

Library of
Gary Puryear

INTRODUCTION

It is my prayer that this book will be a valuable tool in your personal study of the bible. I wish to express my appreciation to Thomas B. Warren for giving me permission to outline in this book form "The Living Messages of the books of the Old Testament" and "The Living Messages of the books of the New Testament". These are lectureship books from the Getwell Church of Christ (Spiritual Sword) in Memphis, Tenn.

Special thanks to Clydeen Puryear, Karen Tittle and Jay Bulman for their help in typing. ~~This~~ This book is dedicated to my loving family: Clydeen, Shawn and Angela. I also feel indebted to the entire Valdosta Congregation for their love for the truth that helps one in his study of God's word. May God bless this church as it serves under the oversight of it's elders; Rayford Henry, James Richardson.

Gary Puryear

INTRODUCTION

The following is a suggested order in which you should study the books of the Old Testament. I have tried to list these in

the order in which the events actually took place.

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| 1. Genesis | 23. Zephaniah |
| 2. Job (Between Gen. 10-12) | 24. Lamentations |
| 3. Exodus | 25. Hosea |
| 4. Leviticus | 26. Joel |
| 5. Numbers | 27. Amos |
| 6. Deuteronomy | 28. Obadiah |
| 7. Joshua | 29. Jonah |
| 8. Judges | 30. Micah |
| 9. Ruth | 31. Nahum |
| 10. I Samuel | 32. Habbakkuk |
| 11. II Samuel | 33. Ezekiel |
| 12. Psalms | 34. Daniel |
| 13. I Kgs. 1-12 | 35. Ezra |
| 14. Song of Solomon | 36. Esther |
| 15. Proverbs | 37. Ezra |
| 16. Ecclesiastes | 38. Nehemiah |
| 17. I Kgs. 12-II Kgs. | 39. Malachi |
| 18. I Chronicles | |
| 19. II Chronicles | *Franklin Camp |
| 20. Ezra | |
| 21. Isaiah | |
| 22. Jeremiah | |

MAIN THREAD OF OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY

1. Genesis-Creation; early civilization; selection of Abraham
2. Exodus-Escape from Egypt; law and system of worship.
3. Numbers-Depart from Sinai; 40 year delay before entering promised land.
4. Deuteronomy-Chap. 34 only; Death of Moses; Joshua as leader.
5. Joshua-Conquest and settlement of Canaan.
6. Judges-Rule of 13 judges during 450 yrs. after Joshua.
7. I Samuel-Last 2 judges and rule of Saul.
8. II Samuel-Reign of David.
9. I Kings-Reign of Solomon, division of kingdom and early history of rival of 2 kingdoms.
10. II Kings-Two rival kingdoms down to their end as independent governments.
11. Ezra-First efforts to rebuild Jerusalem after 70 years of foreign bondage and captivity.

-How To Study the
Bible: Earle H. West
pgs. 22-23

LESSONS FROM GENESIS

INTRO.

1. Man could never have known of himself, his destiny, his purpose, or if he were even moral if God had not told him.
2. Take away Genesis and you've destroyed the very beginning of the Bible and thus the Bible itself.
3. Man comes with a book of instructions.
4. It is likely that this book was written in the wilderness to the Jews to be an encouragement to them.
5. This book contains facts that are much older than the book itself.
6. If Genesis is true then every sinner is lost and doomed to eternal damnation. (Genesis is true.)
7. God took the initiative in creation and in restoration of fallen man. Man cannot achieve on his own.
8. All the principles of redemption are in the book of Genesis Eph.3:9-11; Purpose Gen.3:15.
9. Perfection Gen.1-2
Problem Gen.3-6
Promise Gen.12ff
(Point No.9 from Franklin Camp)

BODY

- I. LESSON WE LEARN FROM GENESIS. The following items were suggested as indications of the importance of the book of Genesis: G. Campbell Morgan, Living Messages of the Books of the Bible.
 - A. Theology: (Genesis doesn't argue the existence of God- Assumes it.) Nature of God and relationship to Man. Philip expressed a universal longing to know when he said: "Lord show us the Father, and if sufficeth us." Jno. 14:8-9. Genesis shows that God is creator, revealer, law-giver, redeemer.
 - B. Cosmogony: involves the study of the universe. Genesis shows the universe is not eternal, is not self-contained, no part of it is God and therefore no part of it should be worshipped.
 - C. Anthropology is the study of man. Genesis shows that our study of man cannot be adequate unless we look at his origin, nature and fall. Man-God's image" Note Abraham and Isaac (Like father like son. Gen.12-13 and Gen. 26
 - D. Sociology: study of society.
 1. Nature of man.
 2. Nature of marriage.
 3. reality of sin.
 4. consideration of man's privileges and duties.

****The stability of the family is essential to the stability of society Gen.2:23-25 Jesus restores the original law Matt.19.**

MARRIAGE: The closer we are to the source the closer to the way marriage ought to be.

Gen. 24

1. Future generations are involved in marriage. The marriage of Isaac a part of God's plan carried on. 24:3. They were not to combine heir of promise with one under curse 9:25.
 2. 24:3 Religion in marriage: Serious because in marriage there are many areas of compromise and religion cannot be compromised. Go one Sunday with one and you one with me just will not work.
 3. 24:12, 27, 40. Marriage is relation to prayer.
 4. 24:15 Importance on proper training for marriage. Many marriages fail because some not trained. Rebekah had responsibility.
 5. 24:22 2 principles 24:53
 - a. Material consideration for marriage. Contrary to what some believe you can't live off love.
 - b. Sentimental part of marriage-bracelets: This means a lot to our wives; It is a true part of marriage. It's what won her and it helps all the way through. Ex. Man walks down road with wife. She will see beautiful flowers and he will see so many feet of lumber in a tree.
 6. 24:57-58 In marriage the woman is to go where the man goes.
 7. 24:57 Woman give consideration to man she is to marry. What are his standards. You will have to live with him.
 8. 24:63 Common ideals and interests.
 9. 24:65 Purity and modesty.
 10. 24:67 All human relations that are successfull depend on love. Love enables people to get over rough spots.
- (Above 10 pts. from Franklin Camp)
- E. Harmatology; study of the nature and effects of sin. The fundamental problem of sin causes other problems in our lives. Many want to do as Adam and deny sin in their own lives.
 - F. Ethnology deals with the study of the races. Genesis sets forth not only the origin of races Gen.11, but also that though there is more than one race there is only one human kind. One races is not more highly evolved than another. None have evolved.
 - G. Soteriology deals with the question of salvation. The problem of sin and salvation are dealt with in Genesis but full revelation of God's will concerning sin and salvation are found in Christ and His covenant. Furthermore, Genesis makes clear for example God's judgment by means of the flood, that God demands morality of his people.
- II. THREE BASIC ERRORS THAT PEOPLE MAKE WHO SIN.
- A. Spirit of lawlessness: 3:1 "Yea, hath God said..."
 - B. Impossible-3:5 "ye shall be as gods" Man can never be God.
 - C. Not responsible: 3:12 "The woman thou gavest me."

CONCL.

1. The age old question asked by God to Adam "Where art thou" is still being asked. God knows where we are like He did Adam, do we know where we are. Let's find ourselves and get right with God.
2. Gen.18:25 God will do what is right.

James D. Bales-Living
Messages of the Books of
the Old Testament-
pgs.11-34

Genesis begins with life and ends in death 50:26.

3 PERIODS OF BIBLE HISTORY IN BOOK OF GENESIS

1. Ante-diluvian- Creation to flood.
2. Post-diluvian-Flood to Call of Abram.
3. Patriarchial Period- Abram to descent into Egypt.

LESSON FROM EXODUS

INTRO.

1. The purpose of the Bible is the glory of God and the salvation of man through Jesus Christ our Lord.
2. Exodus is a vital link in this chain.
Genesis connects with the purpose line in that it:
 - a. Reaches backward and makes known the origin of the universe, man and sin.
 - b. It unfolds the development of the Messianic nation.
 - c. It looks into the future and foretells the coming of the promised seed.
3. Exodus deals with the birth and organization of the nation through whom the promised seed would come.
GENESIS-MAN CREATED*****EXODUS -MAN REDEEMED
4. The N.T. abounds with references to events recorded in the book of Ex. Ex. Birth, preservation and training of Moses: Ex.2:1-10 cf. Acts 7:20, 21, 23; Heb.11:23. Murmuring of the people; Ex.15:24 cf. I Cor.10:10 Passover I Cor.5:7.
5. Entire contents of the book of Exodus are summarized in an excellent way in the word of God to Israel spoken through Moses concerning the making of the covenant Ex.19:4-6.
6. THREE WORDS DESCRIBE THE BOOK:
 - a. Saved-Egyptian bondage: Saved by blood Ex.12.
 - b. Separated-Egypt-Law Ex.19:1-5 Priestly nation.
 - c. Sanctified-Set apart to serve God: Holy

(Pt.6 from Franklin Camp)

BODY

- I. THE GOD WE SERVE.
 - A. God's interest in human affairs, especially the affairs of His people and His care for them overwhelms us. Heard cry, sent a deliverer, gave a pillar of cloud and fire to lead them, fed them and protected them from their enemies.
 - B. The abiding value of the book of Exodus, is seen in its revelation of the "NATURE OF GOD." Ex.3:14 "I AM THAT I AM." Read Ex.34:6-7. Note Ex.18:11 statement by Jethro, This love was not weak sentimentality: Even watch His suffer if it is for their good. Ex.5, Matt. 27:46.
- II. SALVATION IN TYPE.
 - A. Far too many theories taught today about way of salvation. The institutions and services of the O.T. were constructed and arranged to pictorially express the truths and principles of God's holy religion. The priests and the tabernacle were shadows or types. Heb.8:5.
- III. CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.
 - A. The word of God does command capital punishment. The word signifies take the "head" hence, the life of a man.
 1. So we mean taking a life for a justifiable reason.
 2. In the early history of man, God decreed capital

punishment as the penalty for murder. Gen.9:6 "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed, for in the image of God made he man." This statement is made in the context where God made a pledge to Himself Gen.8:21-22 Gen.9:1ff. All these things have continued to the 20th century. No authority has been found for the removal of Gen.9:5-6. It is found in the immediate context of Gen.8:20-9:17. The reason assigned for capital punishment "for in the image of God made he man" any less true today than then?

3. God continued the death penalty for murder and other things under the law of Moses Ex.20:12-17 specifically mentioned: Adultery Lev.20:10ff, incest Lev.20:11-12, 14, and idolatry Ex.22:20.
4. The sixth commandment "Thou shalt not kill" does not forbid capital punishment. The word used here is "to murder." Everytime used in O.T. it refers to murder. Jesus had it right in Matthew 19:18 "do no murder". This commandment forbids unauthorized killing.
5. Capital punishment is recognized as a legitimate prerogative of the state in the N.T.
 - a. Pilate to Christ: Jno. 19:10-11 Christ does not deny his right to execute criminals.
 - b. Paul was once charged with a crime whose penalty was death Acts 25:11.
 - c. Rom.13:1-6 shows the right of civil government to bear the sword. Individuals have no right to take vengeance but the state acting as "the minister of God" carries out this function.
6. EXCUSES for not doing what word says:
 - a. Only poor suffer (Not so).
 - b. Not a deterrent to crime.
 - c. How do harmonize with love of God: Same way do with death of Ananias and Sapphira Acts 5:1-11.

IV. ABORTION Ex.21:22-24

- A. If harm came to either baby or mother; pay.
- B. The Bible declares there is life before birth. Gen. 25:21-22; Jer.1:5; Psa.139:13-15; Lk.1:36-44.
- C. I have often wondered if these who expouse abortion would think it murder to have killed baby Jesus?

V. THE SABBATH DAY.

- A. Exodus clearly reveals when the Sabbath was given and to whom it was given. (Not at Creation).
- B. WHEN was the Sabbath day Given? Gen.2:1-3
What does this passage actually say.
 1. Clearly shows that God "sanctified" the seventh day, but when?
 2. Gen.2:1-3 is a statement of fact not a command. Remember that this written 2500 years after creation.
 3. God could not have blessed and sanctified the first seventy day because He rested.

4. The reader will take note that in the early history of the Sabbath day, no hint of responsibility regarding man; no edicts are issued for man to observe, no warning if fail to do so. Man was not involved, it was solely between God and Sabbath.
- C. The first mention of the Sabbath in the Bible is shortly before Israel came to Mt. Sinai. Ex.16:23. The whole circumstances shows they were unacquainted with such an institution. Had to tell it was coming 16:23; had to tell them what to do when it did come 16:25,26 and the purpose of mentioning it here was to prove them. 16:4
- D. Sabbath day observance was made a part of God's law binding on Jews at Mt. Sinai. No penalty for violation was given prior to Mt. Sinai, but there was penalty for other violations. Bible specifically states that God made known the holy Sabbath at Mt. Sinai Neh.9:13-14.
- E. Why was the SABBATH DAY given?
 1. Ex.31:13-17 sign between God and Israel.
 2. Day of rest. Ex.31:16-17
 3. Commemoration of deliverance from Egypt. Deut.5:15
- F. What was the NATURE of the SABBATH DAY command?
 1. Moral principles were not made, but were eternal. The Sabbath is not a moral law, it was made. Moral law was commanded because it was right, not right because it was commanded. The Sabbath is right because it was commanded.
 2. The very fact that certain things could be done on that day shows it was not a moral law, therefore different from other 9 commandments. Sabbath was for man; Animal in ditch, David and Shewbread, priest render service on Sabbath. They could not do with moral law; Kill some, covet some, etc.

The Sabbath was given to Jews Alone as a covenant between God and Israel.

VI. HARDENING OF PHARAOH'S HEART. Rom.9:17-18

- A. In what way did God have a part in hardening Pharaoh's heart?
 1. From Ex.7:13-14:17 about 19 times it is either said "Pharaoh heart was hardened" or "The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart" or "his heart was hardened."
 2. God hardened his heart when He sent Moses and Aaron and demanded that Pharaoh let Israel go. 1:8-14(Al-READY WICKED) NOTE 5:2b.
 3. Magicians hardened his heart. Look like God wasn't really behind Moses and Aaron. Pharaoh was stubborn. Our heart is our Intellect. Prov.23:7

VII. NOT OPPRESS STRANGER Ex.22:21

VIII. EVERY SOUL RESPONSIBLE: 32:32-33

IX. ATTITUDE OF GIVING FOR TABERNACLE. 35:5,22

James Meadows;pgs.
35-50 Living Messages
of Books of O.T.

LESSONS FROM LEVITICUS

INTRO.

OUTLINE AND MAJOR THEME:

1. In Genesis we have man created, In Exodus man redeemed, and in Leviticus Man worshipping. (Franklin Camp)
2. OUTLINE OF BOOK
 - I. Laws concerning offerings 1:1-7:38
 - II. Laws relating to the priesthood 8:1-10:20
 - III. Laws concerning clean and unclean animals 11:1-47
 - IV. Laws of purification 12:1-15:33
 - V. Laws regarding the work and place of atonement 16:1-17:9
 - VI. Laws concerning purity, holiness and justice 17:10-22:33
 - VII. Laws concerning feasts, sabbaths and years 23:1-25:55
 - VIII. Warnings concerning obedience and disobedience 26:1-46
 - IX. Laws concerning dedications 27:1-34
3. There are certainly many things in this book that do not have a direct significance to men today. But there are some great lessons for all of us.
4. There are principles that do not change though certain laws and regulations do change from one dispensation to another.

BODY

I. THE SACREDNESS OF WORSHIP.

- A. The book has a great many things to say in detail about the matter of worship and service to be offered to God. These surely denote the seriousness and sacredness God attaches to worship that men are to render.
- B. God should be worshipped in our day from the standpoint of man wanting to please God.
 1. We learn that God is pleased when men worship Him obediently.
 2. Some 15 times we find man's worship called a "sweet savior unto the Lord".
 3. Do we think seriously how our obedient service is received by God?
- C. We see widespread mockery of God's requirements for worship.
 1. Consider the example of Nadab and Abihu in Lev.10. It is after their deaths that God reminds us that He is to be sanctified and glorified. These were the right men, in the right office, standing in the right place and offering the service to the right God and we are told that they "...offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not" Lev.10:1
- D. The tendency in our day is to make worship "common". That seems to have great appeal from the language used in prayer to the popular dress of those who have formed the liberal congregations. From this book we get the idea of the special nature of worship. Reac Lev.10:3

II. RESPECT FOR DISCIPLINE.

- A. There is no reason to think that Aaron had less pride and joy over his children than do we. No doubt joyful that his boys followed His word in serving God. It is a hurtful time when sons are killed that he stands out as a her. Lev.10:3 "...Aaron held his peace."
- B. We find that disciplinary work in the church is often hindered when men have little respect for God's instruction in this area. Often there are those who will take up for the evil one but even Aaron did not do that.

