

## **Bible Study Lesson Summary, Sept. 9, 2018**

*This Sunday, Sept. 9, your readings should be Day 288: Chapters 3-4 of the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah, Chapter 9 of the Book of Sirach, and Chapter 2 of the Second Letter to Timothy.*

### **THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS**

**Heb. 8:** Vs. 1-6 are about Jesus as the Great High Priest. This is part of why the Mass is not to be adjusted according to the whim of the priest. We are copying the worship of God in heaven as we worship in our churches. It is not to make us happy. It is not for our entertainment. It is an atonement for our sins to make God happy; although if God is happy, we have a chance to be happy. Vs. 5: “For he says, “See that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”” Vs. 7-13 are a comparison of the OT and the NT. The OT taught a lesson of what God wants, which is for us to be His family. It had to be done because it was a visible family, a nation. But the NT is binding us to a new promise or covenant to be His family in an invisible realm, heaven. For this to happen we had to be changed, not just our environment. The mistakes would have to be taken care of in justice. The result would be greater. Vs. 10: But this is the covenant I will establish with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their minds and I will write them upon their hearts. I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” You will see this again when we read Jeremiah.

**Heb. 9:** In this chapter the author goes back to the idea of right worship. In vs. 1-10 he outlines what the OT worship was supposed to be. Then in vs. 11-12: But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that have come to be, passing through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made by hands, that is, not belonging to this creation, he entered once for all into the sanctuary, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.” Vs. 15-28 remind us that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness (vs. 22). Vs. 18: “Thus not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood.” Vs. 23-28 instruct us on how this sacrifice is once for all and forever and not needed to be done daily. So daily Mass is not a daily sacrifice of Christ but a living daily in the eternal sacrifice of the cross.

**Heb. 10:** This chapter makes me think that this was written by Paul because it is about the limits of the law, or OT. To fix the breaking of the law there has to be a daily or at least yearly sacrifice. But the NT is not about the law but faith in Jesus Christ who can surpass this by tying us into himself. God will not see our sins if we are one with Christ. Vs. 19-25 lets us know that being in this way of thinking means we can't just not sin. We must be like Christ and as vs. 24 says: “We must consider how to rouse one another in love and good works.” And in vs. 25; “We should not stay away from our assembly...” Vs. 39 caps off vs. 26-39: “We are not among those who draw back and perish, but among those who have faith and will possess life.” To stoop from focusing on doing good works, down to sinning is now a farther fall and could incur a greater punishment.

**Heb. 11:** Vs. 1-12 are OT people who lived by faith and yet vs. 13 says: “All these died in faith.” Vs. 16: “But now they desire a better homeland, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.” Vs. 14-38 recount more OT people of faith. Vs. 39 then says: “Yet all these, though approved because of their faith, did not receive what had been promised. God had foreseen something better for us, so that without us they should not be made perfect.” The ‘us’ is the Hebrews of the time of Jesus, who were the first to accept Jesus.

**Heb. 12:** I love vs. 1: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith.” He is speaking first and foremost of the Saints at the specific time of Jesus, but then about any Saint since then. They can inspire us. In Vs. 3-13 the author then explains how we can be inspired by the example of Jesus and those who have persisted in faith. We can endure just like them. Vs. 14-29 are about how this all plays out. We must not lose God. Jesus is our mediator who can help us stay close to the God who would seem unapproachable.

**Heb. 13:** This chapter sounds like a summary of some of what was in the earlier letters of Paul. It is good practical guidance. Don’t neglect hospitality. Let marriage be honored. Do not be carried away by strange teaching. Obey your leaders. Pray. Then in vs. 24 we hear: “Greetings to all your leaders and to all the holy ones. Those from Italy send you greetings.” This could be Paul writing from Rome to the Hebrews all over the world.

## THE SECOND LETTER TO TIMOTHY

**2Tim. 1:** Like in 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy Paul introduces himself as an apostle of Christ Jesus. In these letters to Timothy this makes the most sense, an elder bishop talking to a younger one. In vs. 3-5 he mentions Timothy’s family. Vs. 6 is to remind him of his ordination: “through the imposition of my hands.” Then to vs. 14 he is directing Timothy. In vs. 9 reminds us that none of us are worthy of salvation: “He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design...” Vs. 15-18 is about one of Paul’s bad weeks but how it turned out well.

## THE BOOK OF SIRACH

**Sir. 5:** Vs. 1, “Rely not on your wealth; say not: “I have the power.”” This verse is fleshed out by Jesus in Lk.12:16-21. It is well done in this chapter also.

**Sir. 6:** Vs. 1-4 follow the last few verses of the last chapter in warning us about how our tongue can get us into trouble. Vs. 6-17 are about making good friends. Vs. 18-37 are about seeking wisdom.

