

Music to Live by

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Job-Song of Solomon.
- B. The purpose for revelation is to bring us to maturity.
- C. The Old Testament is for preparation, and the New Testament is for realization.
- D. If one is not prepared in the Old Testament one will not be ready for the New Testament.

II. The first five books establish the pattern and express a part of the program of God. It shows us the way God works repeatedly in human life.

- A. Genesis is the book of the need of man.
- B. Exodus is the book of the grace of God.
- C. Leviticus is the book of worship.
- D. Numbers is the book of wandering.
- E. Deuteronomy is the book of obedience. (Romans 6)

III. The historical books of the Old Testament reveal the perils of life.

- A. Joshua is the book of premature contentment.
- B. Judges is the book of consecrated blundering.
- C. There are the books of divided allegiance and forgotten callings
- E. Ezra and Nehemiah are the books of the discouraged heart.

IV. The poetical books of the Old Testament are a reflection of the protests of man in response to life.

- A. The books reflect the changing passions in life.
- B. These books fall into three divisions.
 - 1. Job is the protest of man in the face of apparently senseless suffering.
 - a. This is an ancient story.
 - b. It can be fit between Genesis 11-12.

c. It records the scene of God accepting Satan's challenge that Job would curse God after being visited by tragedy.

d. Job suffered from many sufferings as a result.

e. Job's friends add to his suffering by suggesting that he must be suffering because of sin.

f. Job is the Romans 7 of the Old Testament—God's hand of suffering is the way by which He teaches us that man by himself is helpless.

2. Psalms, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes are the songs of the soul.

a. The Psalms contains the emotions of life.

1) Every experience of life is reflected upon here.

2) Psalms is intended to express every facet of human emotion.

3) There is a fivefold pattern: 1-41 expresses the need of man, 42-72 expresses the grace of God, 73-89 expresses worship, 90-106 expresses wandering, and 107-139 expresses obedience.

b. Proverbs has the intelligence of the will.

1) This is the logical and reasonable approach to life.

2) The secret of it all is the fear of the Lord, which is the beginning of knowledge.

3) It contains a remarkable discourse on a father's wisdom to his son.

4) The Proverbs also contain the books of Hezekiah.

5) Proverbs 31 contains the perfect picture of a wife.

c. Ecclesiastes has the will of man expressed.

1) This is a deliberate investigation of a man with unlimited resources.

2) Solomon sets out to determine whether life can satisfy apart from God.

3) He concludes that the pursuit of knowledge, pleasure and wealth is all vanity.

4) The pursuit of God is the whole of man. Only God makes man complete.

3. The Song of Solomon is the expression of the idea of the human body.

- a. It is flagrantly sensual in many ways.
- b. It is the perfection of bodily grace in love.
- c. The book declares that the purest expression of love if it is true is bodily.
- d. It puts bodily life in its proper perspective.
- e. The love story present is a picture of the story of God's redeeming grace. (Ephesians 5)

Application questions:

1. What pattern does the speaker find in other places of the Old Testament that he finds in the poetical books? Is his argument persuasive?

2. Select a few chapters from one of the poetical books. What is the main message of these chapters?

3. Which book stands out to you? What experience have you had that helps you to relate to them?