III. FELLOWSHIP AND THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SIN.

- A. We find instruction concerning the sin offerings.
- B. This speaks plainly on the need for following God's plan in taking care of the sin and in restoring the broken fellowship.
- C. It is clear that we are to have an anxiousness about us in removing that which would stand in our way of the blessings of God.
- D. In Lev.4:4,23,28 the point is made that when sin is known corrective steps are to be taken that forgiveness may then be granted.

IV. THE HOLINESS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

- A. I Pet.1:15-16 we have these words.
 - 1. The same type of wording occurred earlier in Lev.19:2 "Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy" and Lev.21:8 "...for I the Lord, which sanctify you and ~~the~~ helys" also detailed instruction as to the holiness of the High Priest, the priesthood and the People.
 - 2. We note, exp. in the section dealing with consecration of priesthood 8:22-24 that anointing with blood was a part of that consecration. All these points are significant for us in the Christian system.
 - a. Christ our High Priest; Heb.3:1
 - b. N.T. order has a priesthood and that blood has been has been applied to us in that it brought us to acceptability before God.
- B. We are to be examples of holiness; The line between the world and the action of saints is to be distinct. I Jno. 2:15-16 2 Cor.6:17 Here is the way it is stated in Lev.18:3.

V. EMPHASIS ON DAILY RIGHTEOUSNESS.

- A. Many parallels to the N.T. Exp. in Lev.19
- B. Note the following:
 - 1. Respect for parents Lev.19:3; Eph.6:1 Col.3:20
 - 2. Sinfulness of idolatry Lev.19:4 I Cor.10:14
 - 3. Performing benevolence Lev.19:9-10 Gal.2:10
 - 4. Sinfulness of stealing Lev.19:11 Eph.4:28
 - 5. Sinfulness of lying Lev.19:11 Col.3:9
 - 6. Sinfulness of respect for persons Lev.19:15 Jas.2 1,9 I Tim.5:21
 - 7. Sinfulness of talebearing Lev.19:16 2 Thess.3:11 I Pet.4:15

VI. CONDEMNATION OF IMMORALITY AND SEXUAL DEVIATION.

A. Sins even of our day condemned in day of Israel.

Note esp. Lev.181. Nakedness Lev.18:6ff2. Homosexuality 18:22 20:13 Not a disease. It is a sin.B. According to Lev.20 the adulterer, homosexual and deviate guilty of bestiality was to be put to death.C. These sins described in the N.T. Gal.5:19-21D. Sins of homosexuality and lesbianism are clearly seen in Rom.1:26-27E. Rom.1 and Lev.20 picture our nation in the 70's. filth on movie screen, in magazine, T.V. All thees sins mentioned are being glorified.

VII. CONDEMNATION OF THE OCCULT.

A. As the world become more and more irreligious and as every form of skepticism and unbelief gains in popularity, there is the rise of interest in the occult and the mystic.

B. Many of these systems are prospering greatly with much appeal being made to the young.

C. The range of these movements runs from devoted followers of the horoscopes to the actual practice of Satanism.

Lev.19:31 20:6,27 Note. Co.2:8

VIII. CERTAINTY OF BEHAVIOR REWARDED.

A. Eternal principle. Those who are obedient are blessed and those who disobey are punished.

B. Lev.26 is a key chapter. If they followed the way of God 26:3, they would be blessed upon their endeavors of soil 4-5, peace in land 6, power in overcoming enemies 7-8 and fellowship with God. 12.C. If they failed to do as God directed vs.14, terror and sorrow of heart would be appointed them vs.16, sowing of seed vain 16, enemies would overrun them vs.17, captivity 34, survivors live in continual fear. 36THESE WORDS ARE REMINISCENT OF ROM.8:31 "If God be for us who can be against us" Heb.13:5-6Wayne Jackson
Pgs.51-59 Living Messages of
Books of O.T.

LESSONS FROM NUMBERS

OUTLINE

- I. THE OLD GENERATION-SINAI TO KADESH 1-14
- II. TRANSITION: MARCHING IN WILDERNESS. 15-20
- III. NEW GENERATION: BACK TO KADESH TO GO IN LAND. 21-36

INTRO.

1. The Bible is the record of God speaking to man. The book of Numbers is such a book. The book begins with "And the Lord spake unto Moses" 1:1; and ends with "These are the commandments and the judgments which the Lord commanded by the hand of Moses unto the children of Israel." 36:13
2. In Numbers is thought of in connection with Leviticus, We remember we have man worshipping in Lev. then we have man serving in Numbers. Over 60 times we find the words Serve or Service in the book.
3. Now let's get the connection. If Israel had only appreciated the fellowship that they had through worshipping God they would have served differently in the wilderness. This is a concept that we need to day in the church. How many feel as if they have done their duty when they attend worship and fail to understand that our fellowship with God should encourage us to go out and serve. True worshippers of God are servants of God.
4. We also learn that just being busy and doing a lot doesn't mean that progress is being made. Israel marched in a circle for 38 years and accomplished nothing, other than God's plan for them.
5. The name of the Book: The name comes from the 2 numberings of the children of Israel in Num.1 and 26. Also thought of as "Book of Wanderings".
6. SYNOPSIS OF BOOK: Census is taken to determine Israel's military strength. Then the strategic undertaking of arranging the people for the orderly mobility of over 2 million people. The Levitical services are appointed. The March toward Canaan. Israel's disbelieves God through 10 spies who return and discourage the people. Judgments given by God, wander in wilderness where those 20 years and older would die. Back to Kadesh with new generation. Another numbering. March to Moab and final preparation to enter land.
7. CHRIST IN NUMBERS: Theme of Genesis-Malachi (Christ is coming) Matt.-John (Christ has come); Acts - Revelation (Christ is coming again) See Christ in every volume of in the Bible.
 - a. As the Passover Lamb who had not a bone broken in his body. Num.9:12, I Cor. 5:7; Jno.19:33-36
 - b. We see him as the sacrifice offered outside the camp. Num.19:3; Heb.13:12.
 - c. See him as the uplifted one. Num.21:6-10 ; Jno.3:14-17
 - d. We see him as the Star out of Jacob and a Sceptre out of Israel. Num.24:17; Matt.2:2 Rev.22:16

Wilderness was disciplinary. Learn to trust God. He provided for them.

BASIC MESSAGE OF BOOK OF NUM. AND HOW IT LIVES TODAY.

The basic message of the book is best stated in summary fashion in Rom.11:22

1. The goodness of God. Evidenced in Num. by cloud 9:15-23, manna 11:6-9, quail 11:24-35, water 20:1-13, brazen serpent 21:1-9, victory over Midian 31:1-54, settlement of Reuben, Gad and half tribe of Manasseh Num.31, and cities of refuge 35:9-34.
2. The severity of God. Taberah 11:1-3, chastisement at Kibroth-hattaavah 11:31-35, Miriam become leprous 12:1-16, falling of carcasses of those 20 yrs. old and upward 14:26-39, smitten by the Amalekites 14:44-45, slaying the Sabbath breaker 15:32ff, opening of earth to swallow Korah, Dathan, and Abiram 16:1-50, Moses forbidden entrance to promised land 20:12, fiery serpents 21:1-9, those slain for bowing to Baal-peor 25:1-15.
3. Let us never doubt His goodness nor trifle with His severity.

BASIC MESSAGE OF NUM. AND HOW IT FITS INTO BASIC MESSAGE OF THE ENTIRE BIBLE.

1. Themes: Salvation of man, through Jesus Christ to the Glory of God.
2. How it fits:
 - a. By types and shadows points out dangers of unbelief and tragedy and punishment of apostasy. I Cor.10:1-12. Heb.3:4. (SEVERITY)
 - b. Scheme of Redemption: is basically historical revolving around Israel through whom one day the Messiah would be born. Num. portrays how God preserved His people by patience, perseverance he marched toward His ultimate goal in spite of man's gross failure. (GOODNESS.)

NUMBERS AND THE BASIC ISSUES PRESENTLY FACING MEN OF OUR DAY.

I. IN LIGHT OF N.T. USAGE AND INTERPRETATION OF THE BOOK OF NUM. THERE ARE 4 BASIC MESSAGES FOUND IN THE STUDY AND APPLICATION FOR ALL MEN OF ALL GENERATIONS WHO LIVE THIS SIDE OF THE CROSS.

- A. We must understand the true nature and character of God. Rom.11:22. There are those who teach God's law is not absolute, or we are not under law, God is a God of love not wrath, or there are those who mistakenly take God to be a merciless tyrant who is awaiting to punish his helpless and needy children.
- B. We must beware of apostasy I Cor.10:1-13
 1. Possibility of apostasy. Heb.4:11, I Cor.9:27, 2 Pet.2:20-22. Has occurred I Tim.1:19-20.
 2. Causes of it: Mixed marriages (Solomon), love of money (Judas) Matt.26:14-25, reverting to sinful practices (Simon the sorcerer) Acts 8:9-24, returning to false religion Gal.5:1-4, 4:21, evil association (Simon Peter) Lk.22:54-62, love of world (Demas) 2 Tim.4:10, self-satisfaction (Laodiceans) Rev.3:14-22.

3. Preventives; 2 Pet.1:5-11
- C. The sin of unbelief Heb.3-4. Note 3:19. Major cause of sin in the N.T. Heb.11-12:1 (sin doth beset us). It still is today. Why won't people give as they should Rom.12:8 A.S.V. Liberality/Will a sincere man refuse to be Baptized if he really believes Mk.16:16? No.
- D. We must lift up Christ to a dying world. Jno.3:14-17 Such constitutes the mission of Church. All die who do not look upon and obey Christ just as those died who did not look upon the serpent in the wilderness.

II. ADDITIONAL BASIC ISSUES FACING MEN OF OUR DAY FROM BOOK.

- A. The minimization of sin. Sin's not so bad we hear. Men today use respectable names for sin. We rationalize it's causes. How can this be done in light of punishment afflicted on sabbath breaker Num.15:32-36 or Korah, Dathan and Abiram Num.16:1-50. Though pardoned Matt.17:1-13 Moses still had to suffer consequences of his sin.
- B. Worry (Anxiety). Indeed, Marthan has many brothers and sisters in our day. Lk.10:41. Look at what Lord did for Israel. Food, drink, night lamp day shade, and clothes and shoes that will not wear out. The promise still reads "But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phil.4:19
- C. Partial commitment and lukewarmness. Live a little for the Lord and little for the devil, little for world and little for the church. How refreshing it is to read Num.14:24 about servant Caleb.
- D. Cancer of covetousness. Balaam Num.22-25. Sought to curse the children of Israel because he "loved the wages of unrighteousness" 2 Pet.2:15 Putting things before God is so prevalent in our day.
- E. Grace, faith and works Jno.3:14-15. Brazen serpent illustrated the blending of grace, faith and works. Provision made by grace. by faith man was led to obey (look) and thus obtain blessing God (salvation from death).
- F. Respect for authority. Korah, Dathan and Abiram Num.16 Called in question God's arrangement of authority. Such is done today in some area in regard to elders. The bishop is "a man charged with the duty of seeing that things are done rightly. They oversee the Lord's work.
- G. Carnal Warfare: Non-pacifists argue that Israel went to war and thus we can. Observe however that the Levites after the tribe of their fathers was not numbered among them Num.1:47. And we are priests of God 1 Pet.2:5,9 Rev.1:5-6.
- H. Congregational noninvolvement. Most congregations have a majority of work done by a minority of members. $2\frac{1}{2}$ tribes stay on easter side of Jordan Num.32:6. "Shall your brethren go to war and shall ye sit here" Eph.4:16 emphasizes the need for the whole body to work.

- I. God demands and deserves our best. In a day when so many offer unto God the lame, sick and weak with regard to time, talent and money, how reprovng is Num.18:29-32 where Moses instructed the Levites to offer "of all the best" of their gifts.
 - J. The word of God is static. Read. Num.22:18, Num.23:19-20.
 - K. Children of God associating with children of the devil. We see most today choosing most intimate friends among those outside the body of Christ. Read. Num.25:1-3.
 - L. Leadership crisis. Practically every problem we see today among brethren can be traced to unqualified and inefficient leadership. Note Num.27:15-23 for the following 8 characteristics of God's leader.
 - 1. capable of superintending. vs.16
 - 2. men who will go out and go in before the people. vs.17
 - 3. men who are capable of ldeading. vs.17
 - 4. Men who can ultimately bring members to the promised land. vs.17
 - 5. Men capable in shepherding by affording proper provision, protection and passion. vs.17.
 - 6. Men in whom the Spirit of God dwells. vs.18
 - 7. Men willing to receive and accept their God given charges. vs.19
 - 8. Men who seek counsel of the Lord. vs.21
 - M. Barriers to progress. Number relates the story of a nation that threw away it's opportunity, a story of a people who stood face to face with God and when offered the land of their dreams simply put their hands in their pockets and turned their backs and walked away.

| | | |
|-----|-----|-----|
| WHY | WHY | WHY |
|-----|-----|-----|

 - 1. They were afraid and had a coward complex.
 - 2. Fled from difficulties.
 - 3. Possessed no self-respect.
 - 4. Lacked faith.
 - 5. Were not willing to pay the price.
 - 6. Placed more donfidence in what men(10 spies) said than in what God said.
 - 7. Let circumstances govern their decisions.
 - 8. Failed to possess their possessions.
- We often fail as church because we do not follow God from victory to victory. Num.6:24-27

Wendell Winkler
pgs.60-68 Living
Messages of Books
of O.T.

LESSONS FROM DEUTERONOMY

INTRO. OUTLINE: MAN REMEMBERING

1. OUTLINE:

- I. 1-4 Jehovah has dealt graciously with you (from Sinai to Moab).
- II. 5-26 Observe, therefore, his law (the law reviewed beginning with the 10 commandments).
- III. 27-28 In order that you may be blessed, not cursed.
- IV. 29-34 Conclusion.
 - A. The covenant made in Moab chap.29-30
 - B. Moses' farewell and death. 31-34 Hendriksen-Bible
- 2. Here is Moses farewell addresses to the nation. Survey pg.230-31
- 3. Moses looks BACKWARD, INWARD, FORWARD.
- 4. Literally the 2nd giving of the law. Another generation had arisen that could not have appreciated the first law because it was given while they were young.
LESSON: Every generation needs to be taught. Even though Joshua and Caleb know the law.
- 5. We also learn lesson: Important to remember, it is easy to forget.
- 6. It is an inspired commentary on the 1st 4 books of Bible.
- 7. Moses is the author: Deut. 31:19; Matt.19:7-8; Mk.10:3
- 8. Book of Deut. is quoted (specifically chap.6 and 8) when Jesus is tempted in the wilderness. This leaves us seeing the unique quality of the book.
- 9. KEY WORDS: REMEMBER (LIKE WORDS) Appear 15 times. Beware appears 3 times.
- 10. KEY WORD: LOVE Appears 20 times in the book. Only 4 times in Exodus and Leviticus. We learn about loving obedience from Deut. The first generation had failed (murmur, complain) same as church does too often today. This generation was not to make that same mistake.
- 11. Also anticipate Judgment against His people. Deut.32:20
BASIC PREMISE: Deut.4:2 Franklin Camp
All these speeches given on the bank of the Jordan just prior to entering canaan land.
Jehovah is a unique God, spiritual in being 4:35, 6:4, 7:25;
Israel is a unique people especially beloved of Jehovah 4:31
29:13. Relation is unique Jehovah is Israel's father 32:6.
hence Israel must love Jehovah, and not merely fear him as do the nations round about 4:10, 5:29; 6:5; 10:12.

Hendriksen-Bible
Survey pg.230

NOTE Deut. 9:4-6 and Deut. 10:16

JESUS IN DEUT.

- 1. Moses taught Israel an important lesson on the subject of "the prophet" Deut.18:9-22
- 2. Israel was not to be guided like Canaanites with child sacrifice, and sorcery. The Lord would guide by his servants the prophets 13:1-5.
- 3. There is however more than a simple succession of prophets promised in 34:10.

4. Jesus said, "For if ye believed Moses, ye would believe me; for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" Jno.5:46-47
5. Acts 3:22-23 Peter applies Deut.18:15-18 to Jesus.

BODY

- I. OBEDIENCE AND RESPECT FOR THE WORD OF GOD.
 - A. Prominent them in Deut. is obedience. Deut.4:1-2
 1. There are repeated warnings about tampering with God's messages.
 2. Wrong to break laws or make laws.
 - B. Moses set before the people life and good, and death and evil. 11:26-28 If they are obedient they will get to enjoy the promised land, if not they will be cursed 11:1-25.
 1. Matt.7:13-14 Still only two ways. There never has been but one way pleasing to God(right way.)
 - C. Law of Moses had 613 laws which covered God's will in Mosaic age. These are summarized by two basic laws; Love God supremely and Love neighbor as self. Matt.22:23-40 Deut.6:5.

