

Bible Study Lesson Summary, April 15, 2018

This Sunday, April 15th, your readings should be Day 176: Chapters 1-2 of the First Book of Chronicles, Proverbs 11:16-31, and Chapter 7 of St. Paul's 2nd Letter to the Corinthians.

ST. PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS.

1Cor. 16: This last chapter is Paul talking about his traveling plans. Notice he starts with a suggestion about a special collection for the people of Jerusalem. We still do that on Good Friday and occasionally at other times.

ST. PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS

2Cor. 1: As usual he starts out with his encouraging greeting and thanksgiving but adds something new in vs. 8. He and possibly Timothy has suffered some kind of affliction that was almost deadly. It could have been anything from persecution to the flu or plague. In vs 12 he starts defending his plans that obviously got changed. It seems like they must have been really mad at him for he really seems concerned that he make peace with them again.

2Cor. 2: Whatever the problem was, he continues with his worry about how it has affected people in Corinth. This part of his letter is not big in the Lectionary because it doesn't seem to go anywhere.

2Cor. 3: In vs. 6 he mentions a "new covenant." Then he goes into the difference between the two covenants. The first is a ministry of death, obey the law or die. The second is the ministry of the Spirit, which he says is more glorious. In vs. 12-18 he shows that the meaning of the OT is veiled until Jesus opens it up like He did on the Road to Emmaus.

2Cor. 4: Vs. 1 & 16 both have the line: "we are not discouraged". After all that he described in vs. 7-11, that is amazing but vs. 12 shows the motivation: "So death is at work in us, but life in you." Paul sees himself as a servant of the Lord, giving his all for the sake of getting others to heaven. Sounds like he is following Jesus' model.

2Cor. 5: This chapter goes farther in explaining Paul's motivation. He is looking for that new building to replace his beat-up old tent of a body, as he explains in vs. 1. Remember that Paul's occupation is tent maker. "For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven." From vs. 16 on, he is clarifying how he sees his job as reconciling the world to Christ so others can receive the resurrected body that Christ showed was possible by taking on our sins. Vs. 21, "For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him."

2Cor. 6: The first few verses Paul uses to let them know not to delay being reconciled with Christ. Then he goes into more of what he has gone through and done to get this message across in an urgent way. In vs. 14-18 he lets them know that they should let anyone who doesn't want to be

saved hold them back. Don't tie themselves to the lawless any more than Christ would tie himself to Beliar (Satan) and say that if Satan isn't saved then he doesn't want to go back to heaven. This last line is mine but I have heard ones just a weird often.

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

Prv. 7: Vs. 21-22 are my favorites for keeping celibate: "She wins him over by her repeated urging, with her smooth lips she leads him astray; he follows her stupidly, like an ox that is led to slaughter..." I don't want to be a stupid ox and loose the gift of celibacy.

Prv. 8: Vs. 22-31 are very significant in that they foreshadow the plurality of God as three divine persons. The concept of the Trinity had not even been mentioned in Jewish thinking yet. Vs. 22, "The Lord begot me, the firstborn of his ways..."

Prv. 9: St. James must have taken his cues from here as he wrote his letter. There is no mincing of words. It does no good to try and summarize this chapter for each verse is a new lesson.

THE SECOND BOOK OF KINGS

2Kg. 12: In the southern kingdom of Judah Joash rules from age seven. He has to deal with some crooked priests who are scamming the people and not using the money to fix the temple. This is the explanation of why the king of Aram took all the silver and gold from the temple. God took it away from the corrupt priests.

2Kg. 13: The best story in this chapter is in vs. 20-21."Elisha died and was buried. ... So they cast the dead man into the grave of Elisha, and everyone went off. But when the man came in contact with the bones of Elisha, he came back to life and rose to his feet. A sign of the power of relics.

2Kg. 14: Amaziah, king of Judah, is a good man and does not kill the children of the fathers as the Law of Moses said. He still loses the war with Israel.

2Kg. 15 & 16: Azariah, son of Amaziah, becomes king of Judah and is good like his dad, but like his dad did not get rid of the pagan altars in high places so he dies a leper. Then there is a string of Israel kings who "did evil in the sight of the Lord." Also there was a string of Judah's kings who okay but did not get rid of the high places. Notice that even the author of 2Kgs is getting tired and shortening the accounts of all these Kings, so don't feel bad.

