

Read Through The Bible

Week 28 – Aug 11-17, 2024

2 Kings 18-25; Jonah 1-4; Amos 1-2; Acts 27:13-28:16; Rom 1-2;
Palms 82:1-85:7, Proverbs 17:1-14

Icebreaker

- Think of wise sayings you have heard. What is one of the most obvious ones that everybody should know?
- How tempted are you to bend the rules, especially those you don't see a need for or agree with?
- Who do you trust the most?
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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

2 Kings

2 Kings 18:1-7 *1 In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah, king of Israel, Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign... 3 And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that David his father had done. 4 He removed the high places and broke the pillars and cut down the Asherah. And he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it (it was called Nehushtan). 5 He trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel, so that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those who were before him. 6 For he held fast to the LORD. He did not depart from following him, but kept the commandments that the LORD commanded Moses. 7 And the LORD was with him; wherever he went out, he prospered. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and would not serve him. 8 He struck down the Philistines as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city.*

What a magnificent description. So completely different from his father Ahaz. So completely different from the kings of Israel. He removed the high places, broke the pillars, and cut down the Asherah. This was different from the kings before including Solomon. What made the difference between Hezekiah and other kings? (read verse 6 again) What was the result of Hezekiah's obedience? (read verse 7) Why are the last part of verse 7 and verse 8 important? Who would be the last king to compare with Hezekiah? Will we receive blessings like Hezekiah if we follow the Lord completely? Do we trust the Lord enough to depend on Him completely?

2 Kings 18:9-12 *9 In the fourth year of King Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah, king of Israel, Salmanser king of Assyria came up against Samaria and besieged it, 10 and at the end of three years he took it. In the sixth year of Hezekiah, which was the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken. 11 The king of Assyria carried the Israelites away to Assyria and put them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes, 12 because they did not obey the voice of the LORD their God but transgressed his covenant, even all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded. They neither listened nor obeyed.*

What a difference between Israel and Judah! Had this event been prophesied? What could have saved Israel from being taken captive? How many warnings and opportunities did they have to change? Will we be taken captive if we do not obey? How many warnings have we received?

2 Kings 18:19-22 *19 And the Rabshakeh said to them, "Say to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: On what do you rest this trust of yours? 20 Do you think that mere words are strategy and power for war? In whom do you now trust, that you have rebelled against me? 21 Behold, you are trusting now in*

Egypt, that broken reed of a staff, which will pierce the hand of any man who leans on it. Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him. 22 But if you say to me, “We trust in the LORD our God,” is it not he whose high places and altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to Judah and to Jerusalem, “You shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem”?

Rabshakeh asks a great question: “In whom do you trust?” In whom do we trust? Do we trust in man or God?

2 Kings 19:5-7 *5 When the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah, 6 Isaiah said to them, “Say to your master, ‘Thus says the LORD: Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have reviled me. 7 Behold, I will put a spirit in him, so that he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land, and I will make him fall by the sword in his own land.’”*

How difficult do you think it was for Hezekiah to believe the words of Isaiah? How difficult is it for us to believe the words of God? How much do we look at the situation around us and doubt the power of God to make us triumph?

2 Kings 19:15-19 *15 And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD and said: “O LORD, the God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth. 16 Incline your ear, O LORD, and hear; open your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God. 17 Truly, O LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands 18 and have cast their gods into the fire, for they were not gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone. Therefore they were destroyed. 19 So now, O LORD our God, save us, please, from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, O LORD, are God alone.”*

What was Hezekiah’s reasoning the God is truly God? What as Hezekiah’s prayer? What was his reason for God to do this for the people of Judah? Do our prayers seek to glorify God or are they primarily for our benefit? Which should they be?

2 Kings 19:32-34 *32 “Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: He shall not come into this city or shoot an arrow there, or come before it with a shield or cast up a siege mound against it. 33 By the way that he came, by the same he shall return, and he shall not come into this city, declares the LORD. 34 For I will defend this city to save it, for my own sake and for the sake of my servant David.”*

Thus says the Lord” “Declares the Lord” what greater assurance could be given? Do we believe this assurance like Hezekiah did? Wo we act like we do? What two reasons did God give for defending the city of Jerusalem? Would God defend the city for our sake? Are we servants of God like David?

2 Kings 20:1-2, 9 *1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hephzibah. 2 And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the despicable practices of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel... 9 But they did not listen, and Manasseh led them astray to do more evil than the nations had done whom the LORD destroyed before the people of Israel.*

The Lord added 15 years to the life of Hezekiah. Manasseh was 12 when he began to reign. How ironic is it that most wicked king of Judah was born to the most righteous king of Judah? Why do you think Manasseh turned against all of the principles of his father? What can we do to help our children follow God?

2 Kings 22:11-13 *11 When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes. 12 And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Micaiah, and Shaphan the secretary, and Asaiah the king's servant, saying, 13 “Go, inquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found. For great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us.”*

The Book of the Law was found in the temple and taken to Josiah. When he read it, he knew the people were in trouble because they had not obeyed the Lord. How could the Book of the Law be lost for so many years? Would it be possible for a bible to be lost in our house for years? IS there any difference between knowing

where our Bible is and not reading it? Has God's book been lost in many churches today? What has taken its place?