II. FAMILY REGULATIONS

- A. 3 great events in family life: birth, marriage and death.
 1. Marriage Gen.2:4-25
 2. Moses gave laws about marriage and divorce for Jews to follow.
 - a. Israel was forbidden to marry with 7 Canaanite nations.
 - b. Man newly married exempt from going to war for one year. 24:5
 - c. Sexual purity 22:13-20
- B. Parents were to teach the commandments unto their children. 6:7
 1. If son is rebellious and unmanageable and on their evidence(parents) he is to be stoned. 21:18
- C. Law of Moses expired at cross so what about Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage.
 Matt.19:3-9 5:31-32
 1. 3 persons have the right to marry.
 - a. Those never married.
 - b. Those whose mate has died.
 - c. Those proven innocent parties who have put away their mates guilty of fornication.
 2. Those not qualified to marry.
 - a. Those who have a living companion not put away for fornication.
 - b. Those who are put away for fornication.

J.Noel Meredith;
Living Messages of
Books of O.T.
pg.69-79

III. SUPPORT OF THOSE WHO PREACH GOSPEL AND LABOR IN WORD.

Deut.25:4 I Cor.9:9 and 9:14 .

IV. CONSERVATION. Deut.20:19-20; 22:6-7

V. HONESTY IN OUR DEALING WITH FELLOW MAN. 25:13-15

VI. ALL WE NEED GOD MADE CLEAR: SECRET THINGS BELONG TO HIM.

29:29 30:11-14 .

CONCL

ABOUT MOSES: HIS LIFE DIVIDED INTO THREE 40 YEAR PERIODS.

1st- Trained in Egypt

2nd- Exile in wilderness of Midian-married wife had 2 sons-called
of God to free Israel.

3rd- Led Israel in wilderness; Speeches to Israel. He then ascends
Mt. Nebo to the top of Pisgah and sees the land and dies.
God buries him.

BURIAL OF MOSES

By Nebo's lonely Mt. on this side of Jordan's wave,
There lies a grave.

No man knows that sceptre, No man saw it e'er
For the angels of God have turned the sod,
and laid the dead man there.

And had he not high honor the hill side forest pall,
To lie in state while angels wiat,
with stars for tapers tall.

The dark pines like tossing plums over his bier to wave,
and God's own hand in that lonely land
to lay him in his grave.

Oh, lonely tomb in Moab's land. Oh, dark death Peor's hill.
Teach these hearts of ours to be still.

God hath His mysteries of grace, ways that we cannot tell,
He hides them deep like the hidden sleep of him he loved so well!

C.F. Alexander

LESSONS FROM JOSHUA

INTRO.

1. Outline: The first paragraph of the 1st chapter is the outline. vs.2,5,6,7,. 4 main points.
 - I. JEHOVAH CAUSES ISRAEL TO ENTER THE LAND;i.e.CROSS THE JORDAN.
CHAP.1-5
 - II. JEHOVAH CAUSES ISRAEL TO CONQUER THE LAND. CH.6-12
 - A. Central Campaign(Jericho, Ai.)
 - B. Southern Campaign(the 5 kings)
 - C. Northern Campaign (Hazor).
 - III. JEHOVAH CAUSES ISRAEL TO INHERIT THE LAND (division among the tribes). Ch.13-22
 - IV. JOSHUA, IN HIS FAREWELL ADDRESS, EMPHASIZED ISRAEL'S RESULTING OBLIGATION TO WORSHIP AND LOVE JEHOVAH. CH.23-24
Hendriksen-Bible Survey
pg.234-235
2. Conect Deut.34:5,9 and Josh.1:1.
 3. Author: for most part at least was Joshua 24:26
 4. GREAT BOOK telling How victories are won by Faith.
 - a. Achan;faith hindered
 - b. Jericho; Fell by faith 6-7
 - c. Rahab-universality of faith 6:25
 - d. Cities of Refuge-refuge of faith 20
 - e. Joshuas's choice; choice of faith 24:15
 - f. Triumph of faith 24:32
- Franklin Camp
5. This is the first of the 12 historical books.
 6. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT JOSHUA:
 - A. Moses as a minister of God was preparing him for a great task that none knew he would have.
 - B. First appears at Rephidim, when the Amalekites came to fight against Israel. Under Joshua's leadership the Israelites won a complete victory. Ex. 17:1-13
 - C. He is mentioned as the minister of Moses in Ex.24:13 and Ex.33:11.
 - D. It was Joshua and Caleb who exhibited great faith in God by bringing back only report in favor of an invasion of land of Canaan some 40 years earlier. Num.13:13-14:10. Thus he was a man prepared for the task ahead.
 - E. God always seems to have a Joshua to take the place of a Moses.
 7. PURPOSE OF JOSHUA: The facts given in this book are not only the record of literal things, but to present God's overall plan for redeeming man. This covenant promise to Abraham involved giving land of Canaan to his seed. Gen.12:7; 13:14-17 15:7; 18:21.
THEME: God's fidelity in ultimately bringing the Hebrews to occupy the land of Canaan in accordance with His divine purpose.
SECONDARY THEME: The irresistible power of God's people in overcoming the world and taking possession of their promised inheritance by a living, obedient faith.

8. KEY VERSES: Josh.21:43-45; cf. 23:14; 11:23 It had been about 400 years since God promised to give land of Canaan to Abraham's descendants. The passing of time may cause doubt in minds of some concerning fulfillment of promises by God, but His ways are not like man's ways. TIME DOES NOT NULLIFY THE PROMISES OF GOD.
9. We also learn that there is no power strong enough to stop God's plan from being carried to completion. We have a hope "stedfast and sure" Heb.6:13-20

BODY

- I. GOD GAVE THEM THE LAND.
 - A. Joshua is careful to point out that God gave the land of promise to them. They did not conquer by their own strength. In fact, they no doubt would have lost. Not great numbers possible as some, not chariots or horses, weapons as some did and they had not great fortified cities.
 - B. Joshua was a brilliant leader yet he gave God the credit. Josh.23:3
 - C. Understanding God as the real conqueror, we see the emphasis on the miracles of Joshua.
 1. Josh.3:15 Came to Jordan when water overflowing banks.
 2. Jericho Josh.6:6-20 Israel learned early that you must have an obedient faith.
 3. Power against 5 kings of Amorites. God cast hail-stones killing more than the Israelites did with swords.
 4. Josh.10:1-14 To allow destruction of Amorites God caused the sun to stand still.
- II. FAITH IS THE VICTORY.
 - A. This is the secondary theme that I mentioned earlier in the study.
 - B. Note illustrations of faith given earlier. Divine commentary on Jericho in Heb.11:30
- III. COURAGE AND CONFIDENCE.
 - A. Every Christian should have courage and confidence. This leaves no room for negative attitudes. We are our own worst enemy.
 - B. Josh.1:5-6,9 The following 30 years of his life reflect a calm, unwavering response to that exhortation.
 - C. Having done all this he was certainly in a position to admonish Israel to do the same. Josh.23:6
 - D. A spirit of defeatism(negative attitude) reflects one's faith, or lack of faith, in God. Remember the words of Paul Rom.8:31-39.
- IV. GOD IS GREATER THAN THE GODS OF THIS WORLD.
 - A. Note reaction of Rahab Josh.2:8-11
 - B. These wicked Canaanite people not only had forsaken God but had fallen into forms of idolatry of most degrading kind. Deut.12:24-31 Lev.18:21
 - C. God also revealed if Israel began to serve other gods that He would do in like ways to them Josh.24:19-20

- V. "CH-OSE YOU THIS DAY"
- A. Josh.24:14-15
 - B. Their answer Josh.24:24
- VI. SIN IN THE CAMP AFFECTS THE WHOLE BODY OF PEOPLE.
- A. A much needed lesson for church today in this section.
 - B. Note how Paul begins I Cor.5.
 - C. Achan let covetousness get the best of him in spite of what God had said. Josh.6:18-19 All the city of Jericho was to be devoted to God. More as firstfruits. In other cases of destruction inhabitants to be destroyed, the cattle and property became spoils for the victors.
 - D. Achan sinned Josh.7:1-2 Lost battle at Ai, and some 36 men lost lives.
 - E. Achan was disciplined. If sin goes unnoticed it will lead members to be less concerned about their holiness of life as they no longer hate sin.
- VII. RAHAB AND SITUATION ETHICS.
- A. Because of Rahab's action she is given a place of honor in Heb.11:31.
 - B. She is also honored by James 2:25 as ex. of working faith which saves.
 - C. Some have concluded that God endorsed the lie of Rahab, thus approving "situation ethics."
 1. Lying is hated of God. Prov.6:16-19
 2. See also Jno.8:44
 - D. How then was Rahab justified. Not because she lied, but because she had come to faith through the evidence of God's mighty works that He was the one true God, that God's plan was ultimately to be accomplished and she risked her life in support of it.
 - E. Rahab justified same way David(murder, Adultery). God does not justify sin, but forgives and justifies those who have a living and obedient faith.
- VIII. PREMILLENNIALISM.
- A. God gave all land promised. Josh.21:43-45
 - B. It was conditional; Theirs as long as they served God faithfully in a covenant relationship 23:6-8, 11-13, 14-16. Jews have no claim today to Palestine since all promises made to them were fulfilled.

Gary Ealy-Living
 Messages of Books
 of the O.T. pg.
 80-94

CONCL

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. <u>Josh.9</u> Importance of keeping vows. | 8. <u>17:13</u> not drive out |
| Though deceived, they kept vow. <u>vs.199.</u> | <u>23:14</u> Way of all earth |
| 2. <u>1:8</u> Do all the law | 10. <u>24:31</u> Heritage lives on. |
| 3. <u>3:4</u> Need direction to new place. | 11. Joshua as type of Jesus. |
| 4. <u>5:14-15</u> Josh.reation. | Each leads people to promised |
| 5. <u>6:10</u> self-control. | land, inheritance and rest |
| 6. <u>7:21</u> progression of sin | <u>Josh.22:4--Heb.4:9-11</u> |
| 7. <u>14:7-8</u> some pour cold water | |

LESSONS FROM JUDGES

OUTLINE

- I. ISRAEL FORSAKES JEHOVAH. CHAP.1-2
- II. OUTWARD RESULT: OPPRESSION, OBSERVE THE OFT-REPEATED CYCLE: 3-16
 - A. R elapse
 - B. R etribution
 - C. R epentance
 - D. R escue (by means of a judge)
- III. INWARD RESULT: CORRUPTION.
 - A. I dolatry 17-18
 - B. I mmorality 19-21

Bible Survey: Hendriksen
pg. 235

INTRO.

1. General Theme: Jehovah proves Israel in the days of the Judges.
2. The book of Judges records Israel's history from the conquest of Canaan to the judgeship of Samuel. It was a period of probation: Jehovah had been faithful to his promise. Will Israel remain faithful to Jehovah. God had provided it all for Israel, Now what would they do?
3. Chap. 23 and 24 of Joshua comprise the setting for the book of Judges. In these 2 chapters after calling all Israel together with their elders, heads, judges, and officers, Joshua emphasized that the victories they had experienced under his leadership had been the Lord's doing - not his alone. If, therefore, they would have God to continue blessing them as before, after his passing, they must continue to be "very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses. They were not to mingle and inter-marry with the other nations that remained among them neither mentioning, swearing by, serving nor bowing themselves down unto their false gods, but rather cleave unto the Lord." If go contrary the anger of the Lord would be against them.
4. Using the letter C
 - a. Cause
 - b. Course
 - c. Curse of spiritual.
5. 2 times it is said "man did that which was right in his own eyes" 17:6 and 21:25. Esp. note chap. 18 and 19 and see the results of no king as leader of God's people. No king, anarchy. With no standard there was rape and burning of cities. They had a problem possessing the land and a problem with the Canaanites; I think what happened to them sometimes happens to us.
 - a. Tolerated
 - b. Admired
 - c. Accepted
6. This book does not contain the full history of this period. The balance is given in the book of Ruth and the first 8 chapters of I. Samuel. The judges were deliverers and temporary rulers. Their authority was not inherited; they were no kings. Moreover their sway was not nation wide. It is also evident that these judges did not follow one another chronologically. They often judged simultaneously one over this region and one over another.

Pt. No. 4 and 5 Franklin Camp.

BODY

- I. THAT WE CANNOT REASONABLY EXPECT THE LORD TO BLESS US, UNLESS FIRST OF ALL WE OBEY HIM. (Consider how God subdued the enemies of Israel, while they were obedient and faithful, but delivered them into hands of enemies when they forgot and forsook Him.)
 - A. Gideon Chap.7 Victory.
 - B. Defeated 13:1
- II. IF WE VOW TO DO A THING, WE SHOULD BE CONSCIENTIOUS TO DO WHAT WE VOW. Take Calebs example 1:12-13, also Israel's vow, sworn in Mizpeh 21:1.
- III. THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF ANY VOW WE MAKE LEST WE BIND OURSELVES TO DO MORE THAN WE HAD INTENDED.
 - A. Jephthah's vow and consequences. 11:30-40
 - B. Note the following: most assume that he killed her; Let's examine the passage.
 1. The term burnt offering 11:31 which everywhere means a blood sacrifice wholly consumed by fire upon the altar. It seems this cannot stand in light of the context.
 2. Human sacrifice was always understood from the days of Abraham (God substituted a ram) to be an offense and an abomination to Jehovah, denounced and forbidden in Lev. 18:21 and 21:2-5, Deut. 12:31, 18:10. No indication that any Israelite offered any human sacrifice prior to days of Ahaz. Impossible to believe that God-fearing Jephthah could have supposed to please the Lord by perpetrating such a crime and abomination.
 3. Daughter allowed 2 months of mourning, not to bewail loss of life, but to bewail her virginity.
 4. Vs.39 states that Jephthah performed his vow and offered her as a burnt offering, "she know not man." This last statement is pointless if he put her to death. It is a perfect statement if she were devoted to service of Jehovah at door of tabernacle rest of her life. This also led to sure extinction of Jephthah's line vs.34

Archer O.T. Survey
pgs.266-267

- IV. IT WAS RIGHT FOR GOD TO DEMAND THAT ISRAEL MAKE "NO LEAGUES WITH THE INHABITANTS OF THIS LAND" AND TO "THROW DOWN THEIR ALTARS" 2:1-3. IT IS ALSO RIGHT FOR GOD TO EXPECT SIMILAR THINGS OF US. Gal.1:8-9 2 Jno.9-11
- V. THAT WHEN PEOPLE FOLLOW THOSE WHO KNOW THE LORD, THEY TOO, TEND TO SERVE THE LORD 2:6-7: HOWEVER WHEN THEY FOLLOW A GENERATION WHICH KNOWS NOT THE LORD, THEY TEND TO DO EVIL IN HIS SIGHT. 2:10-13.
 - A. Note N.T. I Cor.11:1 Heb1.13:7; I Cor.15:33
- VI. THE GOD OF HEAVEN IS NOT A GOD WHO CANNOT BE TOUCHED BY OUR DISTRESS. 2:18 and Heb.4:14-16
- VII. GOD USES SUFFERING AS A MEANS OF PROVING HIS PEOPLE. 2:20-23 2 Cor.2:1-9, I Pet.1:7, I Pet.4:12-19.

- VIII. WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE INTERMARRY WITH THOSE OF OTHER RELIGIOUS LOYALTIES, THERE IS A TENDENCY TO FORGET THE LORD AND TO SERVE OTHER GODS. 3:5-7
- IX. HOWEVER STRONG WE MAY THINK WE ARE, GOD CAN USE THE WEAKEST OF THINGS TO OVERCOME OUR STRENGTH.
- A. Ex. Shamgar-oxgoad killed 600 Philistines. 3:31
 - B. Sisera who had 900 chariots slain by a woman Jud.4
 - C. Gideon's overcoming Midianites with trumpets, pitchers, and lamps 7.
 - D. Samson; Jawbone of an ass, slay 1000 Philistines 15:14-17
 - E. Note I Cor.1:18-29
- X. WHEN MEN DO RIGHT IN THEIR OWN EYES, IT ALMOST ALWAYS IS WRONG. 17:6, 21:24 with Jer.10:23 and I Cor.2:1-14.

Ira Y. Rice, Jr.
Living Mess. of
Books of O.T.
pgs.95-106

VERSES THAT NEED TO BE STUDIED CLOSELY:

1:1 Faith
1:7 Reap what we sow 9:54-57
1:28 and 2:2 League not made.
2:10 and 2:19
4:5 woman
6:11ff Get from behind winepress-Many to satisfied with past.
7 Gideon reduces army.
8:23 Lord rule
13:12 direct children
14:16-17 wife weep

LESSONS FROM RUTH

INTRO.

