



## **“Reading the Bible Together”**

**Issue 18.**

**Book of Psalms (continued)  
and the Book of Proverbs.**

**Aug 2010.**

### **Introduction:**

This month sees the conclusion of the Book of Psalms and then the embrace of the Book of Proverbs. At first glance we can think of Psalms and Proverbs as very similar, in that neither are a narrative story. But here the similarity ends. Psalms focuses on the deep relationship humanity can have with God, Proverbs on the wisdom that can be gained from spending time in that relationship such that we can live happy, contented and full lives.

Proverbs, almost more than any other Book since Exodus with the Ten Commandments, says this is how to live a good life – it is entirely up to us as individuals to choose if we want to walk it as well as talk it.

### **The Book of Proverbs in a bit more detail:**

Like the Books of Psalms are attributed to King David, the Book of Proverbs is attributed to King Solomon. Also, like as with King David’s connection with the Book of Psalms, so too with Solomon’s connection with the Book of Proverbs, he no doubt had a great influence and inspiration for much of the work, but we can also see the hand of later editors and contributors to the Book. Either we can find this difficult to cope with or we can see that God consistently sought to reveal Himself in and through not just one generation but perhaps many generations in and through this way, not least for instance in and through the reign of King Hezekiah, like during the time of King Solomon, a time of rich blessing, stability and peace (715 -686BC).

Although the largest section (Ch10-22) is made up of pithy two line sayings, which many see as characterizing the whole Book, behind these sayings is a character and person associated with God who needs a little more investigation and explanation – the persona of the Wisdom of God. First of all the Wisdom of God is described as a person in female form. She is with God in the beginning of Creation and through her people can know how to live ‘healthy’ and good lives. Throughout chapters 1-9, she is contrasted with the way of violence which leads a person to a state of disease and destruction.

Each of the then pithy sayings are intended to be words out of Wisdom’s mouth. They are meant to often provide either advice or a contrast so as to enable the reader to make good choices. They are sometimes both literal and practical, at other times metaphorical and general.

We will walk gently through each of the later chapters that contain the short sayings in order that the full effect of each chapter can be taken in. In contrast to other ways of reading Scripture, it may be that one or two sayings leap out and speak to you far more than many others. Let the others go and hold on to those that speak to you either in affirmation or challenge and so allow your life and ours to be molded ever more to the Wisdom and person of God.

In the Christian tradition, it is the person of Wisdom who John takes up in his Gospel as the Word of God in John Chapter 1 as part of his great Prologue. Therefore for us as Christians Wisdom herself has been born, as the mind of God in and through the incarnation on earth as none other than Jesus Christ Himself, both our Lord and the eternal Wisdom of God.

**Bible Together Meetings: August – There will be NO MEETINGS as a Group this month, due to holidays, but we do hope to meet again in SEPTEMBER. Meetings will be:**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 9.00am – 10.00am – in the Chancel.  
 Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 8.00pm – 9.00pm – in the Chancel as usual.

**Scheme of Reading for August:**

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Reference:</u>
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> Aug	-----
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	Psalms 126, 127, 128
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug	Psalms 129, 130, 131
<b>Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>	<b>Psalms 132, 133, 134</b>
<b>(NO Bible Together Meeting TODAY – meet in Sept)</b>	
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Psalms 135, 136
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Psalms 137, 138, 139
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Psalms 140, 141
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> Aug	-----
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Psalms 142, 143, 144
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Psalms 145, 146, 147
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Psalms 148, 149, 150
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Proverbs 1:1 – 1:33
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Proverbs 2:1 – 3:35
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Proverbs 4:1 – 5:23
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug	-----
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Proverbs 6:1 – 6:35
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Proverbs 7:1 – 7:27
<b>Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>	<b>Proverbs 8:1 – 9:18</b>
<b>(NO Bible Together Meeting TODAY – meet in Sept)</b>	

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Reference:</u>
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Proverbs 10:1 – 10:32
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Proverbs 11:1 – 11:31
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> Aug	Proverbs 12:1 – 12:28
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	-----
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug	Proverbs 13:1 – 13:25
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Proverbs 14:1 – 14:35
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Proverbs 15:1 – 16:33
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Proverbs 17:1 – 17:28
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Proverbs 18:1 – 18:24
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Proverbs 19:1 – 19:29
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> Aug	-----
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Proverbs 20:1 – 20:30
Tues 31 <sup>st</sup> Aug	Proverbs 21:1 – 21:31
<b>Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Sept</b>	<b>Proverbs 22:1 – 22:29</b>
<b>(Bible Together Meeting @ 9.00am – 10.00am)</b>	
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	Proverbs 23:1 – 23:35
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	Proverbs 24:1 – 24:34
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Proverbs 25:1 – 25:28
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept	-----
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Proverbs 26:1 – 26:28