

2. Poetic methodology

- (a) Rhythm Exodus 15: 9-12
- (b) Vocabulary Isiah 5 : 7
- (c) Parallelism
 - reinforcement (Ps 18 : 4-5)
 - emphasis (Ps 18 : 6)
 - explanation (Ps 18 : 19)
 - contrast/comparison (Ps 18 :18)

3. Working with the Text. (eg. Psalm 84)

- (a) The question 'Why'
- (b) Plot the development
- (c) The significance of order
- (d) Poetic imagery
- (e) The writer's attitude
- (f) The 'affective ingredient'

4. Connections between the two contexts

- (a) Original setting
- (b) Controlling factors
- (c) N.T. fulfilment
- (d) Common points of reference

SESSION 2

THE TREASURE - CHEST OF THE PSALMS

1. The Book as a whole

- (a) In the context of O.T. Scripture
- (b) In its main divisions
- (c) As a model for prayer ('answering speech')

2. Major categories of material

- (a) General praise
- (b) Individual songs of thanksgiving
- (c) Laments (intercessory prayers)

3. Two representative examples

- (a) Psalm 92 (a psalm of praise for the Sabbath)
- (b) Psalm 59 (a personal and corporate intercession)

SESSION 3

PREACHING O.T. POETRY TO THE CONTEMPORARY CHURCH

1. Important Pointers

- (a) 'While most of Scripture speaks to us, the psalms speak for us' (Athanasius)

- (b) Authentic worship
 - Honesty in relationship
 - Stimulus to meditation

2. The New Testament Lens

- (a) David's Son and David's Lord (eg. 2,22,41,69)

- (b) Imprecatory psalms (eg. 109, 137)
 - Matt. 5:44
 - Rom 12:17ff
 - Rev 6:10
 - Eph 6:12

3. A Methodology of Approach

- (a) Meaning
 - Q1:
 - Q2:
 - Q3:
 - Q4:

(b) Impact

Q1:

Q2:

(c) Significance

Q1:

Q2:

Q3:

4. **O.T. Poetry in Prophecy**

(a) God

(b) O.T. Israel

(c) Individual

5. **Structure and Strategy**

(a) Revisit Psalm 92

(b) Revisit Psalm 59

3. Historical and Literary Contexts.

- (a) Big picture Biblical thinking
-Deut 5:27-29
- (b) Normative in Proverbs
- (c) But what about.....? Ecclesiastes
- (d) But what about.....? Job
- (e) The thread into the New Testament

-Matt. 5-7 (7:34) Beatitudes

-Matt 13 (13-54) Parables

-1Cor. 1 and 2 (1:30)

- Col 1:3-2:23 (3:16)

- James

4. Theological Context

- Covenant life
- New creation wisdom
Essentially Christological
Holy Spirit inspired and energized

‘The goal of scientia is sapientia’ (Augustine)

SESSION 5

UNDERSTANDING PROVERBS

1. How does Proverbs 'work', as a book?

(a) Theological thinking about God and how He relates to us.

(b) Practical instruction to generate faith

(c) The seven 'collections' (anthology)

1:1 - 9:18

10:1 - 22:16

22:17 - 24:22

24:23 - 34

25:1 - 29:27

30:1 - 33

31: 1 - 31

2. How do the proverbs themselves work?

(a) Statement

Identity

Similarity

(b) Instructions

(c) Parallelism

Q1

Q2

Q3

(d) Clusters

(e) Enigmas and 'contradictions'

3. An Example of Working with Clusters

(a) 'City culture' - values relationships family life

(b) 10:1-5 Basic Principles

v 2-3 moral and theological
V 4-5 material and moral

See also riches and righteousness 10:15-16
13:7-11
13:22-23
14:20-24

(c) Generosity and greed
28:19-28

(d) Debt and diligence
6:1-11
27:23-27

(e) The way of contentment
30:7-9

(f) The perspective of Jesus
Lk 12:13-21 The rich fool
12:22-34 The wise believer

SESSION 6 :

PREACHING WISDOM TO THE CONTEMPORARY CHURCH

1. **The two-way journeys across the bridge.**

- (a) Exegesis and cultural analysis.
- (b) Where our hearers 'live'
- (c) 'Pasta' preaching.

2. **The 'open door' of Wisdom preaching**

- (a) The cultural failure of the pursuit of knowledge
- (b) The gap between knowledge and wisdom
 - from revelation to rationalism
 - from doctrine to godliness
- (c) Wisdom preaching can address the tensions
 - sacred and secular
 - choices and outcomes
 - character and legislation

3. Jesus, the Wisdom of God

(a) Matthew's picture -11:19, 11:25-27, (and 28-30)
12:42, 13:52

(b) The embodiment of the kingdom

Proverbs 8 and Jn 1:1-14

(c) James 3: 12-18

4. Planning a preaching series

(a) Proverbs

(b) Job

(c) Ecclesiastes