- I. TO MOAB AND BACK. CHAP.1
- II. RUTH GLEANING IN THE FIELDS OF BAOZ 2
- III. THE MARRIAGE PROPOSAL 3
- IV. THE MARRIAGE AND BIRTH OF A SON. 4

Note these one word keys to remembering:

- 1. Famine 2. Family, 3. Funeral 4. Fear of losing light. 5. Faithfulness 6. Field 7. Fruitfulness. Franklin Camp
- 1. PURPOSE OR PURPOSES OF BOOK.
 - a. Indicates how Jehovah rewards those who make the wise spiritual choice and who show steadfast loyalty. 2:12
 - b. Universal significance of the Mediator, Jesus Christ; his relation to every nations, tribe and tongue.
- 2. This book is such a contrast to the preceding book. In the last book we had warfare, bloodshed and strife. Such a beautiful scene where all is seemingly quiet and restful and simple trust and devotion to God. Hendriksen-Bible Survey pg.309
- 3. Time of Writing: It must have been after or during the time of David since he is mentioned in the book.
- 4. Setting: The actual story took place during the time of the judges. 1:1 NOTE: WRITING WAS DONE AFTER JUDGES: NOTE WORD WHEN.
- 5. We also have introduced in this book the last general stage in the historical line of the Messiah, namely, the Messianic family. In Matt.1:6 Ruth is mentioned in the genealogy of our Lord.
- 6. Probably because of the harvest reference in Ruth this book was read at Pentecost.
- 7. It seems customs alluded to in Ruth were no longer in vogue. 4:7

BODY

- I. GOD'S INTEREST IN GENTILES.
 - A. On major theme is interest in non-jews. Ruth from Moab.
 - 1. Moabites lived to east of Dead Sea and were traditional enemies of the Israelites.
 - 2. Moabites descended from Lot Gen.19:37 Sprang from same Shemitic race as did Abraham.
 - 3. Refused Israel passage on way to promised land. Deut.23:4
 - 4. King Balak, hired Balaam to curse Israel. Num.22-24
 - 5. David defeated them and treated them harshly. 2Sam.8:2
 - B. Interest in Israel's enemies is rare in the O.T.
 - 1. Book of Jonah
 - 2. Isa.19:23-25
 - 3. Book of Ruth.
 - C. Ruth given the honor of being one of five women mentioned in Matt. genealogy of Christ: Tamar, Rahab, Bathsheba, Mary Ruth.
- II. GOD'S ACCEPTANCE OF GENTILES.
 - A. Not only does God show interest but He also shows acceptance.

- B. Loyalty of Ruth not only to Naomi but to her people and her God.
- C. It is evident that when she became a follower of Israel's God, the stigma of being a Moabitess was removed, although still called a Moabitess, she still had the privileges and blessings of any Israelite woman.
 - 1. Deut. 23:3 stated that no Moabite could enter assembly of Lord, even to 10th generation. David (4th generation) Solomon (5th generation), built the fabulous temple.

III. ANCIENT CUSTOMS IN RUTH.

- A. Gleaning: This was the way of support for the poor. Harvesters were told to leave some in fields. Lev.23:22
- B. Levirate law: Deut. 25:5-10 If man dies and no son, duty of his brother to go in to widow and have son by her. Legally this son was son of deceased. While in Deut. applicable to brother in laws, in Ruth must extended to cousins.
- C. The Kinsman-Redeemer; In Num.35 you will remember about the cities of refuge. If man killed then duty of nearest kin to avenge the murder by killing the murderer. This nearest of kin is called the kinsman-redeemer. The kinsman-redeemer was also to buy property if one became so poor that he had to sell his inheritance Lev.25:25 In Ruth 4 the nearest kinsman was willing to do part and buy the land of Elimelech vs.4, but not marry Ruth. The one who bought the field had to marry Ruth.
- D. The Court Action. In Ruth 4 the business was transacted at gate of city. Amos 5:10 people hated those who reprov'd at the gate. Job.31:21 mentions he had support in the gate, he was speaking of legal backing. Selection of these 10 men made the transaction legal. Only place we have mention of exchanging shoes. Neal Pryor Living Mess. of Books of O.T.

IV. PROVIDENCE OF GOD.

pg.107-111

- A. Wonder how much Ruth knew: Wonder if she knew she would be in the line of the Redeemer?
- B. God used those circumstances and worked them out for good.

V. WHAT ABOUT BETHLEHEM.

- A. In a special way we are introduced to this little city of historic renown.
- B. Chiefly celebrated as scene of book of Ruth, birthplace of David and that of Jesus.

VI. POSSIBLY A TYPE OF KINSMAN-REDEEMER (CHRIST).

- A. Had to be a blood relative (Christ became a blood relative by virgin birth) to all mankind.
- B. He must have money to purchase forfeited inheritance. 4:10 (Christ alone had the merit to pay the price for sinners.)
- C. He must be willing to buy back that forfeited inheritance 4:9 (even as Christ laid down His life on His own volition.)
- D. He must be willing to marry the wife of deceased kinsman 4:10 (typical of bride and groom relationship between Christ and His Church. Archer; O.T. Survey pg.269)

*If the above is true then the little book of Ruth is one of the most informative on the mediatorial work of Jesus.

VERSES TO CONSIDER IN THE STUDY OF RUTH.

1:6 Blessing His people

1:8

1:14 Ruth

1:15 gods

1:16-17 Much quoted

1:20-21 Naomi punished

2:2 Ruth works

2:4 Lord blessing Boaz vs.10

2:8-9 Kind man

2:10-12 Why blessed

2:20 Kindness

3:10 Not follow just any

3:11 Virtuous

3:18

4:14-15

3:12 nearer kinsman-wanted to be right and fair.

BOOK OF I SAMUEL
(BOOK OF TRANSITION)

INTRO.

1. Author-Unknown

2. OUTLINE

I. THE CAREER OF SAMUEL AND DELIVERANCE FROM
PHILISTA 1:1-7:17

II. THE RISE OF KING SAUL 8:1-15:35

III. THE DECLINE OF SAUL AND RISE OF DAVID 16:1-31:13
Archer, O.T. Survey

3. In the Hebrew canon the 2 books of Samuel were considered as one book, and same is true of Kings.

4. KEY THEME OF BOOK: Establishment of the monarchy. Up to this time the nation was distinct from other nations in that they had no kingly power. Though the king was added, it was entirely different from a mere political expedient. Having a king just like all others in power would not have been able to lead the nation in their best interest and God's interest. The monarchy was established with Saul as king but Samuel was not set aside or superseded. God was still in control and Samuel imposed His will upon the king. Saul rejected but David never failed to acknowledge this fact and faithful maintained the principle of God's rule.

5. Samuel then is the transition from judgeship to monarchy.

6. BOOK OF TRANSITION

1. Failure of Priestly office-Eli

2. Forming of Prophetic office-Samuel, first in line of organized prophecy (Acts 3:24)

3. Founding of princely office-David and Saul

7. Key word "KING" 77times

8. Key verse: I Sam. 8:5, I Sam. 12:12, I Sam. 12:22-25

9. CHARACTERS OF BOOK

A. Samuel-man of prayer

B. Saul-king who played the fool

C. David-man after God's own heart

LIVING MESSAGES FROM BOOK OF I SAMUEL

I. GOD'S PROVIDENCE IS IMPORTANT

A. A wonderful commentary on Rom. 8:28 complete with examples

B. Lives of Hannah, Samuel and David

C. Hannah: teaches us how to deal with bitterness, took hers to the Lord

1. Unlike our lporadic prayers, she was persistent 1:15 (Lk. 18:1-8)

2. God granted her petition 1:20

3. Gave him up at about 3 and made special arrangements for his training 1:21-28 continued to follow and encourage his work with interest 2:19

4. Learn at least 3 great lessons

a. Power of persistent prayers with proper attitude

b. How crucial for parents to agree and be

- consistent in child-parent relationship
- c. being a preacher of God's word is life's greatest profession which ought to be encouraged by parents today

5. Study Heb. 12:11 Driven to throne of God; be faithful

D. David illustrates God's providence

1. trained to be king in very youth of his adversary 16:14-23
2. friendship with King's son which saved his life 18:1-5
3. God overruled sinful actions of Saul and others to accomplish his divine purpose on earth.

E. ILLUSTR. STORY OF DAVID AND GOLIATH I Sam. 17

1. The manner in which true faith in God views, attacks and conquers enemies and obstacles at which mere human courage trembles. 17:45-47 Complete victory
2. importance of using the best methods in reliance upon divine strength I Sam. 17:38-40

***Today the church is to be like David; a militant army going forth to fight a battle. Phil. 2:25, Rev. 17:14, I Tim. 1:18, II Tim. 2:3-4

II. PARENTAL DISCIPLINE IS IMPORTANT

A. Eli was the priest. He had judged Israel 40 years and knew the Lord's will and every abuse of those requirements. Eli seemed to be mild, pious, godly; but such a tragic downfall in rearing of his children. 2:12

1. Took choice cuts of meat from sacrifice 2:17
2. Commit adultery with women that did service at door of tent of meeting 2:22

B. Note the following

1. Accepted reports against his sons from others 2:23
2. pointed out that they cause others to sin 2:24
3. showed them the seriousness of sin 2:25

C. Eli mistake

1. He failed to restrain them 3:13
2. He had reproved them but he had not done all he could. He allowed interest of family to outweigh claims to God; had he been unable to stop them as a father, he should as high priest deposed them, if not killed them for adultery. (Some say I love mine too much)

III. RIGHTEOUSNESS IS IMPORTANT

A. Divine commentary on Prov. 14:34 "Righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people."

1. In reference to Eli and sons God said I Sam. 2:30
2. Philistines defeated Israel they asked why Jehovah had smitten them? Right question, but wrong answer; sent for ark of covenant

that it might magically save them. Faithless sons led to faithless followers.

3. Hard to find a sinner anymore (one that is called a sinner). We have sophisticated names for them. The Bible calls men sinners.
4. Remember I Sam. 4, the ark was taken and Israel equated the presence of ark with presence of God, God left before then. Looked at ark as a good luck charm.

IV. DETAILS OF GOD'S WORD ARE IMPORTANT

- A. When man rejects God's word, he has rejected God and God in turn rejects him.
- B. When man acts without the authority of God's word, he rejects God and is thereby rejected by Him.
- C. When man truly accepts God's word, then God accepts and blesses him.
- D. Examples of above

1. I Sam. 13:8-15 Saul being whipped disobeyed Samuel prophet and acted presumptuously. Remember

I Pet. 4:11

****Like Saul** there are those who act today as if they expect that observance and non-observance of God's law will be followed by same results.

2. I Sam. 15 Saul given detail instructions, spared Agag and best animals. In Saul's own mind he had done it vs. 13. Saul still going but not following directions. NOTE ESP. 15:22-23

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pgs. 112-123

KEY PASSAGES AND THEIR MESSAGES

1. 1:8 Note husbands to wives
2. 1:13 Jump to conclusions
3. 1:18 Believe God-look different
4. 2:2 Our God the rock
5. 2:9 Lord creator
6. 2:12 Wickedness-Paul applies to Satan 2 Cor. 6:15
7. 2:19 Can't kill motherly love
8. 3:1 Precious, scarce, rare
9. 3:3 Do our lamps go out in worship
10. 4:7 God in camp
11. 7:4-5 Turn and prepare
12. 8:3 Sons of Samuel
13. 8:7 Reject prophet, reject God
14. 8:19 Have king anyway
15. 9:2 Goodly man
16. 14:6 No restraint to Lord
17. 14:35 First altar Saul built
18. 15:11 Cried all night
19. 15:24 Feared people rather than God
20. 16:7 God looks on heart
21. 18:1 Loved as own soul-our love for one another
22. 18:10 Evil spirit from God???
23. 20:3 Step between me and death

- 24. 22:2 What an army
- 25. 22:17 Not obey king-wrong
- 26. 23:3 We're afraid here
- 27. 24:17 More righteous
- 28. 25:39 Just recompense
- 29. 26:10 Vengeance is mine, I will repay
- 30. 29:3,9 No fault
- 31. 30:6 Encouraged in Lord

BOOK OF II SAMUEL

INTRO.

1. Keep in mind that these 2 books were originally one.
2. Author: Most believe Samuel wrote the first 24 chapters and the remainder was written by Nathan and Gad. I Chron. 29:29 "Now the acts of David the king, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the book of Gad the seer."
3. David stands midway between Abraham and Christ. It has been about 1,000 years since the beginning of chosen race and about 1,000 years remain to coming of Christ that the race brought forth.
4. The entire section is a biography of David. We know more of David's life than we do of any other O.T. prophet.
 - a. David the Warrior and Statesman: There is none to surpass him. When we consider that he came to the throne while the nation was in a very chaotic condition we can appreciate his unusual ability in doing that which he accomplished.
 - b. David the Man: He was brave, generous and kind. He was also very human. Yet we must not let the frailties of his life mar our view of him as a truly great man in most respects. His trust in God was simple, but eternally rooted. We likewise are to be impressed with the honesty of the Scriptures in his life.
 - c. Sweet Singer of Israel, Davidic Psalms: He has probably caught the glimpses of things that men have sought for all their lives and many never found. In the Psalms we find him soaring to the heavens, but relating to the earth where we are.

5. OUTLINE OF BOOK

- I. DAVID, KING OF JUDAH 1-4
- II. ~~ISRAEL~~ AND JUDAH UNITED AND KINGDOM CONSOLIDATED BY DAVID 5-10
- III. DAVID'S SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES 11-14
- IV. THE KING IN EXILE 15-20
- V. LATTER DAYS OF DAVID'S REIGN 21-24

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6. BRIEF OUTLINE

- I. DAVID'S TRIUMPH 1-9
- II. DAVID'S TROUBLES 10-21
- III. DAVID'S TESTIMONY 22-24
7. BASIC THEME: KINGDOM UNITED: "As a result of the battle of Gilboa the Philistine yoke is again heavy upon Israel, I Sam. 31:7. David's little kingdom is confined to the south. His capital is Hebron. Meanwhile, Saul's son Ish-bosheth rules over Gilead in his capital Mahanaim, 2 Sam. 2:8-11. When Ish-bosheth's general Abner, vexed over an insult, transfers his master's kingdom to David, and Saul's son is murdered, David becomes king over all Israel,

2 Sam. 5:4-5. He makes Jerusalem his religious and political capital, having captured the stronghold from the Jebusites, 2Sam. 5:6-10."

Bible Survey-Hendriksen
pgs. 99-100

BASIC MESSAGES FOR OUR DAY

I. "VISITING THE INIQUITY OF THE FATHERS UPON THE CHILDREN"

Ex. 20:5

- A. The tragedy of a fallen father hardly ever ends with just one man or many men. We must think of a moment of lifeless body of King Saul among remains at Gilboa, not far away sons Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, his 3 sons. A few years later his son Ishbosheth was murdered by Rechab and Baanah. 2 Sam. 4:5
- B. Prov. 11:17 He that is cruel troubleth his own flesh."
- C. Note 2 Sam. 21:1 Famine a result. Takes long time to wash out stains of a wicked man.

II. "HE THAT IS GLAD AT CALAMITY SHALL NOT BE UNPUNISHED"

Prov. 17:5

- A. Though hunted as an animal by Saul, David would never hate. Even when David could have taken his life, he wouldn't.
- B. 2 Sam. 1 Amalekite is slain. He no doubt thought David would be pleased and no doubt exalt him for killing Saul.
- C. Then those that murdered Ishbosheth in his bedroom and brought head to David thinking to be rewarded were killed.
- D. We can learn from David's attitude. Job called upon God to witness that he had never "rejoiced at the destruction of him that hated me, or lifted up myself when evil found him" Job 31:29

III. "A FRIEND LOVETH AT ALL TIMES" PROV. 17:17

- A. Seldom has the world seen such friendship to equal that of David and Jonathan.
- B. David did not forget for after consolidating kingdom he inquired about descendants of Jonathan and learned of lame son, Mephibosheth. He reserved a permanent place for him at king's table and returned lands of Saul. When he had to select 7 grandsons to avenge the Gibeonite, he passed over Meph. ch. 21. David was a grateful man.

IV. WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

- A. Absalom is a sad story indeed. The great potential ends under a heap of stones in forest of Ephraim.
- B. Absalom had wealth, position, physical beauty, charm, intelligence, and energy. 2 Sam. 14:25
- C. He had major faults in his character. Pride was his undoing. Made a public spectacle of beauty (annual hair cutting). "Grace is deceitful and beauty is vain" Prov. 31:30. He was willing to wade through blood to get to throne even that of his own father.

