

**“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”
November 1, 2016**

1 Kings 1:1–53. Adonijah, the opportunist.

Mark 1:1–34. Jesus, the Son of God.

Proverbs 1:1–7. Fear of the Lord.

COMMENTS.

1 Kings 1:1–53. This reading includes Solomon becoming king. In his old age David needed the warmth and nursing of a servant girl named Abishag. The imminent death of the king explained the struggle that ensued between David’s strongest allies. Adonijah, who was David’s oldest living son, led a conspiracy to make himself king. He was joined by Joab and the priest Abiathar at En Rogel, where they celebrated his impending enthronement. However, Nathan the prophet, Zadok the priest, Benaiah the captain of the king’s bodyguard, and Solomon his brother were excluded. Nathan knew that this meant banishment or death if Adonijah succeeded. Nathan encouraged Bathsheba to ask the king to fulfill his prior commitment to make Solomon king. Perhaps David had interpreted the special naming of Solomon (Jedidiah) by God as indicative of the Lord’s choice. David ordered the anointing of Solomon at the spring Gihon. When Adonijah heard the people shout, “Long live King Solomon,” he fled for safety in the tabernacle, where he grasped the horns of the altar. The “horns” were the four projectiles at the corners of the altar where the blood of the sacrifice was smeared. Solomon spared Adonijah but placed him under house arrest.

Life in God by 2nd person proper knowledge and proper love. A person who loves God looks at a crisis and asks, “What would God have me do?” A believer who does not love the Lord is an opportunist by heart and looks at a crisis and asks, “How can I use this situation to promote myself and get what *I* want?” Opportunists usually show up uninvited, focus attention on themselves and end up making the crisis worse. Adonijah was that kind of person. Like all opportunists, Adonijah felt he deserved the throne. After all, his father was a sick old man and would soon die, and it was important that there be a king on the throne of Israel. Like all believers who opt for the self-centered life over the Christ-centered life, Adonijah cared more for the throne for himself than the Lord’s will. Every person has the option of living the Christ-centered life or the self-centered life, of loving and being identified with Jesus Christ or the world: **Galatians 2:20** *"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.* **2 Timothy 4:10** *for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me.* **1 John 2:15** *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world.* One can no more have an intimate 2nd person love relationship with the Lord in 2nd person while at the same time loving the world than a husband could have a second person intimate relationship with his wife while at the same time lusting after other women. There are many things that can undermine an intimate second person relationship with God or others. An intimate personal relationship is not as easy as simply willing it

on some level. Our wills are tied to our natures and our natures are the results of the choices we make with our intellects/wills daily over the years. When we walk with the Lord *by proper knowledge and love*, He brings the light of His grace so we can enjoy a truly loving relationship with Him. When we turn the other way, we choose the darkness of this world and habituate evil into our wills and dispositions. James 4:4 *Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

Mark 1:1–34. Already in Mark 1:1 the titles applied to Jesus point to His suffering and death. The Greek term “Christ” corresponds to the Hebrew “Messiah,” meaning anointed king. “Son of God” points to His deity and kingship. Jesus is, however, a king unlike other kings. Though the demons discerned Jesus’ mysterious identity from the start (**1:24, 34**), only the cross opened human eyes to the “Son of God” (**15:39**). For Mark the “good news of Jesus Christ” began with John the Baptizer (**1:1–11**). The experience of God’s affirmation quickly gave way to Satan’s temptation (**1:12–13**). In **1:14–20** Jesus’ authority is revealed. Note the necessary human response to God’s work in Jesus: **Mark 1:15** and saying, *“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”* Note how Jesus surprised the crowds by teaching “as one having authority,” not like the scribes who taught based on legal precedents (**1:22**). Ironically, only the “unclean spirit” knew Jesus’ true identity, and His authority exposed it for what it was (**1:24**). This exorcism evidenced the power of Jesus’ words, which broke the power of evil and changed lives (**1:27**). The incident in Simon’s home (**1:29–34**) clarifies that discipleship does not necessarily involve severing family ties and abandoning possessions. The grateful *service* to Jesus by Simon’s mother-in-law represents the first of many women modeling proper responses to Jesus (**1:31**).

Life in God by 2nd person proper knowledge and proper love. The pinnacle of revelation of God is in Jesus Christ (Heb. 1:1-3) because Jesus is God who has descended to make His tent with us in the flesh (John 1:14). God is only one (Gal. 3:20) and it is He who brings man to Himself. God’s fullness takes up its abode corporeally in human flesh: Colossians 1:19, *For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell;* Colossians 2:9, *For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.* We can gain no higher insight into God and love of God than in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the “form/nature” of God (Philip 2:6). The wonder of wonders and the blessings over all other blessings is that every believer has the option of receiving the “form” and “image” of Christ impressed in his very being in the Christ-centered life (Gal. 4:19)—*by 2nd person proper knowledge and love:* Galatians 2:20, *“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.”*

Proverbs 1:1–7. The prologue challenges the reader to commit himself to the mastery of this book. It offers the significant benefit of acquiring the key to attaining capability in life. By this book, one can learn the principles that determine success or failure in the major arenas of human activity, including business, personal relationships, family life, and community life. **Verses 2–6** describe the main purpose of the book, that is, to teach wisdom to the reader. It is to instruct young people and those who have yet to learn wisdom (4), but it is not only for children. Those who are already mature and learned (5) also have a great deal to learn from this book. **Verse 7** lays the fundamental principle of biblical wisdom: “*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge*” along with the recognition that *many* will reject wisdom and God: “*fools despise wisdom.*”

Life in God by 2nd person proper knowledge and proper love. Note the polarity in verse 7. This is a lesson for our children and for us. We will always be surrounded by others going the opposite direction of wisdom who will tempt us to do likewise. As we have noted over the past few years, there is a lot of foolishness even in our own doctrinal camp regarding the nature of God, language, love, and the spiritual life. Wisdom is always tied to truth, the Whole Truth, the Total Truth—not conduit systems and Cratylean exegesis. Everyone faces the challenge of growing in the Total Truth just as everyone is challenged to attain wisdom through an attitude of the fear of God, apart from which one will always despise true wisdom. Although there are many attempts to downplay this “fear” (אָרְאָה) of the Lord, there are at least eighteen references to it in Proverbs. If we truly “fear the Lord,” we acknowledge He’s the Creator, we’re the creatures; He’s the Father, we’re His children; He’s the Master, we’re the servants. It means to respect God for who He is, to listen carefully to what He says, and to obey His Word, knowing that our disobedience displeases Him, breaks our fellowship with Him, and invites His chastening. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Someone who does not respect God certainly is not going to be interested in the wisdom that He offers. It is in arrogance that we think we know what is best rather than submit to God’s will. It is arrogance that causes us to be divided in ourselves, which then undermines true 2nd person knowledge and love of God: James 1:6 *But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. James 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

Life in God by proper knowledge and by proper love.

Pastor Don