

Read Through The Bible

Week 12 –April 21-27, 2024

Numbers 7:66-21:3, Luke 2:41-5:39, Palms 35:11-37:20, Proverbs 7:21-8:11

Icebreaker

Do you know someone who complains all the time? How do you and others feel about them?

What is the most powerful thing you have ever witnessed?

What is something you really enjoy doing?

What is the hungriest you have ever been?

Step 1 - GET REAL

What are you thankful for from the past week?

What struggles did you face?

What can you share from your personal Bible reading this week?

Where did you see God in your daily life?

Step 2: GET FED

Numbers

Num 7:89 And when Moses went into the tent of meeting to speak with the LORD, **he heard the voice speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the testimony, from between the two cherubim; and it spoke to him.**

Once the temple was dedicated, once it became “holy”, God began to dwell there and speak to Moses from the mercy seat. How important was it to the Israelites that God dwelt in the temple? Why was this so important? Why would God dwell there only after the temple was dedicated?

Num 8:5-19 5 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 6 **“Take the Levites from among the people of Israel and cleanse them ... 14 “Thus you shall separate the Levites from among the people of Israel, and the Levites shall be mine. 15 And after that the Levites shall go in to serve at the tent of meeting, ... 16 For they are wholly given to me from among the people of Israel. Instead of all...the firstborn of all the people of Israel, ... 19 And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and his sons from among the people of Israel, to do the service for the people of Israel at the tent of meeting and to make atonement for the people of Israel, that there may be no plague among the people of Israel when the people of Israel come near the sanctuary.”**

Why did the Levites have to be cleansed? What did the Levites represent to God from among the people? What were the Levites to do for Aaron and his sons? What benefit did the Levite’s service garner for the people? Why would the people of Israel otherwise receive a plague when they came near the sanctuary? How important is it for us to realize our need for cleansing before God?

Num 10:10 **“They shall be a reminder of you before your God: I am the LORD your God.”**

The trumpets that were to be blown were to be a reminder to the Israelites. What do we have that reminds us “I am the LORD your God.”? Why do we need to be reminded of this?

Num 11:1-14 The people complain about their misfortunes and God is angry and sends fire to consume some of them. Then the people complain about not having meat and vegetables to eat, only manna, and again God is angry with them. Moses tells God he cannot carry the burden of the people alone and asks God to just kill him if he has to keep doing it by himself.

Do we complain in the face of God’s blessings? Do we think our burdens are just too much for us to handle?

What blessings do we have that we forget about in the face of troubles?

Num 11:18-23, 33 *Therefore the LORD will give you meat, and you shall eat. 19 You shall not eat just one day, or two days, or five days, or ten days, or twenty days, 20 but a whole month, until it comes out at your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you have rejected the LORD who is among you and have wept before him, saying, "Why did we come out of Egypt?"*”” 21 *But Moses said, "The people among whom I am number six hundred thousand on foot, and you have said, 'I will give them meat, that they may eat a whole month!'* 22 *Shall flocks and herds be slaughtered for them, and be enough for them? Or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, and be enough for them?"* 23 **And the LORD said to Moses, "Is the LORD's hand shortened? Now you shall see whether my word will come true for you or not."** 33 *While the meat was yet between their teeth, before it was consumed, the anger of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD struck down the people with a very great plague.*

What would be their punishment for wanting meat? Why were they to receive this punishment? What did God do when they did eat the meat? Do we realize that our complaining is rejecting God?

Are we guilty of wondering whether God is big enough to solve our problems? What problems do we have that might cause us to question God's ability? What situation has shown you God is able?

Num 12:1-9 *1 Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses ... 3 Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth. 4 And suddenly the LORD said to Moses and to Aaron and Miriam, "Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting." ... 6 And he said, "Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. 7 Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house. 8 With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?"* 9 *And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them, and he departed.*

Moses is the only person of whom it is said "He holds the form of the Lord." What a tribute to Moses. How would we feel if God could say that about us?

Num 13:30-32, 14:6-9 *30 But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it." 31 Then the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are." 32 So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out ... 6 And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes 7 and said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land. 8 If the LORD delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. 9 Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them." 11 And the LORD said to Moses, "How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them?"*

"If the LORD delights in us He will bring us into this land" "Do not rebel against the Lord." "The Lord is with us." Are we like Joshua and Caleb or like the other 10? Are we looking at our strength or God's strength? What things are in our life that we don't think we can overcome? What signs has God given us in our lives that He will meet our needs? Does 2 Cor. 9:10-11 apply in this situation?

Num 15:30-31 *30 But the person who does anything with a high hand, whether he is native or a sojourner, reviles the LORD, and that person shall be cut off from among his people. 31 Because he has despised the word of the LORD and has broken his commandment, that person shall be utterly cut off; his iniquity shall be on him."*

God made a distinction between those who sinned unintentionally and those who sinned intentionally. The intentional sinners were to be cut off from the people. How do we sin today, unintentionally or intentionally? What will be our punishment?

Luke

Luke 2:46-51 *46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48*

And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." 49 And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50 And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. 51 And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Jesus astonished his parents and all who knew Him from an early age. Are we astonished at Jesus' ability and knowledge? Are we awed by God's attributes? Are we like Mary and treasuring up all these things in our heart? Do we meditate on Jesus' and God's attributes?

Luke 3:2-3 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

What does it mean "the word of God came to John"? How consistent is the message of God from the beginning? How important is repentance? What does repentance mean? Is it repentance if we have to repent of the same sin regularly?

Luke 3:10-14 10 And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" 11 And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." 12 Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" 13 And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." 14 Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

Does this message seem familiar? Where do we see it again? Again, how consistent is the message of God?

Luke 3:21-22 21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

What forms of the Godhead do we see in this passage? Why is the message from God so important for us?

Luke 4:1-13 relates the story of the temptation of Jesus. How did Jesus refuse the temptations of the devil? What should this teach us? How tempted do you think Jesus was after having no food for 40 days? Was His temptation like ours?

Luke 4:36 36 And they were all amazed and said to one another, "What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!"

Are we amazed at Jesus' actions? Do we understand His authority and power and react to it by following Him?

Luke 5:15-16 15 But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities. 16 But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.

What can we learn from Jesus practice of prayer?

Psalms

Psalm 36:1-2 1 Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart; there is no fear of God before his eyes. 2 For he flatters himself in his own eyes that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated.

Do we have a fear of God? Do we think God will not find our iniquity?

Psalm 37:3-6 3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. 4 Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. 6 He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

Trust, Delight, Commit. How do we do these? Do we do these? What will be the result? Is this result worth it?

Psalm 37:7 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

How easy is it to be still and wait patiently for Him? Are we like most who pray for patience and want it right now? How easy is it for to not fret about one who does evil yet prospers? Is this fair? Is it our part to worry about it? What are we really fretting about? Are we fretting because we are not prospering even though we are doing right?

Proverbs

Proverb 8:10-11 10 Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold, 11 for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.

Is this our attitude toward wisdom? What are our desires? Is wisdom in that list?

Step 3: GET ACTIVE

Write down one thing you grumble about? Give it to the Lord.

Review your attitude toward God's word and will? Make a plan to improve it.

Review your prayer practices. How can you improve/increase your prayer time?

Many Jews were astonished at Jesus' power and authority. What is your attitude toward Jesus and God? Write down at least 3 things about Jesus/God that awe you!

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