

# Read Through The Bible

Week 25 –July 21-27, 2024

1 Kings 3:16-14:20; Acts 12:20-16:15; Palms 75-77, Proverbs 15

## Icebreaker

- Who is the most encouraging person you know?
- How many missionaries do you know? What characteristic do they all have in common?
- What is your favorite wise saying your parents told you all the time?

## 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

### 1 Kings

**1 Kings 4:20-25** *20 Judah and Israel were as many as the sand by the sea. They ate and drank and were happy. 21 1 Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the Euphrates<sup>2</sup> to the land of the Philistines and to the border of Egypt...<sup>24</sup> For he had dominion over all the region west of the Euphrates<sup>4</sup> from Tiphshah to Gaza, over all the kings west of the Euphrates. And **he had peace on all sides around him.** 25 And **Judah and Israel lived in safety**, from Dan even to Beersheba, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, all the days of Solomon.*

Israel had peace and prosperity under Solomon's reign. Israel had many people. To what can this be attributed? Are we promised these things if we obey God?

*1 Kings 4:29-30* **29** *And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and breadth of mind like the sand on the seashore, 30 so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt.*

Where did Solomon's wisdom come from? Why did he receive this gift? Will we receive wisdom if we ask? Have you asked for wisdom lately?

**1 Kings 5:1-7** *1 Now Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father, for Hiram always loved David... 4 But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side. There is neither adversary nor misfortune. 5 And so I intend to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD said to David my father, 'Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, shall build the house for my name.' ...<sup>7</sup> As soon as Hiram heard the words of Solomon, he rejoiced greatly and said, "Blessed be the LORD this day, who has given to David a wise son to be over this great people."*

Hiram loved David and knew God. He was willing to provide the timber for the House of God Solomon would build. What does this say about Hiram? How often do we see cooperation like this among leaders? How often do we see leaders following God and desiring to build Him a house?

**1 Kings 6:11-13** *11 Now the word of the LORD came to Solomon, 12 "Concerning this house that you are building, if you will walk in my statutes and obey my rules and keep all my commandments and walk in them, then I will establish my word with you, which I spoke to David your father. 13 And I will dwell among the children of Israel and will not forsake my people Israel."*

What was God's requirement for dwelling among His people and prospering them? Is this requirement still in effect? How are we doing in fulfilling this requirement?

**1 Kings 8:1-11** *1 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers' houses of the people of Israel, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion... 3 And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark. 4 And they brought up the ark of the LORD, the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the priests and the Levites brought them up... 6 Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the Most Holy Place, underneath the wings of the cherubim... 10 And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, 11 so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.*

Solomon had the ark of the covenant and the holy vessels brought to the new house of the Lord. Again, the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord. How careful was Solomon in transporting the items of the tabernacle? How important was it that the glory of God filled the house? How does God's glory fill His house today?

**1 Kings 8:22-23** *22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven, 23 and said, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart;*

How important is it that we realize the greatness of God? How important is it we realize those to whom God fulfills His covenant?

**1 Kings 8:46-50** *46 "If they sin against you—for there is no one who does not sin—and you are angry with them and give them to an enemy, so that they are carried away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near, 47 yet if they turn their heart in the land to which they have been carried captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their captors, saying, 'We have sinned and have acted perversely and wickedly,' 48 if they repent with all their mind and with all their heart in the land of their enemies, who carried them captive, and pray to you toward their land, which you gave to their fathers, the city that you have chosen, and the house that I have built for your name, 49 then hear in heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause 50 and forgive your people who have sinned against you, and all their transgressions that they have committed against you, and grant them compassion in the sight of those who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them*

Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the House of the Lord concentrated heavily on the people's repentance and prayer and obedience for forgiveness of sin. Why would Solomon concentrate so much on this request? How much do we need this prayer today?

**1 Kings 9:6-8** *6 But if you turn aside from following me, you or your children, and do not keep my commandments and my statutes that I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, 7 then I will cut off Israel from the land that I have given them, and the house that I have consecrated for my name I will cast out of my sight, and Israel will become a proverb and a byword among all peoples. 8 And this house will become a heap of ruins.*

For what two reasons would God cut off Israel? How are we doing in these two areas today? How devastating would it be to be cut off from God? Do we act like this is true for us?

**1 Kings 11:1-4** *1 Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, ... 2 from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the people of Israel, "You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love. 3 He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart. 4 For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father*

A favorite phrase of many parents is: “Be careful who your friends are.” How important is it that we are in concert with our friends and/or spouses when it comes to following God? How hard is it to give up those friends/spouses that are not helping us follow God?

## Acts

**Acts 13:8-12** 8 But **Elymas** the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) **opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.** 9 But **Saul**, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him 10 and said, “**You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?** 11 And now, behold, **the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time.**” Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. 12 **Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.**

How serious is it for us to oppose the teaching of the Lord? Do you know any false teachers today? What effect did Saul’s miracle toward Elymas have on Sergius Paulus, the proconsul? Do the miracles of Christ affect people this way today? Should we be just as astonished as Sergius Paulus today?

**Acts 13:38-39** 8 Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that **through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,** 39 and by him **everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.**

How important is the difference between the freedom in Christ and the freedom during the law of Moses? Have you gained this freedom?

**Acts 14:13-15** 13 And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. 14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out, 15 “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. How crucial is it that we only worship the true God, not man? Why were Barnabas and Paul so adamant the people not worship them, but God? Who are we worshiping?

**Acts 15:7-11** 7 And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. 8 And **God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us,** 9 and he made no distinction between us and them, **having cleansed their hearts by faith.** 10 Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? 11 But we believe that **we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.**”

Two primary tenets are listed in this discussion, salvation by faith and grace. Do we understand these concepts today? Where are we in our faith? Have we taken advantage of the grace of God for salvation?

**Acts 15:32-35** 32 And **Judas and Silas**, who were themselves prophets, **encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words.** 33 And after they had spent some time, they were sent off in peace by the brothers to those who had sent them. 34 35 But **Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.**

Are we encouraging and strengthening the brothers? Are we teaching and preaching the word of the Lord?

**Acts 16:13** 13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, **where we supposed there was a place of prayer,** and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.

Do we have a regular place of prayer? How much emphasis do we place on prayer? Does the church today have the same emphasis on prayer as the early church?

## Psalms

**Psalms 75:2-3** 2 *“At the set time that I appoint I will judge with equity.* 3 *When the earth totters, and all its inhabitants, it is I who keep steady its pillars.*

How important is it that God will judge with equity? Who would you rather have as judge, God or man?

**Acts 77: 1-3** 1 *I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, and he will hear me.* 2 *In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted.* 3 *When I remember God, I moan; when I meditate, my spirit faints.*

Do we cry to God in our time of trouble? Are we assured He will help us in our trouble?

### **Proverbs**

**Proverb 15** contains many phrases that are quoted today. *“A soft answer turns away wrath.” “A fool despises his father’s instruction.”*

Which ones have you heard in the world? Which saying is most applicable to your life?

### **Step 3: GET ACTIVE**

- Ask God for wisdom to live your life. (**James 1:5**)
- Review your friends and/or potential spouses. How are they helping you follow God? Are you helping them follow God? Evaluate what you need to do in the area of friendships to remain close to God.
- Rehearse some times when God provided help in time of trouble. Tell at least one other person of a time when God has helped you.
- Read Proverb 15 carefully and select your three favorite sayings. Meditate on their usefulness in your life.

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