

Bible Study Lesson Summary, April 29, 2018

This Sunday, April 29th, your readings should be Day 190: Chapters 10-12 of the Second Book of Chronicles, Proverbs 18: 13-24, and Chapter 8 of St. Paul's Letter to the Romans.

There will be no class on Mother's Day so the week before that is a down week or for catch-up

ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

Paul writes this letter to the Christians in Rome before he was arrested in Jerusalem, at which point he asked to go to Rome, but in chains.

Rom. 1: Vs. 1, he is a slave of Christ Jesus. The rest of his first paragraph, vs. 2-7 is basically a creed. Vs. 8-15 is him introducing himself as an apostle that wants to see them for their sake. Vs. 16-17 says salvation is for all, but without it, vs. 18-32 lets them know that the alternative is the wrath of God. Vs. 26-27 lets them know specifically that sexual perversion will not make God happy.

Rom. 2: Vs. 1-11 lets them know they can't just preach about others going away from sin. Nobody who doesn't repent will escape God's wrath. Vs. 6, "who will repay everyone according to his works: eternal life to those who seek glory, honor, and immortality through perseverance in good works, but wrath and fury to those who selfishly disobey the truth and obey wickedness. Vs. 12-16 says you are not excused if you don't know the law, for it is not knowing the law that will save but observing it. Vs. 17-29 lets the Jewish people know that they must also follow the commandments for that is what circumcision is supposed to promise. In the same way baptism is no good if you don't live it.

Rom. 3: In vs. 1-20 he lets the Jews know that they are really no better off than the Gentiles, for either can go astray. The rest of the chapter is the good news. God has justified us. But it is about fulfilling the purpose of the law, which is righteousness. Faith is about living above or beyond the law, not just holding to its letter or its minimum.

Rom. 4: He uses Abraham as an example. He was a good man but it was when he turned to God and obeyed Him that God made him a great man. That was before he was circumcised. So from vs. 13 on he points out how Abraham is great because he hoped in God's plan which is far better than just not being a law breaker. In my words, a good life will get you accolades at your death. Following God will make you a part of His royal family.

Rom. 5: Vs. 1-11 is about suffering for the kingdom for that is what faith, hope and love draws us toward. Vs. 12-14 is about Adam losing the kingdom. Vs. 15 on is about Jesus restoring us to the kingdom but even more, for the "gift is not like the transgression." It is greater. Adam lost the kingdom for us all. Jesus restores the possibility of the kingdom for all.

Rom. 6: Vs. 1-11 is understood in my kingdom imagery also. Of course we stop sinning for a prince or a princess should not sin. So if we live to be royalty in the kingdom in heaven we will die

like Christ but rise to be royalty like Him. But He gets to be the king. Royalty must not be slaves (to sin). That is what vs. 12-23 is about.

Rom. 7: Vs. 1-6 is summarized in vs. 6 which says: “But now we are released from the law, dead to what held us captive, so that we may serve in the newness of the spirit and not under the obsolete letter.” In other words, expectations for royalty are way higher than the law. Luckily so it the reward. The rest of the chapter can wrap around vs. 15-17: “What I do, I do not understand. For I do not do what I want, but I do what I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I concur that the law is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. In my words, royalty hates sin, especially if it is their own. That doesn’t mean they have been perfected in this world and don’t sin.

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

Prv. 15: Vs. 24, “The path of life leads the prudent man upward, that he may avoid the nether world below.” Out of curiosity I looked up hell in my Concordance, which lists all the words in the Bible and where they are. Hell is mentioned in Proverbs more than any other book with a total of seven. Hell is mention about thirty times in the OT and about twenty times in the NT. Considering that the OT is twice as long at the NT. That means hell is mentioned less per word in the OT than the NT.

Prv. 16: Vs. 25 is an exact repeat of Prv. 14:12, “Sometimes a way seems right to a man, but the end of it leads to death! Vs. 33 is an explanation of the procedure for replacing Judas in Acts 1:26, “When the lot is cast into the lap, its decision depends entirely on the Lord.” Choosing Judas’ successor this way made it God decision and not theirs.