**Sir. 7:** Most of this chapter is simply good teaching on being good and working hard. Vs. 15 I traded in for priesthood: “Hate not laborious tasks, nor farming, which was ordained by the Most High.” Then I found out that priesthood was hard work also. Vs. 35-36, “Neglect not to visit the sick—for these thing you will be loved. In whatever you do, remember your last days, and you will never sin.” This is one of the ways Jesus defines as getting people to heaven in the last judgment. (Mt. 25:31-46)

**Sir. 8:** There is lots more good advice in this chapter. Vs. 12b: “and whatever you lend, count it as lost.” This can save your mental health.

## THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH

**Is. 53:** This is about Jesus as the Suffering Servant. It is read on Good Friday and is awesome. Vs. 4 is a typical example: “Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured.”

**Is. 54:** This chapter is all about God bringing us back. His faithful ones will no longer be abandoned. Vs. 7: “For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great tenderness I will take you back.”

**Is. 55:** This chapter is about hope. We are invited back to the Lord. Vs. 1, “All you who are thirsty, come to the water!” Vs. 3, “I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David.” Vs. 8, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.”

**Is. 56:** Vs. 4-5, “To the eunuchs who observe my Sabbaths and choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant, I will give, in my house and within my walls, a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; and eternal, imperishable name will I give them.” This is a call to priestly celibacy. Jesus promises a hundred times what we left like brothers and sisters. Vs. 9-12 are about watchmen (leaders) who don’t do what they should.

**Is. 57:** Vs. 1-13 continue about the ones who aren’t doing what they are supposed to, and getting into trouble with God. After the Suffering Servant chapter and the one on Salvation, this is a reminder that we had better be faithful or the good news is not for us. Then vs. 14-19 are about salvation again and vs. 19b-21 are about missing out on salvation.

**Is. 58:** Vs. 4, “Yes, your fast ends in quarreling and fighting, striking with wicked claw.” Vs. 6, “This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke...” Many of us have to hope in this because fasting from food is difficult for us as we try to work our tails off for the Lord.

**Is. 59:** Vs. 1-15 can be summarized by saying that nothing can separate us from the love of God but our hanging on to sinfulness. Vs. 15b-21 are how God realizes that we are too pathetic to save ourselves so in vs. 16b: “So his own arm brought about the victory, and his justice lent him its support.

**Is. 60:** Now it is back to the good news of the Savior. Vs. 1, “Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you...” Vs. 6, “Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense...” This is the prediction of the wise men bringing gifts. Vs. 19 is modeled in our western back window: No longer shall the sun be your light by day, nor the brightness of the moon shine upon you at night; the Lord shall be your light forever...”

**Is. 61:** Jesus quotes vs. 1-2 in Lk.4:18-19. “The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord...” All this was fulfilled in the people hearing it.

**Is. 62:** This has a lot of wedding imagery. Vs. 4: “No more shall men call you “Forsaken,” or your land “Desolate,” but you shall be called “My Delight,” and your land “Espoused.” Vs. 5: “As a young man married a virgin, your Builder shall marry you...”

**Is. 63:** Vs. 1-6: The Edomites are the descendants of Esau, the other son of Jacob. They haven’t been friends of Israel. Vs. 7-19 are the start of a prayer for God to help his people once again. It reminds God of some of what He has done for them already. Vs. 12: “Whose glorious arm was the guide at Moses’ right; who divided the waters before them, winning for himself eternal renown...”

**Is. 64:** This continues the prayer for God’s help. Vs. 5b: “We have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind.”

**Is. 65:** This is God’s response to the prayer in the last two chapters. Vs. 17, “Lo, I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the things of the past shall not be remembered or come to mind.” (*Heaven*)

**Is. 66:** This is more of God’s answer. Vs. 10: “Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad because of her, all you who love her...” Vs. 12: “For thus says the Lord: Lo, I will spread prosperity over her like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing torrent.” Vs. 14b: “The Lord’s power shall be known to his servants, but to his enemies, his wrath.” This answer ends with vs. 24: “They shall go out and see the corpses of the men who rebelled against me; their worm shall not die, nor their fire be extinguished; and they shall be abhorrent to all mankind.” Sounds like hell to me.

## **THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET JEREMIAH**

*Jeremiah tries to get the people to reform to no avail. This book is warning after warning. But he does foretell a remnant being saved. The book is about the time from 612-587 B.C. Everything is falling apart in the two kingdoms.*

**Jer. 1:** Jeremiah hears his call to be a prophet. Vs. 5, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you.” Vs. 9, “Then the Lord extended his hand and touched my mouth, saying, See, I place my words in your mouth!”

**Jer. 2:** Jeremiah points out how widespread the idolatry is.