2 Kings 23:2-3 *2 And the king went up to the house of the LORD, and with him all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the priests and the prophets, all the people, both small and great. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the LORD. 3 And the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people joined in the covenant.*

Have we made this covenant? How well are we keeping it?

2 Kings 23:21-23 *21 And the king commanded all the people, "Keep the Passover to the LORD your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant." 22 For no such Passover had been kept since the days of the judges who judged Israel, or during all the days of the kings of Israel or of the kings of Judah. 23 But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah this Passover was kept to the LORD in Jerusalem.*

How is it possible that the Passover, the greatest memorial, had not been kept for hundreds of years? What would be comparable to this today? What can be done to insure this doesn't happen today?

1 Kings 23:25 *25 Before him [Josiah] there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses, nor did any like him arise after him.*

How can we be like Josiah?

2 Kings 23:26-27 *26 Still the LORD did not turn from the burning of his great wrath, by which his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked him. 27 And the LORD said, "I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and I will cast off this city that I have chosen, Jerusalem, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there."*

God was still determined to destroy Judah and Jerusalem because of the actions of Manasseh and the people. What can we do to insure this does not happen to us?

2 Kings 24:11-14 *11 And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to the city while his servants were besieging it, 12 and Jehoiachin the king of Judah gave himself up to the king of Babylon, himself and his mother and his servants and his officials and his palace officials. The king of Babylon took him prisoner in the eighth year of his reign 13 and carried off all the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold in the temple of the LORD, which Solomon king of Israel had made, as the LORD had foretold. 14 He carried away all Jerusalem and all the officials and all the mighty men of valor, 10,000 captives, and all the craftsmen and the smiths. None remained, except the poorest people of the land.*

2 Kings 25:21 *21 And the king of Babylon struck them down and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah was taken into exile out of its land.*

God's prophecy has come true. Judah is conquered and taken to Babylon. Why did this happen? Did it have to happen? What could have been done to prevent it?

Jonah

Jonah 1:15-16 *15 So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. 16 Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.*

What would it take for us to fear the Lord and follow him?

Jonah 3:10 *10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.*

If we repent and turn to God, will God receive us today?

Jonah 4:1-2 *1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, 1 and he was angry. 2 And he prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.*

Jonah was mad because God saved Nineveh. Have we ever been angry with God because someone repented? Have we ever thought someone had been so evil that God could/would/should not save them if they repented? Have we ever been like Jonah?

Amos

Amos 1 Syria, Philistines, Tyre, Edom, the Ammonites, and Moab are all judged because of their transgressions against God and His people. Are we transgressing against God? Are we in danger of judgement?

Amos 2 In this chapter Judah and Israel are judged because of their transgression of the commandments. How are we doing in keeping God’s commands? How much danger are we in?

Acts

Acts 27:21-26 *21 Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said, “Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss. 22 Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. 23 For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, 24 and he said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.’ 25 So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. 26 But we must run aground on some island.”*

Paul’s faith was great. How is our faith? Is it strong in the face of persecution or trial?

Acts 28: 23-24 *23 When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. 24 And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved.*

Which camp are you in, believers or disbelievers?

Romans

Romans 1:7 *7 To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Why does Paul start all of his letters with this salutation? How important are these for our lives? Why would peace be so necessary for his readers?

Romans 1:8 *8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.*

For what did Paul thank God regarding the Romans? Would our faith be proclaimed everywhere today?

Romans 1:16-17 *6 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”*

Are we ashamed of the gospel? What actions of ours demonstrate that fact? How are we to live? What do we do regularly that indicates we live by faith?

Romans 1:18-23 *18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal*

power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Are God's eternal power and divine nature obvious to you? Do we honor God as God? Are we in danger of the wrath of God? What are actions that dishonor God?

Romans 1:28-32 28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. 29 They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

Are any of the sins listed a problem for you? Which of these sins receive approval from the world?

Romans 2:6-11 6 He will render to each one according to his works: 7 to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; 8 but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. 9 There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, 10 but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. 11 For God shows no partiality.

Into which group do you fall? What will your reward be?

Roamsn 2:13-14 13 For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. 14 For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law.

Are you a hearer only or a hearer and doer?

Psalms

Psalms 82:3-4 3 Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. 4 Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

Whom does God rescue?

Psalms 84 10-12 10 For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. 11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. 12 O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!

In whom do you trust? How do you feel in the presence of the Lord?

Proverbs

Proverbs 16:32 32 Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

How are you controlling your spirit and anger?

Proverbs 17:7 7 Fine speech is not becoming to a fool; still less is false speech to a prince.

What is your speech like? How well can you control your tongue?

Step 3: GET ACTIVE

- 2 Kings talks much about evil and good kings. Evaluate your life in light of obedience to God's word. Make a plan to improve your obedience in at least one area.

- 2 Kings also discusses the effect of leadership, good and evil. In what areas are you a leader? How are you leading? Review the qualities of a good leader and make a plan to implement at least one in your life.
- Review your desire to be in the courts of God, i.e. to be with God in eternity. Do you want it because it will be better than hell or is your motivation because you have to be in God's presence? Work on your love for and desire to be in God's presence.

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