW Bible that are the foundations of Salvation History:

Poetry / sometimes called Wisdom

Job is all about why do bad things happen to good people?

Psalms is about the hymn book of temple worship and poetry of the Davidic and Solomon Royal court

Proverbs is the collection of wise sayings

Ecclesiastes the recovery book when

Solomon had struggled

Song of Solomon is a love story.

Poetry / or the Wisdom writings of the Hebrew Bible bring us some of the beauty of our faith. Grounded in GOOD and HARD!

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Job ... Why do bad things happen to good people... JOB a good and righteous man with a wife and family and prosperity. Suddenly he is alone at the edge of town grieving as his family is gone ... his property and wealth are gone... he is on a dung heap... FOREVER there has been and Expression "with the patience of Job!" ... JOB had no patience when you read this book...

Urban Christian legend has led us down a path that is not true to this fellow Job ...

He has friends who come by trying to explain why he is left in this place...

None of them give an adequate answer ... Job wants to question GOD ... and find our why ? THEN ... the Lord comes and in a moment of being in the presence of Job ... HE stops questioning and is satisfied in the presence of God... the big word ... "THEOPHANY" the Theophany is the moment of encountering GOD...

GOD in our lives is what life / what living is about Investing in any thing else of this world is not the point!

Why do bad things happen to good people? The question will live forever!

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Four types of Psalms ... Praise / Wisdom / Lament / Thanksgiving

Psalm 122 (PRAISE / WISDOM / THANKSGIVING)

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

¹ *I was glad when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'*

² *Our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.*

³ *Jerusalem—built as a city
that is bound firmly together.*

⁴ *To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord,
as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.*

⁵ *For there the thrones for judgement were set up,
the thrones of the house of David.*

PSALM 77 (a LAMENT) for those who mourn / grieve!

¹ *I cry aloud to God,
aloud to God, that he may hear me.*

² *In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord;
in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying;
my soul refuses to be comforted.*

³ *I think of God, and I moan;
I meditate, and my spirit faints.*

Psalms offer us Praise / Wisdom / Laments / Thanksgiving ... when we listen. And learn

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Proverbs 6:

⁶ *Go to the ant, you lazybones;
consider its ways, and be wise.*

⁷ *Without having any chief
or officer or ruler,*

⁸ *it prepares its food in summer,
and gathers its sustenance in harvest.*

Proverbs is to rich to comprehend without thoughtful ... slow ... repeated listening ...

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Ecclesiastes ... A time for every matter under heaven...

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Song of Solomon 4: 1-3

The Bride's Beauty Extolled

*1How beautiful you are, my love,
how very beautiful!*

*Your eyes are doves
behind your veil.*

*Your hair is like a flock of goats,
moving down the slopes of Gilead.*

² *Your teeth are like a flock of shorn ewes
that have come up from the washing,
all of which bear twins,
and not one among them is bereaved.*

³ *Your lips are like a crimson thread,
and your mouth is lovely.*

*Your cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate
behind your veil.*

I will stop here in the description of the bride ...

Poetry teaches us to observe all the beauty of God's mighty creation ... and the beauty of a love story ...

There are things to learn reading the Old Testament and listening to the wisdom and insights of the people of faith of yesterday!

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This apart of the scriptures is not about history / story / facts to be absorbed / rules to be observed ... WISDOM Literature is to be listened to and meditated on ... it is for the creative side and meditative side of the brain... LISTEN ...

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In 1869, Fanny J. Crosby was inspired to write "Rescue the Perishing" after she met the men who were housed in a New York City mission. She was concerned about their spiritual well-being and earnestly pleaded with the men that if there was someone "who had wandered from his mother's home and teaching," to please come and see her at the end of the service.⁵ A young man came up to Crosby and said that he would like to see his mother in heaven, but according to the way he was living his life, he was convinced it was not possible. After ardent prayer with Crosby and everyone attending the service, he accepted God's justifying grace. That night, when Fanny Crosby went home, she wrote the words "Rescue the Perishing."⁶ It should be noted that Crosby wrote texts pertaining to the temperance movement and this hymn carries the same overtones.

THERE IS WISDOM ... that teaches us faith ...
bourn of the psalms ... bourn of our scriptural heritage!

Rescue the Perishing

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 591

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

Music: William H. Doane, 1832-1915

1. Rescue the perishing, care for the dying,
snatch them in pity from sin and the grave;
weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen,
tell them of Jesus, the mighty to save.

Refrain:

Rescue the perishing, care for the dying;
Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

2. Though they are slighting him, still he is waiting,
waiting the penitent child to receive;
plead with them earnestly, plead with them gently;
he will forgive if they only believe.

(Refrain)

3. Down in the human heart, crushed by the tempter,
feelings lie buried that grace can restore;
touched by a loving heart, wakened by kindness,
chords that were broken will vibrate once more.

(Refrain)

4. Rescue the perishing, duty demands it;
strength for thy labor the Lord will provide;
back to the narrow way patiently win them;
tell the poor wanderer a Savior has died.

(Refrain)