V. SEEDTIME AND HARVEST

- A. Recorded are failures of David that we might learn. Rom. 15:4

- B. David's temptation came at a time of idleness; his kingdom had grown and was secure enough not to require his leading of troops all the time. Relate story. Should have turned head not matter of which did what.
- C. Story that Nathan related ch. 12. Story of 2 men with sheep. One rich, one poor. Took one little lamb. David said ought to restore four-fold. David did lose 4 sons. David said the man is worthy to die.
- D. The harvest included
 - 1. sword will never depart from house (baby died, Absalom killed Ammon, Absalom died, Solomon killed Adonijah)
 - 2. evil would rise up against him in his own house.
 - 3. another lie openly with wives.
- E. He stated in Psa. 51 "My sin is ever before me"
Note Psa. 51:12

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VI OTHER LESSONS

- 1. 1:23,26 death no divide
- 2. 3:33-34 died as fool
- 3. 6:6-7 Evil punished (Uzzah)
- 4. 7:2 in curtain
- 5. 7:23ff des. of Israel
- 6. 10:3 good intention questioned
- 7. 12:14 occasion enemies
- 8. 12:23 go to him
- 9. 13:31 grief (thought)
- 10. 14:14 no respect of persons
- 11. 14:30 do as please
- 12. 16:23 seemed as oracle of God
- 13. 18:3 love for leaders
- 14. 18:33 still loved Absalom
- 15. 22:2ff beautiful Psalm
- 16. 23:3 ruler, just
- 17. 23:12ff cave of Adullam
- 18. 24:24 give nothing, cost nothing

Such a friend: there's never been:
Such a friend: there'll never be:
Like the one: I found to walk:
Life's long and weary miles with me:--

He just happened from the blue:
though he'd been there all this time:
And yet somehow I finally knew:
he could help: to ease my mind--
Seemed all the world had turned it's face:
on my nights: I lived each day--
I had given up the fight:
--until he showed my way--

His words were firm: but spoke with love:
When I got hooked into a wrong--
He seemed to sing my every tune:
When I was caught up with a song--
But through it all : he's stayed by me:
Slowly clearing out my mind--
I've found out: how much I needed:
--that "Heavenly Father"--friend of mine--

L. E. W.

BOOK OF I KINGS

OUTLINE:

- I. UNITED KINGDOM-REACHED ZENITH UNDER SOLOMON: 1-12
- II. DIVIDED KINGDOM (JUDAH AND ISRAEL) 12-22:53--(Actually into 2 Kings)

1. Originally it was one book (I and II Kgs. combined)
2. History involved: Solomon to Captivity (I and II Kgs.)
3. Solomon reign during time of peace, prosperity and prominence. 4:20, 25
4. Author: Tradition Jewish said it was Jeremiah.
5. Basic message: People of God are expected to keep the commandments of God and that there is blessing in so doing and cursing for failure to keep His commandments. (Fits into overall theme of Bible (glorification of God and salvation of man) by showing us that those who obey God's commandments glorify God.
6. Note key vs. 14:16 "And he shall give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who did sin, and who made Israel to sin."
7. Each king's reign not judged on economic or social ground but on religious ground.
8. We also note the preservation of the promise to Abraham Gen. 12:1-3 Preserving of promise to David's seed 2 Sam. 7:12-16. We note these verses: 9:1-9; 11:13; 11:39 preserve by God's providential care.

BODY

- I. THE VALUE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
 - A. Taken from basic message: People are expected to keep commandment of God.
 - B. The message is emphasized in the United Kingdom in God's covenant with David. Psa. 89:1-4, 28-34; 2 Sam. 7:12-13. Note David's closing instructions to his son Solomon 2:2-4
 - C. Just as David had a covenant with God so did Solomon 9:1-9
 - D. David kept his but Solomon broke his. Note regulations regarding kings Deut. 17:14-20
 - E. 3 ways that Solomon violated regulations.
 1. by multiplying horses 10:26
 2. multiplying wives 11:1-8
 3. multiplying gold 10:14-22
 - F. The kingdom of Judah and Israel would have about 38 kings reign and only 2 or 3 are given commendation. Both end in captivity.
 - G. Our nation could learn from these tragedies; Basically many have turned their back on God and turned to idols.
- II. BELIEVING A LIE
 - A. I Kgs. 13 provides a great lesson concerning the possibility of believing a lie.
 - B. Several observations about story.
 1. Man of God was courageous 13:1-3 Took courage to defy the king.
 2. Free from ambition that he resisted an invitation to dinner from a king. 13:7

3. Man of God was so unselfish as not to be influenced by king's money 13:7
 4. Man of God was disobedient 13:21,26. He was lied to vs. 18
- C. Great lessons from this story.
1. It does make a difference what we believe. Prov. 16:25 "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."
 2. it is possible to believe a lie even if a good person. 2 Thess. 2:10-11
- III. TOTAL COMMITMENT
- I Kgs. 18 has a great lesson regarding total commitment for the church.
- A. Contest between prophets of Baal and prophets Elijah.
 - B. Israel had grown weary of worshipping Jehovah as only God and sought to have more variety, BAAL
 - C. An attempt to turn them back by a drought of 3½ years did not work.
 - D. 18:21 commitment. Can't be divided; all or none.
 - E. Results; 18:39 Our total allegiance to God.
- IV. DISCOURAGEMENT I KGS. 19
- A. A devastating enemy of many good people.
 - B. When we think we cannot succeed then inevitably we will not try hard enough to succeed.
 - C. Life of Elijah: raising of widow's son, Carmel conflict, stop rain, yet he was despondent. Jezebel was after him.
 - D. I Kgs. 19:4 He had the blues.
 - E. Why was he discouraged:
 1. Physically exhausted. Carmel, fleeing from Jezebel (95 miles). Left servant and went into wilderness a days' journey. We live in a world of a pill for every pain, misery. Pills won't do it all. Rest when tired. God gave him food and rest. 19:5-8
 2. Elijah was afraid: Is this the man who stopped rain, raised the dead. Fleeing from death yet praying for death. Elijah shows us that the greatest of men are but men at their best.
 3. Elijah thought he was a failure: so many people in sin; no better than fathers to change lives.
 4. Elijah had a lack of support: on 2 different occasions Elijah said that he was the only one left who was faithful 18:22, 19:10. God made it clear he wasn't alone 19:18. May have been 7,000, but it seems none had come to his rescue. Oh, such a lesson for the church: there may be a lot of people who take a stand for the right; let those who contend so, let it be known.
- V. POWER OF INFLUENCE.
- A. Influence: power to affect others. Building of temple, I Kgs. 8:22, prayer note vs. 27.
 - B. Those who had influence for bad;
 1. I Kgs. 11 Solomon had many foreign wives. Turned his heart away. I Cor. 15:33 "Evil comm...."

2. Jeroboam influence for bad. Had a covenant with God 11:38-39 but he broke it 12:25-33
3. Jezebel; Ahab's wife. Not long after taking her as wife he started serving Baal. Jezebel had many prophets killed. I Kgs. 21:25
- C. Influence for good.
 1. Asa, king of Judah. I Kgs. 15:11
 2. Influence is felt after our death.

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pgs. 130-140

VERSES TO STUDY

1. 1:5 Exalted self
2. 2:19 bowed to mother
3. 3:3 character Solomon
4. 3:5 note prayer
5. 5:14 work schedule
6. 8:23 no God like
7. 8:41-43 strangers
8. 9:3 heart and eyes
9. 10:23 God had greatest
10. 11:1-3 Strange women (greatest can fall)
11. 11:36 remnant
12. 12:28 calves of gold; too much trouble to worship correctly; vacation; distance
13. 13:33 Take anything for priest: can't always take the willing; screen.
14. 15:5 David's character
15. 19:4 loneliness is rough-nursing home
16. 21:2 lies hurt (vs. 13)
17. 22:14 true to God

BOOK OF II KINGS

INTRO.

OUTLINE

- I. The conclusion of Elijah's ministry 1:1-2:12
- II. The career of Elisha 2:13-13:21
- III. The continuation of religious decline 13:22-16:20
- IV. The collapse of Israel 17:1-41
- V. The commencement, conduct and captivity of the Kingdom of Judah 18:1-25:30

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THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

TIME COVERED:

LAST 130 YEARS OF NORTHERN KINGDOM (ISRAEL)-ASSYRIAN CAPTIVITY
LAST 250 YEARS OF SOUTHERN KINGDOM (JUDAH)-BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY

- 1. 2 Kgs. is a continuation of I Kgs. beginning about 80 years after the division of the kingdom.
- 2. It covers the last 12 kings of Israel and the last 16 kings of Judah.
- 3. Elijah and Elisha were 2 prophets sent by God in an effort to save the Northern Kingdom. Their ministry together lasted about 75 years.

NOTE DIFFERENCE IN 2 MEN

- A. Elijah; like a tempest, earthquake, fling-like, man of the wilderness with a cloak of camel's hair.
- B. Elisha; still small voice, gentle, gracious, diplomatic, lived in cities, dressed like other people. Yet Elijah's mantle fell on Elisha. I Kgs. 19:19 and 2 Kgs. 2:13
Halley's Handbook
- 4. Chief aim of Kgs is the imparting of great moral lessons backed up by illustration from the nation's history and from the lives of its heroes and leaders.

LIST OF SOME LESSONS OF HISTORY

- a. righteousness, justice and lovingkindness of Jehovah
- b. welfare of God's people depends upon their faithfulness to the covenant.
- c. spirit of disobedience and rebellion cannot but incur upon the people the wrath of the Almighty.
- D. work of prophets was among other things to call people to return.
- e. commands of God have changed through dispensations, but principle of "hear me, believe me and obey me" have never changed.
- f. someone has to stay on guard lest God's people continually apostize.
- g. God intends for his people to be a separate people.
- h. sin begets sin and causes both captivity and death.
- i. human governments that have lost God's direction will be cast away.
- j. when man loses vision of God, ideals worsen, conscience seared.
- k. no man can serve two masters.
- l. God does disciplines those he loves.

5. We find out why the magnificent temple ever built to God's glory was consigned to flames and desolation.

LIVING MESSAGES FOR OUR DAY.

I. INSPIRATION OF THE SCRIPTURES

- A. When men disagree as to what Bible teaches it usually boils down to what they believe about the inspiration of the Bible.
- B. The Bible is doubted, disputed and yet it lives.
- C. Statements in 2 Kgs. "According to the word of Jehovah, thus saith Jehovah, according to the word of the man of God, word of Jehovah, which he spoke by...Elijah."
- D. Inspiration: from 2 latin words meaning to blow or into. 2 Pet. 1:19-21. 5 times the N. T. Jesus said the Spirit would speak through His chosen men. Matt. 10:19-20

II. NO MAN CAN SERVE 2 MASTERS 2 Kgs. 1:6,16

- A. We need same faith and fidelity as those 50,000 men who had rallied to David at Hebron. Scripture plainly states they were "not of a double heart." I Chron. 12:33
- B. Too many are "spiritual schizophrenics."
- C. A house divided cannot stand. Mk. 3:25
- D. We are the servants of the one to whom we are committed. Rom. 6:16

III. REASONING WITH GOD 2 Kgs. 5:11

- A. Much learned from study of Naaman; many like Naaman try to reason with God. "Behold, I thought". Men since the beginning have done that which seemed right in their own eyes. Judg. 17:6
- B. Moses (rock) Nadab and Abihu (fire) all knew what it mean't to reason with God.
- C. Man may reason with God in life but God will reason with him in death. Rom. 2:16; 14:10-12

IV. DOING ALL GOD COMMANDS: ALL THAT WHICH IS WRITTEN.

- A. Noah, building of ark. Gen. 6:14-22
- B. Construction of tabernacle Ex. 40:16
- C. Naaman did as God directed; he was cleansed. 2 Kgs. 5:14
- D. Paul instructed those in Corinth to not go beyond the things which are written. I Cor. 4:6 If I don't go beyond the word then I can know exactly what God expects of me otherwise I have no idea.
- E. Remember we are the Clay not the potter. Rom. 9:20-21

V. GOD'S HAND IS IN IT ALL.

- A. We read 2 Kgs. we immediately get the message about why governments fail. Lack of respect for God, loss of national ideals, insensitive in conscience. When right they are never defeated.
- B. Hezekiah 2 Kgs. 19:10 believed God's hand is in it all. Seems to be basic message of sparrows and hairs of man's head. Matt. 10:29-30

VI. SIN BRINGS CAPTIVITY AND DEATH. 2 Kgs. 14:6 19:25-28

- A. How to deal with sin
 - 1. admit sin I Jno. 1:8-10
 - 2. hate sin Jude 23
 - 3. shun sin I Thess. 5:22
 - 4. resist sin James 4:7

5. expose sin Rom. 8:3

6. conquer sin Rom. 6:1-7

VII. HOLDING ON TO ONE SIN 2 Kgs. 5:18 "In this things Jehovah pardon thy servant."

- A. This was done after he had kept saying of man of God. In one day Naaman had changed from rage and fury to calm, faithful obedience and from worshipping heathen gods to true and living God. (think folks can't change) Makes his vow not to offer anything to any god but Jehovah 2Kgs. 5:17
- B. However when he gets back to Syria, he would be asked to do what he has done many times before, to to the national temple with the king and bow himself before his gods and if he fails will lose his status, favor. With this new knowledge he felt it would be wrong to go there but felt like he must go.
- C. Naaman knew he owed loyalty to king but evidently didn't know his loyalty to God of Israel was first. Acts 4:18-20
- D. Reason like some brethren, all right to drink if all are, pressure to sell our goods. Tell dirty jokes if it will help. After all no one is perfect.
- E. God has shown us how to act under pressure and example are many.
 - 1. 3 Hebrew children. Dan 3:16
 - 2. Daniel Dan. 6:10,19
 - 3. Joseph Gen. 39:7-12
- F. Some reason as did Naaman do, the most at least better than sinner.

VIII. LOSING THE BOOK: 2 Kgs. 22:3-13

- A. We read how that the law was found. Note 2 Chron. 34:8-21
- B. It served as the basis for Josiah's reform.
- C. Lessons that we see in the finding of this book of God.
 - 1. The book was lost in the house of God. 2 Kgs. 22:8 Preachers must preach it. Through carelessness the book was lost in the house of worship. Live in a land of Bibles and yet it is practically lost to many even in our land.
 - 2. The book was unknown to the priest, the religious leader of the people. 2 Kgs. 22:8 Preachers have to know it to preach it. 2 Tim. 4:1-5
 - 3. At first it seemed to be looked upon as "a book" 2 Kgs. 22:10. Many look upon Bible as a mere book.
 - 4. God's own people were surprised when they read the book. 2 Kgs. 22:11 Some things still seem to surprise many today. What of those verses that condemn what we do. Many had just as soon they not be in the book.
- D. In the 20th century we can lose the Book when we:
 - 1. Are too busy to read, study, meditate upon it. Psa. 1:1-3, Acts 17:10-11
 - 2. become self-satisfied with out knowledge of it (the most dangerous things I know is the danger of a satisfied mind.) I Cor. 2:1-9
 - 3. are dormant in our personal application of it.

There is power in it to change lives. Heb. 4:12-13
 4. have failed to preach it all. Acts 20:26-27

IX. RESTORATION WILL EVER BE VALID!

A. Just as Nehemiah had to rebuild the walls Neh. 3:1-4:23
 and Josiah had to purify the temple, we must
 continually get people to walk in "the old paths".

Goebel Music
 Living Mess. of
 Books of O. T.
 pgs. 141-154

CONCL.

Thank God for the restoration under Hezekiah and Josiah. Many
 seem to think that all are right: I say we need restoration
 and get rid of men's ideas and their churches.

VERSES TO STUDY

1. 1:10 consume by fire
2. 2:9 Elisha-anybody want our spirit when we go.
3. 3:2-3 Partial obedience not enough
4. 4:8 Shunem, great woman, cared for Elisha
5. 4:40 Death in the pot
6. 5:3 faith of little maid
7. 5:11 behold, I thought
8. 5:16 difficult today-pay for so called "miracle"
9. 9:20 people know who we are by our actions
10. 10:18 kill worshippers of Baal
11. 14:6 punished for own sin
12. 17:6-17 Assyrian captivity-Israel
13. 17:26 know not God of land
14. 18:1,5,6 none like him
15. 19:18 idols-no god
16. 19:30 remnant-take root-grow up
17. 21:9 worse than ungodly nations
18. 22:8 found book of law
19. 22:4 penitent; cleaned house
20. 25 Judah fell to Babylon

KINGS OF ISRAEL

Jeroboam----22yrs. bad
 Nadab----2 yrs. bad
 Baasha----24 yrs. bad
 Elah----2 yrs. bad
 Zimri----7 days bad
 Omri----12 yrs. ex. bad
 Ahab----22 yrs. the worst
 Ahaziah----2 yrs. bad
 Joram----12 yrs. bad mostly
 Jehu----28 yrs. bad mostly
 Jehoahaz----17 yrs bad
 Joash----16 yrs. bad
 Jeroboam II----41 yrs. bad
 Zechariah----6 mos. bad
 Shallum----1 month bad
 Menahem----10 yrs. bad
 Pekahiah----2 yrs. bad
 Pekah----20 yrs. bad
 Hoshea----9 yrs. bad

ALL ISRAEL'S KINGS
 WERE BAD.

KINGS OF JUDAH

Rehoboam----17 yrs bad mostly
 Abijah----3 yrs. bad mostly
 Asa----41 yrs. good
 Jehoshaphat----25 yrs. good
 Jehoram----8 yrs. bad
 Ahaziah----1 yr. bad
 Athaliah----6 yrs. devilish
 Joash----40 yrs. good mostly
 Amaziah----29 yrs. good mostly
 Uzziah----52 yrs. good
 Jotham----16 yrs. good
 Ahaz----16 yrs. wicked
 Hezekiah----29 yrs. the best
 Manasseh----55 yrs. the worst
 Amon----2 yrs. the worst
 Josiah----31 yrs. the best
 Jehoahaz----3 mos. bad
 Jehoiahim----11 yrs. wicked
 Jehoichin----3 mos. bad
 Zedekiah----11yrs. bad

BOOK OF I CHRONICLES

INTRO.

