One Year Bible Challenge, Week 13



Week 13

March 26 to April 1, 2011[1. The notes, summaries and points on this page are intended as bookmarks of important matters which are covered in this week's readings. They are not intended as complete summaries of readings. Please forgive me if some of my summaries are not 100% on point. Read the manual—i.e. Bible—so that you will get a more clear understanding of the material. Thank you.
—*Tom Truex*]

This is the *"One Year Bible Challenge:"* to read the entire Bible in one year. Assuming a normal reading level, this can be done by spending about 10-15 minutes per day, each and every day. It is **NOT TOO LATE to join the Challenge!** Start with today's reading and keep reading with us through the end of this year. You'll have to read a bit more at the beginning of next year to finish. See **ReadTheWholeBible.COM** for more information. If you would like details so you can join us, or if you have any other questions, please call Tom Truex. Or send an email by using the CONTACT form on K-Line.ORG.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS: Deuteronomy 5:1 – 20:20
Themes and stories: Moses reviewed the 10 Commandments. The greatest commandment is *"[4] Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. [5] You shall love the LORD your God with all*

your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (ESV) God emphasized how important this commandment was in Deuteronomy 6:7-9:

> *[6] And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. [7] You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. [8] You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. [9] You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

Verse 9 is cited as the scripture directing Jews to maintain a mezuzah on their doorposts.

God told the Israelites to take care to remember Him and to not follow other gods.

God prepared the Israelites for the coming battles. They would conquer, "the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you." Deuteronomy 7:1 (NIV). These nations must be completely vanquished:

> *[2] and when the LORD your God gives them over to you, and you defeat them; then you must utterly destroy them; you shall make no covenant with them, and show no mercy to them. [3] You shall not make marriages with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons. [4] For they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods; then the anger of the LORD would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly. Deuteronomy 7:2-4 (RSV).*

God told the people not to be afraid of the nations they must defeat. He reminds them of what He did to Pharaoh and Egypt. He told them not to forget Him. God told the Israelites he

will defeat their enemies not because of the righteousness of the Israelites, but because of the wickedness of their enemies.

God told Moses that if the Israelites only remember, love, and serve, God with all their heart and soul, that He would provide for their needs.

God gave Moses rules for worship. There should be only one altar for sacrifice. All of the other altars, to other gods should be destroyed. God warned the people again to not worship other gods, or to follow false prophets. One sure way to spot a false prophet is if he says, “Let’s follow other gods.” Also they should beware of even family members trying to entice them to worship false gods. God told Moses again about “clean” and “unclean” foods.

God tells Moses they must have a second tithe (the first tithe being the one mentioned in Numbers 18:24, for maintenance of the Levites). The second tithe was to be set aside for the owner’s own consumption—grain, wine, old, and livestock. Except that every third year the second tithe was to be set aside for charity.

Every seventh year, debts from other Israelites were to be cancelled. Debts from foreigners remained in place. You were supposed to be generous in lending to others, in need, reguardless of the nearness of the seventh year. Hebrew slaves were to be released in the seventh year as well. God reviewed the festivals with Moses.

God directed appointment of Judges and other officials. They were to be fair, and not accept bribes. The death penalty was prescribed for worshiping other gods—but only after thorough inquiry, and upon the testimony of two or more witnesses. The witnesses had to cast the first stones. This rule made witnesses part of the punishment, as well as the trial. It would discourage trivial or false charges. Also, perjury

carried the same punishment as the crime of the accused. Difficult cases could be referred to the Priest.

God announced that he would set a king over the people when they reached the promised land. Guidelines for the future king were descibed as well, to prevent excesses. Among the rules, no foreigner as king,14 and not acquiring too many horses or wives.

God warns against practicing “abhorrent practices” of other nations. Deuteronomy 18:9 (NRSV). In particular,

> *[10] Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, [11] or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Deuteronomy 18:10-11 (NIV)*

God told them about a prophet to come, and tells the Israelites how they will recognize him. Many people say this passage refers to Jesus. God specifies cities of refuge in the promised land.

God gave instructions for soldiers. They are not to be afraid of the enemy. The priest and the officials were to speak to the troops before they go into battle. Certain personal and business affairs must be attended to before the battle, lest the soldier be killed and the matter left undone. As the army approached a town which was not in the land they were to settle, the Israelites were to offer peace terms: surrender and become slaves; or all males will be killed in battle. Women, children, livestock, and other property could be taken as spoils of war. But as to the land in which the Israelites would actually settle, they were to destroy everything that breathes, so those people would not corrupt the Israelites—”*that they may not teach you to do according to all their abominable practices which they have done in the service of their gods, and so to sin against the LORD your God.*”

Deuteronomy 20:18 (RSV).