2Kg. 17: In Israel, (vs. 16) "They disregarded all the commandments of the Lord, their God, and made for themselves two molten calves: they also made a sacred pole and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. They immolated their sons and daughters by fire, practiced fortune-telling and divination, and sold themselves into evil doing." Vs. 23, "Finally, the Lord put Israel away out of his sight as he had foretold...and Israel went into exile from their native soil to Assyria..." Even

after the king of Assyria sent a priest back to have the people serve their God well, they still didn't obey. Vs. 24-28 speak of the King of Assyria bringing people from five nations together to live in Samaria. In the Gospel of John, Chapter 4, Jesus talks to the Samaritan woman who has five husbands. She represents all of the Samaritans in this way.

2Kg. 18: Hezekiah, son of Ahaz is king of Judah and is a good king. He gets rid of the pagan worship and stands up to the Assyrian forces. In Vs. 9-13 Israel is conquered by Assyria and the northern kingdom is taken to live in exile in Medes. The King of Assyria then taunts the King of Judah. It is a guy thing. But Eliakim tells the king of Judah to stand firm with God.

2Kg. 19: King Hezekiah of Judah and King Sennacherib of Assyria taunt each other but the Lord has the last word and in vs. 35-36 sends his angel into the Assyrian camp and kills 185,000 men, which sends them back to Nineveh.

2Kg. 20: Hezekiah was a good man and begged God for healing and God granted the request. Isaiah the prophet applied the medicine. The *shadow* of the sun moved back ten steps as a sign of God's word. Hezekiah makes friends with the King of Babylon, which would have covered most of the area north and west of Israel. The capital is Ninevah. The pool and conduit that is mentioned in vs. 20 is still in existence and was the only way to get water to Jerusalem without leaving the city. It was dug down through solid rock in case of siege.

2Kg. 21: Manasseh, son of Hezekiah, brought back all the idol worship that his dad got rid of. This sets up the exile of the southern kingdom for God will only protect the temple in Jerusalem if they are following His law. The "book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah" mentioned in previous chapters and in vs. 17 is one of the sets of scrolls that was lost because of the Babylonian exile that was about to come. Amon becomes king after his father Manasseh but is just as evil. The people kill him and have his son, Josiah take over.

2Kg. 22: King Josiah was pleasing to the Lord, but the book of the laws of God had been lost in the last 60 years. When Josiah commissioned repair work to be done on the temple the high priest Hilkiah found the book. King Josiah wept and repented of the sins of his father and grandfather and so the prophecy predicting the destruction of Jerusalem was delayed during Josiah lifetime.

2Kg. 23: King Josiah had the book of the law read to the people and had the temple cleansed of all the pagan things from there and the surrounding area. You might be wondering why the previous kings and people fell into this pagan worship mentioned in this chapter. My guess is that most of it was political. Making friends with all the surrounding kings by showing that you worshipped the same gods as they did made them feel safe. In vs. 20-23 Josiah commands that Passover is to be celebrated. This hadn't happened in many years. King Josiah dies in battle with Pharaoh Neco. His son Jehoahaz succeeded him for three months. The pharaoh made Eliakim another son of Josiah king in his place. Both Jehoahaz and his brother Eliakim (called Jehoiakim by Neco) were evil in God's sight.

2Kg. 24: Jehoiachin succeeded his father Jehoiakim as king of Judah and did evil in the sight of God. He was taken to Babylon as a captive. Everyone but the poor were exiled to Babylon. Jehoiachin's uncle became king appointed by the king of Babylon. His name was Mattaniah but was changed to Zedekiah.

2Kg. 25: Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon now comes to destroy Jerusalem. According to Google, the Babylonians led by the Chaldean army had conquered the Assyrians in 609 B.C. In vs.

7 Zedekiah is blinded after the last thing he sees is the slaying of his two sons by the Babylonian king. In vs. 22 Gedaliah is appointed governor of Judah. Ishmael, of royal descent kills Gedaliah. Some people escape to Egypt. Nebuchadnezzar releases Jehoiachin from prison and he was treated well by him for as long as he lived. So now both kingdoms are destroyed as God foretold. Israel is overthrown by the Assyrians in 722 BC. Judah was overthrown by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 587 BC.