Prv. 17: Too bad they didn’t have cars back then. Each of these verses would make a great bumper-sticker. Maybe they had them on chariots because they wouldn’t work on horses or donkeys. By the way, there was a mosaic welcome mat in the ruins at Pompeii that said Beware of Dog. It was in Latin of course, “Cave Canem.” So they had good sayings where they could.

Prv. 18: Pick your favorite for a bumper-sticker.

FIRST BOOK OF CHRONICLES

1Chr. 18: David has victories and has officers; old news if you have read Samuel.

1Chr. 19: In Samuel we heard that Nahash, King of the Ammonites, was fighting Saul. I can’t find anything of him being friends with Nahash. It was the Philistines that David lived with briefly, so I don’t know why David is trying to be nice to Hanun, son of Nahash, in vs. 2. Either way it doesn’t work and war happened again. David beats the Ammonites and the Arameans.

1Chr. 20: More victories for David but this time his brother beats the giant, vs. 6-7.

1Chr. 21: Vs. 1 mentions a “satan.” God was still in the process of revealing who angels and devils were. The concept had to come gradually like all the other concepts of faith. This particular satan tempted David to trust in the numbers of his people rather than trust in God. Jesus had a similar temptation.

1Chr. 22-28: Simply a lot of information about how the temple was to be built and taken care of. Much of the work was to be done according to family lines. The Church is set up more according to the order of Melchizedek, which doesn’t depend on family lineage but on being chosen from the family of God.

1Chr. 29: David gives his fortune for the sake of the temple. Now people are asked to remember the church in their wills and estate planning. In vs. 10-13 is another of David’s prayers, just like the psalms he wrote. David dies at a ripe old age and Solomon succeeds him.

SECOND BOOK OF CHRONICLES

Here we start with Solomon. There will be no mention of the northern kingdom. The author of Chronicles doesn’t see them as legitimate because they don’t worship at the temple in Jerusalem. He believes the temple is the focus of the Jewish life.

2Chr. 1: The First Book of Kings chapter 3 gives us this story of how Solomon got his wisdom. This version doesn’t give the cool story of the two mothers and Solomon deciding which one gets the living baby. It just focuses on the House of God he will build.

2Chr. 2: In vs. 16, Solomon takes a census of all the alien men but doesn’t get into trouble because it is to build the temple and not see if he can win a war because he is so great and doesn’t need God like has happened before with David.

2Chr. 3: Vs. 1 tells us that the temple was built on Mount Moriah, the same spot that Abraham was to sacrifice Isaac.

2Chr. 4: In vs. 1, Solomon builds a bronze altar. David had built a wood altar that was plated with bronze that Solomon just prayed at but for the temple the altar is all bronze.

2Chr. 5: Now Solomon brings together the Ark of the Covenant and the people. Oddly in vs. 10 “There was nothing in it but the two tablets which Moses put there on Horeb...” In vs. 13-14 God’s glorious presence is a cloud that fills the space and the priests can’t even do what they planned.

2Chr. 6: Vs. 1, “Then Solomon said: “The Lord intends to dwell in the dark cloud.” The early Church Fathers wrote about this as a sign of the OT. But they said the NT clears away the cloud and we can see the Lord clearly. In the same way Solomon thinks he is the fulfillment of the prophecy to his father but that is just the OT version. Jesus is the NT version. Vs. 22-31 are God’s command that forgiveness of sin is the key to all of this.

2Chr. 7: God’s sends fire to consume the sacrifice. Vs. 12-16 are another reminder of turning away from sin or God will not be with them.

2Chr. 8: Vs. 1 lets us know that the temple took twenty years to build. Many basilicas and cathedrals took over a hundred. Solomon enslaved the people he had not conquered but not his own people vs. 9.

2Chr. 9: The queen of Sheba was impressed with his wisdom. Kings brought him gold, etc. Jesus did not get so much gold. That wasn't what He wants from us. This chapter ends with Solomon's death and burial and a few remarks about other stories that were in 1Kings.

2Chr. 9: Solomon is a foreshadowing of Jesus so this chapter in which the queen of Sheba learns of Solomon's wisdom is important to our understanding of who Jesus is.

After the queen of Sheba honors Solomon, we have in vs. 14 "All the kings of Arabia also, and the governors of the country brought gold and silver to Solomon." Jesus got that at His birth.