

SEE HOW JESUS FULFILS THIS PROPHECY.

Read Mark 14:32-36.

Why was Jesus deeply distressed?

What was his attitude towards His heavenly Father?

WHAT DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT SAY?

HOW DOES JESUS AND THE GOSPEL SHOW US GOD'S WISDOM?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25.

What is the message of the Gospel? (v18)

- a) God will save those who save themselves.
- b) God will save everybody even those who don't believe in Him.
- c) God sent his Son into the world to die for sinners so that whoever believes in Jesus shall have eternal life.
- d) God saves those who are good.

Why is the Gospel considered as wisdom?

- a) Because it comes from God and God is wiser than humans.
- b) Because it exposes our sinful nature.
- c) Because it shows how God saves human beings.
- d) Because it is God's way of doing things.

Which of these statements are true and which are false?

- a) People reject the Gospel because they think it is foolishness.
- b) People reject the Gospel because they are spiritually dead.
- c) People reject the Gospel because they think they are wiser than God.

SUMMARY

If time permits remind yourselves of the Bible story so far ... from beginning to end.



BIBLE STUDY

STUDY 9 — THE WRITINGS

THE STORY SO FAR

In Luke 24:44, Jesus refers to the Old Testament scriptures as 'the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms'. The whole of the OT can be divided into these three parts. Our study today will look at the third (and last) group of books in the OT called 'the Psalms' or 'the Writings'. These are books like the Psalms, Lamentations, Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and so on. These books do not make many references to the history of Israel, but rather make general observations about the world and God. Because our time is short, we will only look at one type of writing within this group which is the 'Wisdom' literature. The sayings in these books were collected over a large period of time and form the collective wisdom of the people of Israel. In particular our study today will focus on chapter 1 of Proverbs to serve as an introduction to this section of the OT.

DISCUSS

Who would you listen to the most? List the following statements in order of priority. (1 = highest, 10 = lowest.)

- Your doctor telling you to take your medicine.
- Your mother telling to study hard.
- A friend asking you to go to a party.
- The Australian Government telling you to pay your taxes.
- A friend asking you to go to church.
- Jesus telling you to obey him.
- Your lecturer telling you to hand in your assignments.
- The Bible telling you to believe in Jesus.
- The police telling to you to slow down.
- Facebook telling you to change your login password.

What was first and what was last? Explain your answers.

READ PROVERBS 1. WHAT IS WISDOM?

According to the writer of Proverbs what are the purposes of these wise sayings (proverbs)?

- v2
- v3
- v4

According to the writer how are the readers going achieve these purposes?

- v5
- v6

What kind of attitude do we need when we read these wise sayings?

- v7a

Why are those who do not listen considered as fools?

- v7b
- v14-19

- v22-27
- v28-33

What does it mean to fear God?

- a) To respect God.
- b) To be afraid of God.
- c) To know about God.
- d) To be careful not to offend God.
- e) To love God.
- f) Others ... explain.

What's the difference between commands and advice?

THE WISDOM OF ISRAEL

All throughout the story of the OT God had instructed his people very clearly. Through Moses God gave them the Law, and the Prophets kept reminding the people to obey the Law. God appointed Priests to teach the people his ways and the Kings were supposed to lead the people to God. But humanly speaking all of these failed because the people of Israel did not love God and did not fear God. This failure continued to the time of Jesus Christ.

THE SAVIOUR WHO FEARED THE LORD

Ultimately no-one really fears the LORD because of sin, but the Old Testament looks forwards to a King who will have true wisdom and delight in the fear of the LORD.

Read Isaiah 11:1-3.

What does it mean to 'delight in the fear of the LORD'?