OUTLINE

- I. FROM ADAM TO ABRAHAM 1:1-28
- II. FROM ABRAHAM TO THE TRIBES 1:29-54
- III. GENERATIONS OF THE TRIBES THRU DEATH OF SAUL 2-10
- IV. DAVID THE KING 11-29

1. The meaning of the books is literally "the words of the days."
2. Chief design of the book is quite clear from contents i.e. to give correct genealogies, the rank and order of the priests and Levites for the resumption of their official activities in returning to the land after the captivity.
3. It seems evident that these books were written after the captivity, the history of the books are brought down to the end of the Exile which speaks of the restoration by Cyrus. It is also mentioned that Jeremiah was a past figure in Israel's history. 2 Chron. 35:25 Jewish tradition ascribes the authorship of the book to Ezra. The genealogical lists were important for the distribution of land that was previously held before captivity and also to determine who held what offices. It would also necessitate that their lives be ordered as they were previously. They must know that they are still the covenant people of God. The captivity had only interrupted the purposes of God, not destroyed them.
- ④ God would still remain faithful to his purpose for his people.
5. There is much similarity between this book and others. Well over half the material is paralleled in other books such as Genesis, Samuel, and Kings.
- ⑥ Israel needed to tie in the past with the present and future. It was the only way they could go forward.
- ⑦ There are however many particulars mentioned in Chronicles that are not mentioned in other books.
 - A. The death of Saul; the accounts in I Sam. say nothing of the sins of Saul of which his death was the penalty. Esp. note is made of his consulting the witch of Endor.
 - B. David made king of all Israel. No account in the former record of armies that came to Hebron, but simply a general statement of Israel coming and proposing the union of the 2 houses.
 - C. David's psalm of thanksgiving. Spoken in connection with bringing of ark to Jerusalem.
 - D. David's contribution to the Temple does not occur in former record. The same is true of his appeal to people for contribution.
 - E. David's last prayer.

**These addition remind us of the way the gospel records record the life of Christ. We would not know so many things if it were not for lets say the book of John.

Dickson Bible

BODY

- I. DEMONSTRATES THAT GOD MAY OVERRULES OUR BEST INTENTIONS 17:1
2 Sam. 7:1
 - A. If one man had to be chosen as central character it would have to be David. In spite of some weaknesses

and failure he was in many ways a great man.

1. In 17:1 David appears in a most favourable light when he exclaims (seemingly in anguish) to Nathan, "Lo, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of covenant of Jehovah dwelleth under curtain."
 2. Nathan encourages David to "do all that is in thy heart; for God is with thee." vs. 2
 3. Solomon later reflected on this occasion and stated it was in the heart of his father to build a house for the name of Jehovah. 2 Chron. 6:7
 4. God would even commend the intention of David 2 Chron. 6:8
 5. However, neither David's good intentions nor Nathan's initial encouragement of him were to have a part in God's plan. I Chron. 17:4 note reason why I Chron. 22:8
- B. Perhaps some observations for our time:
1. This was intentions of a basically good man.
 2. It is a seemingly good intention.
 3. So far as we know it springs from a noble purpose.
- C. So often we make big plans only to see them go down. Yet looking back aren't we thankful that some things didn't happen that we wanted (seemingly so bad at the time?) Isa. 55:8-9

II. INSIGHT INTO THE IMPORTANCE OF PREPARATION. 22:2

- A. Though David did not build, he played a significant part in preparation for his son Solomon. I Chron. 22:14 "in my affliction" R.S.V. (with great pains).
- B. He provided for his son Solomon and reason why 22:5
- C. He provided physical materials, organizational preparation 23:1
- D. Let us learn the importance of preparation. How much we start today that fails for lack of good planning.

III. GIVES US AN EXAMPLE OF SACRIFICIAL SERVICE. 21:24, 2 Sam 24:18

- A. The context of passage involves David's census, the resulting plague, and acquisition of a site for offering of sacrifices.
- B. The determination to "pay the price" to worship God rightly is an example that our world would do well to observe.
- C. There is no "bargain basement service."

IV. GIVES A CLEAR PICTURE OF UNFAITHFULNESS. 10:13-14

- A. Saul: Bible narrative begins positively, handsome. I Sam. 9:2. humble, I Sam. 9:21, in his initial victories he gave credit to God I Sam. 11:13. But as days passed he became wicked and rebellious. I Sam. 15 (Amalek) I Sam. 28 (witch of Endor). Finally his own suicide. Note end I Chron. 10:13-14
- B. One cannot live in rebellion to the will of God.

J. Thomas Eddins
Living Mess. of
Books of O. T.
pgs. 155-159

KEY PASSAGES

- 4:10 Jabez prayer
5:1-2 Birthright
5:22 war was of God

10:12 valiant men
10:13 Saul sinned
11:15 too precious
12:17 come in peace
12:22 like host of God
12:33 not of double heart
12:40 joy in Israel
13:7 Uzzah dies-15:15
14:12 best end of idols; better they burn than us
16:7 Psalm of David
16:24 teach heathen nations
17:9 Lord appoint place for Israel
19:13 do best; leave rest to God
21:1 Satan stood up
21:9 chose of 3 results vs. 13
21:18 Ornan give it all. Farmer said take it.
22:5-7 David prepares for Solomon
27 note no. of months (12)
28:5-7 if Solomon faithful
28:9 instruction to Solomon 28:20
28:12 we have a pattern from Spirit (BIBLE)
29:3 Affections cause us to work
29:14 proper attitude of giving
29:15 life-is a shadow

LESSONS FROM II CHRONICLES

OUTLINE:

- I. SOLOMON'S FORTY YEARS' REIGN Ch/1-9
- II. THE DIVISION OF THE KINGDOM. 10-11:4
- III. THE HISTORY OF THE KINGS OF JUDAH FROM REHOBOAM TO THE CAPTIVITY 11:5-36:16
- IV. THE CAPTIVITY 36:17-23
 1. 5 periods of apostasy for Judah.
 - A. First period of decline and apostasy. 11:5-16:14
 - B. Reform under Jehoshaphat. 25 years. 17:1-20:37
 - C. The second period of decline and apostasy. 21:1-23:21
 - D. Reform under Joash, 40 years. 24:1-27
 - E. The third period of decline and apostasy. 25:1-28:27
 - F. Reform under Hezekiah, 29 years. 29:1-32:33
 - G. Fourth period of decline and apostasy. 33:1-25
 - H. Reform under Josiah 31 yrs. 34:1-35:27
 - I. Fifth period of decline and apostasy. 36:1-16
 - ②. One of the big differences in the viewpoint of Samuel and Kings to that of Chronicles is that in Samuel and Kings we have history from viewpoint of prophet whereas in Chronicles it is God overruling. Ex. The revival under Hezekiah is given in 3 verses in Kings but in 3 chapters in Chronicles.
 - ③. The late Dr. A.T. Pierson observed:
 "While much contained in the Books of Kings is repeated or restated in the Chronicles, much is omitted because it is foreign to the author's purpose. But whatever bears on the temple, its preservation and restoration, the purity of its worship, the regularity and orderliness of its services; whatever makes idolatrous rites or relics hateful, or lifts God to His true throne in the hearts of the people is emphasized."
 - ④. The Chronicles are solely concerned with Judah and Jerusalem after the division of the kingdom, because here is Jerusalem and the temple.
 5. Having been written about 450-425 B.C. it is evident that it was written to interpret and impress to the people the meaning of their history in light of the past, present and future.
 6. THEME: WHEN PEOPLE DEPART FROM GOD'S WORD THERE WILL BE APOSTASY AND INEVITABLE PUNISHMENT. GOD CANNOT BE DETHRONED: LIVING MESSAGE OF OUR DAY.
 - ⑦. The Chronicles cover more history than any of the books of the Bible. All the way back to Adam-captivity.
 LIVING MESSAGES OF OUR TIME
 - I. GOOD BEGINNING-POOR ENDING. All is not necessarily well that begins well.
 - A. One may have the best beginning yet end in ruin.
 - B. Solomon: Had one of the greatest men who ever lived for a father, inherited one of the most important jobs ever given to man, built house of Lord, one of most blessed men in history, wisest man to live and his kingdom possessed the greatest wealth. Lk.12:27

II CHRONICLES CON'T

- C. The whole failure of Solomon was in that he answered the call of his own self-life. His disobedience cried out against the very temple which he had constructed. The temple was merely a building. Many today give over just to be popular. Solomon really had status, but had a very sad life.

SOLOMON

Better to be dressed in simple attire
 Than do as Solomon to fulfill desire.
 One to rise with power as did this man
 Yet destroy the good when he left God's plan.
 A great beginning does not ensure happy ending
 But walk with God from the beginning.
 Let wisdom and power lead us onward
 And set our sails for our journey heavenward.

Gary Puryear

II. THE APOSTASY OF A NATION.

- A. We see a nation pass from affluence and influence to poverty and paralysis.
- B. The second division of 2 Chron. beginning at 10:1 tells story of Judah from Rehoboam to Zedekiah. Rehoboam retained the true form in Judah. Through their history there is often observance of form and neglect of the fact.
- C. Mere formalism will serve. It was so in Judah. 12:1
- D. Note restorations: All reformations began at house of God.
1. Asa renewed the altar and restored the dedicated vessels to their place.
 2. Jehoshaphat instituted a series of special missions all through the country, sending men to read the law and explain it as they went.
 3. Joash restored the house after Athaliah's destruction of it.
 4. Hezekiah opened the doors and assembled people for worship.
 5. Josiah repaired the house of the Lord. (found book of law). The King was so startled at awful condition that he halted the whole reformation in order to find out from prophets the meaning of the law. People just keep getting lower and lower. Note 34:19,27.
- E. Finally there came the ultimate disaster. House burned with fire and people carried away into captivity. 36:19
- F. So it can happen to a church or a nation. God still rules in the universe and no people are going to continue to prosper if they depart from the way of righteousness.

III. PREACHERS OF TRUTH PERSECUTED.

- A. They are persecuted by those whose hearts are not right and do not love God's word. 16:7-10 Asa, king of Judah rebuked by Hanani, Yet Asa was a good king. Even the

II CHRONICLES CON'T

best of people don't like criticism. Elders and myself have agreed to discuss improvements. This is the ideal situation.

- B. Zechariah the son of Jehoiada was sent by God to speak to the people about their idolatry and told them they could not prosper as they were. God would forsake them or already had. 24:20. They up and stoned him with stones. 24:21 Firing the preacher won't relieve sin.

IV. EVIL FELLOWSHIPS.

- A. Mistake of Amaziah. He gathered army of Judah to fight against Edom but only had 300,000 choice men. So he hired 100,000 men of Israel to help fight. Man of God told him to prepare to lose battle: Lord is not with Israel. 25:7. God not bless Judah in battle if she remains in fellowship with Israel.

- B. Eph.5:11 Not fellowship; Reprove.

V. INDIVIDUALITY OF EVERY MAN.

Often some remarks that a person will be good because his father was or he will be bad because his parents were.

- A. It is true that father-son may be equally faithful in service, it is also true that they might not be.
- B. Ex. Jehoshaphat was a good king but son Jehoram was evil. Joash a good king (at least as long as Jehoiada lived) but his son Amaziah was evil. Ahaz was evil but his son Hezekiah was one of the best Kings Judah had.

VI. NEED FOR STRONG LEADERSHIP.

- A. 5 periods of decline and 4 periods of reformation plus reformation begun by Asa. In each instance we notice that when the king was a good and strong king there was reformation. Best illust. Joash: chap.24 7 years old when he became king. As long as Jehoiada lived Joash did right but when he died the people turned to idolatry.
- B. Problems of liberalism and other errors would not have come into the church over the last 25 years+ had we had strong leadership in every congregation.

VII. THE NEED FOR TOTAL REFORMATION.

- A. There were 4 periods of reformation in Judah, but they were not complete.
- B. For ex. we read of Jehoshaphat. 20:33 "Howbeit the high places were not taken away: for as yet the people had not prepared their hearts unto the God of their fathers."
- C. Where is the value of partial reformation or partial restoration? If a people restore all avenues of N.T. worship with exception of one thing, is that enough? If they use mechanical instruments is that acceptable? NO! If we can have exceptions to complete restoration then what are the exceptions: Could it be work of women in church, discipline, elders, Lord's Supper? Can't deviate from God's plan; THAT IS FINAL.

II CHRONICLES CON'T

VIII. GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES.

- A. Israel was an evil kingdom. She went into captivity about 136 years before Judah.
- B. Though Judah had evil kings as did Israel God did not change his dynasty. The Davidic line was preserved in spite of the evil.
- C. WHY? WHY? 21:7 "Howbeit the Lord would not destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that he had made with David, and as he promised to give a light to him and to his sons for ever."
- D. Christians can truly be happy because God keeps his promises. It is beyond comprehension what this world would be if God did not keep his promises.

IX. VANITY OF FORMALISM.

- A. When Judah's religions was only that of form and ceremony it was worse than useless. Formal religion simply does not have the power in the life of a nation.
- B. Have prepared hearts ~~before~~ prepared sacrifices; 20:33 "...The people had not prepared their hearts unto the God of their father..."
- C. The message today is to the church. If the church is not what it ought to be when we have a nation without salt and without light, a nation rushing headlong to godlessness, characterized by base ideals and sinful conduct and "I don't care attitude."
- D. If the church were strong and courageous the world would notice.
- E. Nobody could be indifferent to Christ once they met him. The world would not be so indifferent if the church were more concerned about faith, purity and truth than hurting someone's feelings. It seems ~~they~~ ^{many} do not mind seeing the world go to hell as long as they are in a good humor.
- F. A world that means business is never going to be influenced by a church that plays Christianity. We need a church of first century influence. Say to the evil statesman "You dare not!" To evolutionists "You will not teach your doctrine in the class room!"

Living Messages of
books of the O.T.
William S. Cline
pgs.160-170

KEY VERSES TO STUDY:

- 1:6 1,000 burnt offerings. 7:5-6
- 2:5 great house for great God.
- 2:6 God too big for bldgs. 6:18
- 6:30 Knowest hearts of men
- 6:33 Stranger-Know God
- 7:15 God hears prayers
- 9:7 Happy servants: So we should be
- 10:6-8 Rehoboam-forsook counsel of old men.
- 10:13 roughly spoken
- 12:1 Strengthen self-Forget God.

II CHRONICLES CON'T

13:5 Covenant of salt
14:11 Courage and faith in God
15:3-4,7 long season
15:16 dethrone his own mother
16:7,9 not trust Lord
16:10 upset with seer Hanani 18:7 Kings of Israel hate prophets
18:13 Faith of Micaiah
18:22ff lying spirit of prophets.
20:15 Battle of God
21:20 Not being desired Jehoram.
22:3 mother led astray
25:4 not blame others for sin
26:16 strong heart-destruction Uzziah
28:3ff offer children
29:5ff carry filthiness out
30:6 opposite of stiffnecked-yield
31:20-21 Hezekiah, work all heart.
32:7-8 God fight
32:10ff God not like idols
32:20 prayed and cried
33:9 worse than heathen nations
34:3 Josiah at eight-seeking God
34:14 Hilkiah found law.

LESSONS FROM EZRA

RETURN OF THE REMNANT-ELECT

INTRO. OUTLINE:

- I. THE RETURN UNDER ZERUBBABEL. 1:1-6:22 536 B.C.
- II. THE RETURN UNDER EZRA 7:1-10:44 485 B.C.

1. The period of the captivity lies between the announcement of the fall of Jerusalem in the last chapter of the 2nd book of Chronicles and the opening announcement of Ezra.
2. You will notice a break of a little over 75 years between the two returns. So between chap. 6 and 7 there is a break of a considerable number of years. The books of Zechariah 1-8, Haggai and Esther go in this section.
3. Part one begins with the decree of Cyrus and part two begins with decree of Artaxerxes. In both cases we are given a careful list of those who returned. In part one we see the ministry of Haggai and Zechariah. In part two the ministry of the priest-scribe Ezra. A very godly man. At the end of first part the outcome is the temple rebuilt and end of part two the result is the people re-separated...
4. About 49,697 people returned with Zerubbabel and 2,020 with Ezra.
5. We will have to add other books later.

BODY

I. GOD'S PROVIDENCE

- A. Isa. 44:28 Jehovah said, "Cyrus, he is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid." This was stated nearly 200 years before Cyrus was victorious over Babylon. Yet we find no miracle bringing this man to power.
- B. When Zerubbabel led them to Jerusalem Isa. 40:3 describes it as "a highway" in the desert where "every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain." Isa. 40:4 Yet it took several weeks to make the trip.
 1. God gives but doesn't lay it in our laps.
 2. God said Cyrus would build the temple 2 Chron. 36:23, but the Jews had to do the work. Ezra 1:1
 3. N.T. teaches God gives us bread Matt. 6:11, but Paul teaches we must work for it. 1 Thess. 4:11-12

II. GOD'S PROTEST TO FALSE DOCTRINE.

- A. Shows error of "lost 10 tribes" You'll hear that story from many denominational people. Herbert W. Armstrong and the Mormon Church.
 1. They claim that the Jews are only one tribe: Judah. And that the other people (tribes) are the British and American people. It is claimed only the tribe of Judah returned to Palestine under the decree of Cyrus and that other 10 tribes were lost.

