

Profiting from Our Reading

In addition to the readings from the Psalms which we have not been commenting on, this week we will be reading from Exodus, Leviticus, Philippians, and Hebrews. As we read through the Bible this year let's strive to see both the interconnectedness of the entire Bible and the unique value of each individual book.

Exodus 32-40 Israel's Shame and God's Glory

The Lord has entered into a covenant with Israel and given instructions for the tabernacle, His place of dwelling among them, but this week begins with a failure of Israel's faith.

- 1) The golden calf incident took place only about six weeks after all had agreed to the covenant (Ex. 24). Let's continually seek to build and strengthen our faith, lest it slip.
- 2) It is essential we not seek to remake God into our image and turn worship into that which is about our satisfaction and pleasure instead of His glory and honor.
- 3) Weak leaders give in to the sinful desires of the people.
- 4) Good leaders spend time in intercessory prayer for those whom they lead.
- 5) It's not easy (or at least it shouldn't be) to imitate the Levites, but standing for God sometimes requires us to stand against our brethren.
- 6) Pay careful attention to the Lord's description of Himself in 34:6-7. These words will be referenced a number of times in the remainder of the Old Testament.
- 7) Though Israel miserably failed with the golden calf, we should be inspired by their generous contributions for the tabernacle.
- 8) See the glory of the Lord fill the tabernacle in a visible way in Ex. 40 and know that while we can't see it, His glory is with us today if we are built according to the pattern. Eph. 2:19-22

Leviticus 1-7 Laws of Sacrifice

- 1) The high cost of sin is stressed in the many sacrifices required in the Law of Moses.
- 2) Leviticus bears witness to God's grace in providing a way of cleansing.
- 3) As you read the details given for each sacrifice, be reminded that God must be approached as He directs.
- 4) Read Leviticus with the awareness that Jesus is the fulfillment of these various sacrifices.

Philippians 3-4 Maintaining a Heavenly Focus

- 1) Rejoice in the Lord.

- 2) Put your faith in Jesus and not your family heritage or earthly accomplishments.
- 3) Keep pressing onward and upward.
- 4) Maintain a focus on things above and not things on the earth.
- 5) Be united in Christ.
- 6) Instead of anxiety, allow your life to be ruled by the peace that passes understanding.
- 7) Learn contentment.
- 8) Aiding others in the preaching of the gospel allows you to share in their work.
- 9) “Greet every saint in Christ Jesus.”

Hebrews 1-3 Jesus Is Better

Hebrews seems to have been written to encourage and exhort Jewish Christians to remain faithful to the Lord. The book contains warnings such as the one urging them not to be like Israel in the wilderness, but the key component of the book is getting them to realize that what one has in Christ is far greater than what he would have under the Law of Moses.

- 1) If God has spoken, we need to be listening.
- 2) Jesus is far superior to the angels.
- 3) Because drift is possible, pay careful attention to the gospel which has been confirmed by the miracles of the apostles.
- 4) Jesus died for everyone and seeks to bring many sons to glory.
- 5) He is not ashamed to call us His brethren.
- 6) By His death and resurrection Jesus has won the victory over the devil.
- 7) Having been tempted, He can aid us in our times of temptation.
- 8) We must hold fast until the end.
- 9) Do not allow the heart to be hardened.
- 10) Be concerned about others and regularly exhort and encourage them to faithfulness in service to God.