Discussion points: Deuteronomy describes a system for dealing with the poor and others in need. How does the Israelite's system compare with modern notions on this matter? Would the Israelite's system work if implemented in our modern society?

Psalms: Psalm 68:19 – 73:28
Proverbs: Proverbs 11:29 – 12:10

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS: Luke 7:11 – 9:50



Jesus raising the widow's son at Nain -- James Tissot (1836 - 1902)

Themes and stories: Jesus went to a Town called Nain. A large crowd followed him. As they were approaching the gate to the town, a funeral procession passed them. It was for the only son of a widow. A woman with no husband or son to take care of her would be in a bad position. Jesus had compassion for her. *"He came up and touched the coffin; and the bearers came to a halt. And He said, 'Young man, I say to you, arise!'"* Luke 7:14 (RSV). The dead man sat up and began to speak. Everyone was afraid, but knew that what they had witnessed was to glorify God.

Some men said to Jesus, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, `Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" Luke 7:20 (RSV). Jesus answered them,

"[22] …Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the

> *blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. [23] And blessed is he who takes no offense at me."* *Luke 7:22-23 (RSV).*

Jesus was invited to dine in the home of a Pharisee. While he was there, a woman who had been a sinner, joined him. She stood behind Jesus at his feet, weeping. As she cried, her tears washed His feet. She began to dry his feet with her hair. She continued kissing his feet, and anointing them with ointment. The Pharisees, knowing the woman's reputation, thought the display unseemly. Jesus explained that because her sin was great, so was her gratitude for the forgiveness of her sins great. Jesus told the woman that her sins were forgiven and that her faith had saved her. The people at the table asked who this was that could forgive sins.

Certain women, among them "Mary, called Mag'dalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joan'na, the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others," followed Jesus and his disciples to provide for them out of their resources.

Jesus told the parable of the four soils, and explained it's meaning. Luke 8:4-15. He described the meaning of a true family—not blood relatives, but those who hear the word of God and do it.

Jesus and his disciples were crossing a lake when a storm blew up. Jesus was asleep. The disciples frantically awoke him. He calmed the sea. The disciples were amazed. They landed at a place called Gerasenes, near the cemetery. A man plagued by many demons ran about the tombs with no clothes on. The demons recognized Jesus, and said, *"What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech you, do not torment me."* Luke 8:28. Jesus asked who the demons were. They answered their name was Legion, for they were many. They begged Jesus to not send them back to the abyss. Instead send them into a

nearby herd of pigs. Jesus consented. The demons entered the pigs, and the pigs promptly ran into the lake and drowned. The man who had been delivered from the demons was happy. The pigs' owners were not happy. They asked Jesus to leave. Jesus left.

A woman with chronic bleeding touched the fringe of Jesus garment. She was instantly healed, because of her faith. A young girl died. She was the daughter of Jairus, a leader in the synagogue. Jesus restored Jairus' daughter to life, and asked the people standing by to give the girl something to eat.

Jesus sent his 12 disciples out *"and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal."* Luke 9:1-6. The people in some places welcomed the disciples. Others did not.

Jesus fed 5,000 men, plus the women and children with them, with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. There were twelve baskets of leftovers.

Peter finally realized that Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus warned his disciples that he would undergo great suffering, be rejected by the religious leaders, be killed, and arise on the third day. Jesus told them, that to be his followers they had to take up their crosses daily and follow him.

Jesus went up a mountain, with Peter, John and James in order to pray. Jesus' face changed, and his clothes became a dazzling white. The "Transfiguration." Jesus met Moses and Elijah. A cloud passed overhead, and a voice from it proclaimed, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" Luke 9:35.

Jesus healed a demon possessed boy. He predicted that he would be betrayed. The disciples argued amongst them as to who would be the greatest of them The disciple, John, wanted to prevent

another man from casting out demons in Jesus' name. Jesus told him not to stop the man.

Discussion points: How was Jesus' attitude toward women unexpected among the Jews? Why was he criticized and why did he treat women as he did?

DISCUSSION POINTS AND VERSES – Christian Men's Breakfast only[2. Subject to change.]
The discussion notes (PDF / TEXT) for breakfast on Saturday, April 2, 2011 are now online – *"Equal Rights"*. In Biblical times, views on treatment of the poor, and the place of women in society, were quite different than today. This week we'll discuss some of those differences. *Discussion verses:* Deut. 14:28-29; Deut. 15:1-11; Luke 7:36-50; and Luke 8:1-3

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP
A women's study group meets in Davie, FL on the 2nd Friday morning of the month. Contact Janet Truex, or use the Contact tab at CONTACT form on **ReadTheWholeBible.COM**.

FOOTNOTES