EZRA CON'T

- B. Edict of Cyrus in 1:1 was to all his people. Ez.2:2 tells us the number of the men of the people of Israel vs.70 says "and all Israel in their cities." When the temple was finished sacrifices were made "for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve he goats, according to the 12 tribes of Israel." 7:17 Ezra gives treasures to 12 of the chief priests and tells them to guard them till given to fathers of Israel.

III. GOD'S PRAISE FOR CONVICTION.

- A. Friendship of the world has its cost. Ez.4:1-6 tells ~~who~~ people rebuilding the temple (they were offered help by people of the land.) Zerubbabel refused. Of course, they could have finished faster but not right.
- B. They were not God's covenant people. When he refused they hired counsellors and had work stopped for 16 years under Darius. Ez.6:1,15.
- C. Who were these people? Remember I stated in our study of Daniel that some of the poor remained in the land so they had mixed and married with Samaritans and adopted their idolatrous worship.
1. Church needs to learn a lesson from Zerubbabel.
 2. The attitude of live and let is the breeding ground for the theory "let us live as one of them".
 3. We must not compromise.

IV. GOD'S PROPHETS TURNED THEM BACK TO THEIR GOAL.

- A. Sent Haggai and Zechariah and the work resumed. 5:1
- B. See the results in 6:14, when godly men tell the truth. We must be a people of the book for this is how the church started and how it was sustained.

V. GOD'S PREJUDICE AGAINST FOREIGN MARRIAGES.

- A. God desires that we marry those of like mind.
- B. Ez.9:1-2 Read. Note also result of intermarrying, in Gen.6:2,3,5,
- C. Note I Cor.9:5. If Paul had married he would have married a "sister" Christian.

VI. GOD'S PENALTY FOR DISOBEDIENCE.

- A. God expects obedience regardless of consequences. Note Ez.10:12,17,19,44. The results was no doubt devastating to offspring but God's will had to be done.
- B. We cannot condone unscriptural marriage in our out of the church. When Israel repented they left those wives, they didn't keep them. -Living Messages of books

of the O.T. Ray Hawk
pgs.171-176

1:7 Return to rightful place.

3:1 one man

3:10 joy over the foundation

4:24 conviction takes courage

7:10 Ezra had a prepared heart. Till that's done all else fail.

10:1ff response; Great congregation of people repent.

LESSONS FROM NEHEMIAH

OUTLINE:

- I. NEHEMIAH'S GRIEF. 1:1-4
 - II. NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER 1:5-11
 - III. NEHEMIAH'S SUCCESS 1:11b-2:11
 - IV. NEHEMIAH'S EARNEST WORK 2:12-4:14
 - V. BITTER OPPOSITION TO NEHEMIAH 4:15-6:19
 - VI. NEHEMIAH'S FINAL SUCCESS 7:1-13:30
- THEME: REBUILDING THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM.

BODY

- I. GOD'S GREAT PROMISE.
 - A. In Jeremiah 29 the purpose of that chapter was to assure the exiles in Babylon that though false prophets were predicting a speedy return they would be there for 70 years. However at end of 70 years they surely would return. Jer.29:10-14
 - B. Zerubbabel led the first, Ezra led the second and now Nehemiah leads the 3rd and last out of bondage.
- II. LOVE FOR HIS BRETHREN.
 - A. Nehemiah might have stayed in the position of ease and affluence in the court of the king, but he was willing to give it up for a higher calling.
 - B. Note 1:4 Grieved over what he heard. He was one of the great O.T. characters. Few equaled his achievements.
- III. NEHEMIAH: AN EXAMPLE OF A MAN "INSTANT IN PRAYER"
 - A. His prayer has many characteristics of the model prayer Neh.1:5-11. He had a keen awareness of sins of people and clear perception of God's goodness toward them.
 - B. Many aspects of this prayer are identical to that of Daniel 9:14-19, esp. first 2 verses.
 - C. Dealt with majesty of God. God's mercy. We must pray according to God's will 1 Jno.5:14. with complete confidence James 1:5.
 - D. We are to pray to God, not Mary or Jesus, or Holy Spirit.
 - E. We should not expect God to do things for us in answer to prayer if we will not obey him. 1 Jno.3:22-23
- IV. NEHEMIAH'S MIDNIGHT RIDE AND SURVEY
 - A. After arrival from Persia, he rested for 3 days 2:11. He told no one of his plans to survey the city.
 - B. He took a few trusted attendants. We can learn that we need to survey a situation before we launch into it. This is especially needful for the church.
- V. NEHEMIAH AS A GREAT LEADER.
 - A. Wise leaders enlist the cooperation of others. He met with Jewish leaders, priests, heads of families.
 - B. Nehemiah was so persuasive the assembly responded and said 2:18. Neh. is a good example of what one man of faith can accomplish in motivating people.

NEHEMIAH CON'T

- VI. THE MIND TO WORK. One of the greatest reasons the wall was finally rebuilt. 4:6. This was done in spite of opposition. This is usually a very real factor in success in our undertakings.
- VII. ERRORS OPPOSED AND CORRECTED FROM WITHIN.
- A. Purity of race was in the process of being deteriorated by ties of marriage, friendships and commercial ties.
 - B. The high priest Eliashib himself desecrated the temple by fitting one of the temple chambers as a dwelling place for Tobiah, the Ammonite, who was allied by marriage to him. 13:4,5. He was driven out. Christ cleared the temple twice. Surely that is message enough that we must keep the church pure. 1 Cor.5:1-13
 - C. The tithes for support of priest and of temple worship were withheld and the poorest of flocks and herds were brought. 13:10. Malachi 1:7-8, 3:8-10. Priests and Levites had to go home and earn a living and so work of temple had been neglected.
- VIII. BOOK OF NEHEMIAH REFUTE BASIC DOCTRINE OF 7TH DAY ADVENTIST.
- A. They contend that the sabbath law has been in effect since the beginning. Note. Neh.9:13-14.
 - B. Neither are there 2 laws (ceremonial and moral). 8:5,7,8,14
 - C. Sabbath given to Israel only. Deut. 5:1-5, Ex.31:13
- IX. DEVICES OF SATAN. He is a very dangerous adversary.
- I Pet.5:8-9, 2 Cor.2:11, Jas.4:7-10.
- A. Device of ridicule; 4:1-3 Work of God may lie in ruins for long time, but when it starts back there is opposition. In the past some not able to answer arguments have resorted to calling us campbellites.
 - B. Device of conspiracy and intimidation. 4:7-8. When the Jew's couldn't be frightened in stopping, Samaritans, Arabians, Ammonites and Philistines formed a coalition to stop Jews. They had differences but they could look over to stop Jews. Same with denominational world against truth. His defense was 2-fold.
 - 1. Appealed to God for divine protection.
 - 2. Set a watch against them day and night. 4:9
 - C. Device of compromise. 6:1-4 Let's have a union meeting. Great answer. 6:3. Great work to do.
 - D. Device of false report and slander. 6:5-9. Try to make us afraid.
 - E. A false prophet to forecast evil for God's people unless they compromise with their enemies. 6:10-13.
Note 2 Cor.11:13-15.
- X. TEACHING THE WORD OF GOD. Chap.8
- A. All gathered to hear. vs.1-2. Ezra stood upon a wooden pulpit to be seen and heard by all. 8:4. His sermon was long; from dawn till noon.
 - B. People had reverence for word of God. 8:5 All stood.
 - C. Blessings of Bible study. 8:8

NEHEMIAH CON'T

D. Didn't think day of praise should be marred by sorrow
even though godly sorrow for sins. 8:10

-Living Messages of books of
O.T. Garland Elkins pgs.
177-188.

4:19 Church scattered; All answer to call of God's word.

5:3-4 Borrowing money-not new.

5:17ff Meal prepared daily for 150+

8:10b Joy of Lord is your strength.

9:2 Public confession.

LESSONS FROM ESTHER

OUTLINE:

- I. THE KING AND HIS QUEEN. 1-2
- II. HAMAN, MORDECAI AND THE KING. 3
- III. ESTHER AND HER PEOPLE 4
- IV. ESTHER AND THE KING 5-7
- V. THE KING'S NEW DECREE. 8:3-10 Dickson Bible pg.621-622

1. We are introduced to another heroine of the Bible.
2. God's name is not mentioned one time in the book and yet we can see His hand of care and guidance all through. One preacher entitled a sermon on this book "God Amid the Shadows."
3. You will note that Esther's life occurred in the days of the Medes and Persians. It is suggested that the book be studied between Ezra 6 and 7. About 57 years between the completion of the temple and the arrival of Ezra in city of Jerusalem.
4. The writer could have been Ezra, Nehemiah or Mordecai.
5. SETTING: We find God's people struggling for survival in a strange land. This account is of a crisis faced by those of the exile who chose to remain in a foreign land when their brothers were returning to their homeland.

BODY

- I. LESSON FROM A PAGAN COURT. Book open with Ahasuerus seated on his throne in Shushan, ruling over 127 kingdoms. He made a feast for small and great that lasted 180 days. He was to show his riches and honors.
 - A. True happiness is not found in the flories of the land and possession. Lk.12:15,21
 - B. Man shall not live by bread alone. Matt.4:4
 - C. Be careful of pride. Prov. 10:18 Pride goeth before destruction.

*We also have another scene of a feast of drinking of both king and queen. The king was unkind in his request of the queen to show her beauty before all but she refused.

 1. Remembering the example of the queen, how could any christian woman agree to enter a modern day beauty contest? 1:11 How terrible for any woman to uncover her nakedness to be paraded before an audience.
 2. The king was drunk.
 3. Because of her action she lost her position as queen, Had to keep the women in line. 1:22.
- II. LESSONS FROM A ORPHAN WHO BECAME QUEEN. CHAP.2
 - A. There was an Esther among the virgins.
 - B. We learn about the character of Mordecai as he was responsible for bringing up his cousin Esther. Practices Jas.1:27. Continued to look after her while in court. 2:11,20.

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- C. Mordecai also overheard a plot to lay hand on the king. Later this would play an important part in his life. We are not often rewarded at the time we do something right.

III. HAMAN'S PLOT CHAP.3

- A. Haman was given authority over other princes yet Mordecai refused to bow to him. Haman determined to kill all Jews because one failed to bow.
1. Hatred is an evil companion. Prov.25:27.
 2. False charges are easily made and often are not even questioned but accepted as truth.
 3. Wonder why 13 is unlucky? Not really unlucky but this belief could be based on the fact that this is the day of month Jews were to be killed.

IV. ESTHER'S COURAGE. CHAP.4

- A. The chapter open with Mordecai weeping. Esther was unaware of what was happening but Mordecai called her 4:13-14.
- B. Esther responds by asking all to fast for her.
1. Esther was available and willing to dare that her people might be spared.
 2. So much sadness by one man.
 3. It takes more than clean clothes to remove anguish of heart. 4:4
 4. Action is needed; Esther had to do something. 4:13-14

V. THE CRISIS. CHAP.5

- A. Esther faced the crisis and was accepted. Yet Haman was getting his hopes up for his plan to be fulfilled.
- B. He is invited with the king; Sees Mordecai and yet he does not stand. Has gallows built to kill him. 5:14
1. One banquet led to another. Esther was willing to move slowly. What a contrast to our day.
 2. Tomorrow invited to dine with royalty. What a surprise. Haman; what shall be on the morrow.
 3. How much like modern man-happiness is unknown if one little thing is bothering him.

VI. ROYAL INSOMNIA. CHAP.6

- A. What keeps you awake at night? What do you do when you cannot sleep? 6:1 Much good accomplished in right hours.
- B. The king had history read to him and realized someone went unrecognized because of a good deed. 6:6
- C. Haman cut his own throat; Thought too high of self. Mk.7:21-22.

VII. WHATSOEVER A MAN SOWETH... CHAP.7

- A. What is thy petition? She pleaded for her life and for her people. Haman is specifically named. Some times that must be done. 7:3ff.
- B. In his anger King went out to garden? 7:7 "He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding. Prov.14:29

VIII. THOU HAST PUT OFF MY SACKCLOTH, AND GIRD ME WITH GLADNESS-8

ESTHER CON'T

- A. God in his providence can change the law of the Medes and Persians. 8:5ff
- B. Permission to protect themselves was granted to the Jews. Mordecai had refused to compromise his principles.
- C. Reaction of Joy. 9:22.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

Pride, strong drink, plots and evil schemes, loyalty to government, evil men in power, prejudice at work, opportunities for service, personal risk, fasting, one for all and all for one, keeping a secret.

-Living Messages of Books
of O.T. Clifford Reel-
pgs.189-198.

LESSONS FROM JOB

OUTLINE:

- I. PROLOGUE: JOB BEFORE THE SUFFERING. 1:1-5
- II. QUESTIONS RAISED BY VARIOUS PERSONS. 1:6-42:6
- III. EPILOGUE: JOB AFTER THE SUFFERING. 42:7-17.

BASIC THEME: 13:15

- 1. We know that Job is a historical character Jas.5:11 and Ezek.14:14-20.
- 2. It is difficult to know exactly what period of history that Job lived in but many believe it was the Patriarchial.

BODY

- I. PROLOGUE: JOB BEFORE THE SUFFERING.
 - A. Job's character-A God-fearing man. 1:1,8
 - B. Job's family and wealth-wife and children. 1:3
Job seemed to love his family deeply; Even sacrificed for his sons 1:5. Deeply grieved over their loss.
- II. SIX BASIC QUESTIONS WHICH ARE RAISED IN THE BOOK OF JOB.
 - A. We will note the question, who asked it, what were the circumstances and how was the question answered.
 - B. You will note that not every statement in this book is correct: These friends were not inspired. In last chapter we note necessity of them confessing the sin.

QUESTIONS

- 1. Does any man serve God for nought?
 - A. Asked by Satan, when sons of God presented themselves before Him and Satan was also present.
 - B. Satan accused Job of having a superficial piety, thus hypocritical. Why shouldn't Job serve you, look at all he has. Satan is not a good judge of man.
 - C. This questions ought to help all of us look at our life. If I lost all what would happen to my faith?
- 2. Why am I (a righteous man) suffering so intensely. 3:1-26
 - A. Question implied by Job in his asking of 3 other questions: Why was I ever born (better not to exist at all). Being born, why did I live? and If I must die, why can I not die immediately. These questions followed the removal of his possessions and health.
- 3. Could a just God allow a righteous man to suffer intensely? Asked by 3 friends of Job 16:2 (They were miserable comforters.) Note 4:1-31:40. These 3 friends come to tell Job that he is suffering because he is wicked. When they arrived they were silent for an entire week. They imply that God does not allow a righteous man to suffer (That's wrong), and we will see that later.
- 4. Would the evidence of suffering prove the non-existence of God? Not asked by any one person in the book but implied in many places. We will note more later.
- 5. Is it not the case that suffering has value in spiritual discipline? 32:1-37:24. The younger man Elihu asked this question. He had held his peace until the older men had finished. He rejects Job's arguments for he feels Job has tried to justify self. 32:2

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Elihu points out that God in addition to being a judge is also a loving Father. He also accused Job of being wicked because he questions God. 34:34-37. Even suffering will cause the wicked to repent he claims.

6. Can a mere man be true judge of God's creative activity? 38:1 42:6 This questions was asked by God himself. All things on which men normally lean (Possessions, family, and health) are gone. Job is left alone with his faith 18:25. He is perplexed, why doesn't God answer my questions? Is God unjust in allowing me to suffer this way? What is significance of questions? God's purpose is to bring Job to the truth insofar as ultimates are concerned. No mere man can judge (truly) God's creative activity; (That is no man has a platform from which to charge God.

Though all men must have a knowledge of God Rom.1:18-32, No man has a right to question God and accuse God/ Some ask why God made man knowing he would sin? Only God himself can know if he should have created. Only God can know certain things. We only know what God has revealed to us.

7. A submission by Job: Job admits that there are limits to to what man can do by way of questioning God's creative activity 42:1-6. Since God is all knowing and all powerful, Job can trust God to act perfectly on every occasion in regard to everything which may be involved.

III. EPILOGUE: JOB AFTER THE SUFFERING. 42:7-17.

- A. God's rebuke of friends 42:7-10. They had not spoken the truth about God (in that He will not suffer the righteous to suffer). Job held that the righteous may suffer and God still be just. Have Job intercede for you.
- B. God's blessing of Job. 42:10-17. Material possessions, children, and friends. He died an old man full of life. 42:17.

LIVING MESSAGES FROM JOB FOR TODAY.

1. Some men do serve God for nought. 2:4 There are some who will not sell out at any price.
2. Suffering may be a mystery of God's providence. Rom.8:28 If God can control the universe around us, surely he can control the lives of men (direct). And if God would give the greatest gift (Jesus) surely give the lesser gifts. Rom.8:32, Matt.7:7-11.
3. Suffering may be a test of reality; The world watches to see if your faith holds at all times.
4. It is possible to continue in faith even after all props upon which humans ordinarily lean have been broken and swept away. Satan had maintained that no man would serve God simply because of his faith in and love for God. Paul could and did. Phil.3:7-8.
5. The proper reaction to suffering is to trust God even when one does not know the answer to every question he can ask. Help Job see that there were limits to man's legitimate

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questioning of creative activity of God.

6. There are some limits to man's legitimate questioning of the creative activity of God. All we know is what God tells us.
7. A just God can allow a righteous man to suffer intensely. God can allow this as Job argues because
 - a. Pain and suffering are not intrinsically evil.
 - b. God intends that will be of great benefit to man.
8. Suffering can have value in spiritual discipline. Elihu seemed to affirm this in his speech. 32:1-37:24.
 - a. Suffering helps the sufferer to better know himself. Peter viewed himself as a tower of strength, but the actual testing introduced Peter to himself. Matt.26:31-35. He learned he was actually weak. Matt.26:69f.
 - b. Suffering can help the sufferer to attain a proper set of values. Many who face these things are made to evaluate their own life.
 - c. Suffering can help the sufferer to be thankful and to avoid self-pity. We often take too much for granted.
 - d. Suffering can help the sufferer not to despair. Sometimes the dark is worst before the light. Even when deep in valley of affliction "fear no evil" Psa.23.
 - e. Suffering can help the sufferer to realize that some "mountain heights" of spirituality can be reached only by going through the "valley of suffering" which is in front of the mountain. Suffering could help Israel return to Lord. Deut. 4:40 and Paul taught that spiritual heights come from suffering. 2 Cor.4:17-18.
 - f. Fact of actual suffering does not prove that God does not exist.

-Living Messages of the
books of the O.T.

Thomas B. Warren pgs.
199-211

23:10 Confidence-come forth as gold

26:7 Scientific fact.

27:8 Hypocrite

29:1ff Description of life before sickness

32:8 spirit of man

32:21-22 not give flattering titles

42:7ff Friends not right.

LESSONS FROM PSALMS

OUTLIN:

- I. BOOK I: 1-41
- II. BOOK II: 42-72
- III. BOOK III: 73-89
- IV. BOOK IV: 90-106
- V. BOOK V: 107-150.

1. THE TITLE; The Hebrew title means "Praises." The English title comes from the Greek title, Psalmoi, meaning "Psalms." The Greek word is derived from the verb psallo, meaning strike, pluck, twitch. However, when a form of that verb is used to describe a song I Cor.14:26 or a book of songs Lk.20:42, Acts 1:20, it has departed from its literal meaning. The Psallo does not carry its literal meaning in its N.T. occurrences. Rom.15:9, I Cor.14:15(twice), Eph.5:19 and Jas.5:13.
2. Inspiration: 2 Sam.23:2 "The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue." Jesus endorsed the canonicity of the book of Psalms Lk.24:44 "And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me."
3. IMPACT: In life and death the Psalms have deeply affected thousands of lives.
4. PSALMS ATTRIBUTED TO AUTHORIS:
 - a. David-73 psalms (about 1/2 written by David)
 - b. Korah's sons-10
 - c. Asaph-12
 - d. Solomon-2
 - e. Ethan-1
 - f. Heman-1
 - g. Moses-1 (oldest psalm)
 - h. not sure-50
5. Basic Message: Psa.103:1 "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name."
6. Basic Principle: Psa.119:105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."
7. Emphasis: On attitude of man and God. Worship; devotional side of life.
8. There Psalms for every occasion of life. Expressions of repentance, communion, love, hope, and faith.
9. We must give attention to the fact that much of the Psalms resolve themselves into 3 basic concepts; misery, deliverance, and gratitude.
10. In the Psalms we have a full view of the life of Christ.

BODY

I. MISUSES OF THE BOOK OF PSALMS.

- A. Instrumentalists; Since Psa.33:2 commands singing with harp and psaltery, and since Eph.5:19 commands the use of psalms, some argue that Eph.5:19 cannot be obeyed without mechanical instruments.

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1. This admits that there is no direct authority for instruments in the N.T.
 2. Cannot take the word to mean one of the 150 psalms for the word simply means a song.
 3. If we must include instruments then we must also begin dancing in the Christian worship. Psa.150:4 animal sacrifices 51:19, carnal weapons. 149:6-7
 4. If it is commanded then every person must not only sing but also play an instrument.
- B. By advocate of inherit sin.
1. Though the Bible is clear that sin cannot be transmitted from parent to child Ezek.18:20, and is clear that little children are sinless Matt.19:14, David's statement in Psa.51:5 is often misused. In truth he had been formed in a world of sin, and his mother had been a sinner before he was born.
 2. It does not teach he as a sinner himself at birth. He did become a sinner later in life.
- C. Misused by Satan;
1. When Satan misused Psa.91:11-12, Jesus showed that one must beware of taking verses out of context because they might be shown to be wrong by other verses. Matt.4:7
 2. This is true of the previous study of inherited sin.
- D. Well meaning brethren; (I too have been guilty.)
1. It is nothing but pride and vanity that leads a man to desire to be called "reverent or Father". Matt.23:7-9.
 2. However quoting Psa.111:9 from the KJV does not answer the argument. The word reverend translated here in KJV does appear once, but the word from which it is taken appears hundreds of times (378) in the O.T. Psa.99:3. Neither can this word be restricted to God. You must use other texts to show that we are not to give titles to men.

LAWFUL USES OF THE PSALMS

- I. Beautiful poetry. Psa.19
- II. Against atheism; Ps.19 lets nature display reasons for believing in God's existence.
- III. Before the beginning of creation; Psa.90-God's existence.
- IV. "THE LORD OF THE SEVEN WONDERS" Psa.104
 - A. sky. vs.2-4
 - B. earth 5-9
 - C. water 10-13
 - D. vegetation 14-18
 - E. moon and sun 19-23
 - F. sea 24-26
 - G. gift of life 27-30
- V. God's High moral standard for man. Psa.1,15, 112:1,4-8 24:4-5.
 - A. Ideal spiritual man. Psa.1
 - B. God's requirements. Ps.15

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- C. Who is worthy? Psa.24
- VI. Thanksgiving and Shouting.
 - A. God's unbounded love. 9:1-2
 - B. King of all the earth. 47:1,6
 - C. Personal Triumphs. 116
 - D. Bless the lord. Ps.103
- VII. THE Good Shepherd. 23
- VIII. The Holy Scriptures.
 - A. The law in the eyes of the godly man. Psa.1:2-3
Think of what David's Bible consisted; (Book of Moses and possibly a few historical books). If that's all you had what would you think of the Bible?
 - B. Beauty and Power of the Law. Psa.19:7,11.
 - C. God's Eternal word. 119
 - 1. There are 22 sections of 8 verses each in this chapter. Now why 22 sections? That's the number of letter the Psalmist had in his alphabet. The first 8 verses uses the letter Aleph or we'll say A. The second 8 verses begin with B and so on through the chapter.
 - 2. There are 10 Hebrew words that describe the Bible These 10 words are reduced to 8 English words (Commandment, law, judgment, precept, statute, testimony, word and way.) 174 verses contain at least 1 of these words.
 - 3. How David praised his Bible; No human could have written such words as these without guidance by Holy Spirit.
- IX. How to deal with Sin.
 - A. Lord, forgive. 51:1-2. Told lady in Nassau, sinner can not pray to God for forgiveness (devil is their father) Jno.8:44.
 - B. Sincere confession. 51:3-5
 - C. Make me clean. 51:7-9
 - D. Create a new heart. 51:10
 - E. A Unique Vow; 51:13-15 New convert wants to tell others of good and right way. Gospel is good news.
- X. FAITH, COURAGE AND SERENITY.
 - A. This I'm afraid we have lost far too much of in the church.
 - B. Morning Prayer; 3:3-5
 - C. Evening Prayer 4:8
 - D. Hope 16:9-11, 17:15
 - E. Serene Confidence. 27:1,5
 - F. The way of faith. 28:7
 - G. "He is thinking about me." 40:17
- XI. Longing for God and His Sanctuary.
 - A. Sanctuary 34:2,4, 6-7, 10-12.
 - B. House of Lord. Psa.122
 - C. Thirsting for God. 42:1-2, 43:3-4.
 - D. Settled in Sanctuary. 73

PSALMS CON'T

XII. Christ and his predictions found in O.T.-fulfilled

Lk.24:44.A. Character 45:4B. Preaching 78;2C. zeal 69:9D. being praised. 8:2E. rejected stone 118:22F. david's son. 132:11G. trials. 22:2H. crucifixion; 22:19, 69:21, 22:1. 34:20.I. resurrection 16:10J. ascension. 24:6-10.Living Messages of the
Books of the O.T.

Hugo McCord pg.212-222

and

"Studies in Psalms" by

Kyle Yates.

ADDITIONAL VERSES TO STUDY.

37:16,37.

40:4

41:4

44:20-21

48:13-14

49:10ff

51:5,16ff

53:1

55:6

69:9

78:35-37,39

79:13

84:10

89:43

90:12

100

102:13ff

106:19ff

107:27

115:1ff

118:8

119:10

126:6

127:1ff

131:9

133:1ff

144:4

149:4

LESSONS FROM PROVERBS

INTRO.

OUTLINE:

- I. COMMENDATION (PRAISE OF WISDOM) 1-9
- II. CONTRASTS AND OBSERVATIONS 10-22
- III. EXHORTATIONS (OR PRECEPTS) AND WARNINGS. 23-24
- IV. COMPARISONS (OR SIMILITUDES) AND CONTRASTS. 25-29
- V. DESCRIPTIONS (ENDING WITH DESCRIPTION OF THE WORTHY WOMAN.) 30-31.

Bible Survey-Hendriksen
pg.294

1. Let's first emphasize that this book is not just some tale or book of folklore, it is the inspired will of God.
2. It is a product of I Kgs.3:9ff, Solomon's prayer to God. I Kgs.4:32- 3,000 proverbs.
3. Written by Solomon in a time when the kingdom was at its peak of prominence, power and prosperity. Great need to be really on guard when things are going well with us or our country.
4. Experience is a good teacher but it is usually a very painful teacher.
5. God tells me that I don't have to learn all things by experience. THOU SHALT NOT: Don't hurt yourself. OR Thou Shalt: Help self to happiness.
6. The canonicity of this book has never been questioned.
7. A key quality of this book is brevity and conciseness. Note it does not appear to be a Jewish book only but a book of life.
- #What a guide to parents in training children even in preparation and selection mate for life.
8. In thinking to time please consider this statement: "There is far less danger to the moral and spiritual life of the average person under limited conditions, and even conditions bordering on poverty, than under conditions of plenty and opulence. "Dickson Bible(pg.745.)
9. Relates to overall theme of Bible: "Glorification of God and the salvation of man through Jesus Christ" by showing that all of life must be a part of our spiritual living. We can't separate our life and religion. We are to do all as a Christian.
10. Other books we have studied and will study tells us what to do but Proverbs tells us how to do it.

THE KEYNOTE OF THE BOOK OF PROVERBS IS SOUNDED IN CHAP.1 (KNOWLEDGE). Place of knowledge, products of knowledge, and procurement of knowledge.

BODY

I. KNOWLEDGE.

- A. Place of Knowledge; Why necessary to seek knowledge we gain from book" We first note human deficiencies.

1. Vs.4 subtilty to the simple. There are some pretty gullible people in our world. Believe anything. Look at TV and see how some folks will fall for anything. Some do this in religion.

PROVERBS CON'T

2. Young people: Nothing wrong with youth, as long as you admit you are young. vs.4 Many young people do not know much about spiritual things.
3. vs.5 inadequacy of the wise. Wise men realizing their inadequacies will be willing to learn. Really wise people realize their limitation. Einstein said: Asked one day how much knew? "If all knowledge is 100%, I probably know one infinitesimal fraction of 1%."
4. vs.5 Men of understanding. Those understanding will gain a wise way of living or putting into practice knowledge.
5. vs.7 Fools despise wisdom and instruction. He was not talking about dumb people who can't learn but people who have a chosen attitude or fixed outlook.

*YOU WILL FIND THAT ALL OF US WILL FIND IN ONE OR MORE OF THESE CATEGORIES!

3. Products of Knowledge. When we really come to know God's will for us?
 1. 1:2 we will know wisdom and instruction.
 2. 1:2 perceive words of understanding.
 3. vs.3 takes instruction related justice, judgment and equity.
 4. vs.4 receives subtility, knowledge and discretion.
 5. Come to know about discipline (instruction) 3:11 23:13. Know God in such a way as to discover real discipline.
 6. "understanding" Ability to discriminate between things. When Solomon prayed for wisdom he prayed for ability to discriminate. Necessary in that all of us are faced with situation daily that demand our knowledge of right and wrong. Yet some refuse to study and learn the only guide to help in making those decisions. Rom.10:2 Many have zeal but not enough knowledge.
 7. "discernment" Prov.1:3 Learn to discover how that disaster can be turned into unbelievable triumph.
 8. "discretion" 1:4 or the word subtility. Have to learn to be shrewd spiritually.
- C. Procurement of knowledge. How do we get it? 1:7 Fear of the Lord is beginning. Basis where we start. Here is love and law and respect all rolled into one.

OTHER BASIC MESSAGES OF THE BOOK.

- I. REMOVE THE ARTIFICIAL GULF BETWEEN THE SACRED AND SECULAR.
 - A. Proverbs discusses everyday life and points up that true spirituality is to "let all that you do in word or deed be done in the name of Christ." Col.3:17
 - B. Tragic when people think that church attendance, bible reading, prayer, and contribution are the only spiritual things. Others like job, home life, etc are also spiritual, not just secular.

PROVERBS CON'T

- II. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY: Permissiveness of our age will find no sanction in book of Proverbs.
 - A. Solomon praises self-control. 16:30, 19:11, 21:23.
 - B. We are to honest in all our relationships. 12:22, 14:25
- III. EXALTS INDUSTRY AND HARD WORK. 10:5, 19:24, 20:4.
 - A. Honesty in commercial transaction. 11:1, 16:11
- IV. SIGNIFICANCE OF FAMILY IN SOCIAL STRUCTURE. Home is not obsolete.
 - A. Importance of woman in home. 11:16, 22; 12:4; 19:13
 21:9. Dignity and freedom of womanhood. 31. Note Eph.5:22-6:4.
 - B. Educative function of family. Repeated instruction to receive instruction. One of the ends of achieving this is by discipline. 13:1, 24; 19:18, 22:6.
- V. SEX 5:1-23
 - A. The first section deals with sex as sin.
 - B. Second section deals with sex as love.

CONCL.

Satan has a 5-fold plan to gain control

- 1. To deny God. Question many have asked: Did Man make God or God make man?
- 2. To destroy moral values.
- 3. Destroy the family.
- 4. Deify man by concepts of humanism. Man is supreme.
- 5. deny the supernatural.

Living Messages of the
books of O.T.

Carroll Ellis;pgs.
223-230.

- 1:8 assume parents will guide and can guide.
- 1:10 not force to do evil
- 1:17 bird can see but wants bait; Evil can see, want spoil.
- 2;1-5 Where to find wisdom and how to get.
- 3:5-6 Trust God's Providence.
- 3:27-28 Religion to our neighbor.
- 6:6-9 Learn from insect(industry)
- 6:16-19 List of sins Lord hates.
- 8:35-36 Find life: Find God. vs.36.
- 10:1 actually beginning proverbs.
- 10:4 carelessness in business and spiritual life.
- 10:12 love covers offences. 1 Pet.4:8
- 10:27 religion lengthens life.
- 11:22 fair woman, no discretion.
- 11:30 winning souls; O.T. principle.
- 12:4 Virtuous woman. 21:9 brawling woman.
- 12:10 take care of animals.
- 12:19 truth; always truth
- 13:7 standard of wealth
- 13:15 way of transgressor is hard. Rom.14:17,19
- 13:24 discipline. 19:18, 23:13
- 14:12 Ways seems right. 16:25
- 14:31 God made poor also.

PROVERBS CON'T

15:1 soft answer
15:3 comfort to saint, terror to sinner
15:13 Good attitude.
16:8 little with righteousness. 17:1
16:18 Pride. Example Herod. Acts 12
16:27 Enjoy finding bad.
16:31 old people need to be old disciples
17:6 glory of children.
18:11 Brother offended.
18:24 Making friends.
20:1 Wit in, sense goes out. 21:17, 23:20-21, 23: 29ff.
20:14 Horse trader
20:11 Don't listen to gossip.
23:1-4 Labor not to be rich.
25:19 unfaithful man-unserviceable and painful.
28:9 turn away-prayer and abomination.
31:10ff. women should be and men should seek.

WINSTON CHURCHILL SAID: "Success is never found, failure is never fatal, its courage that counts."

Close with 8:36 "But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death."

LESSONS FROM ECCLESIASTES (ABOUT LIFE)

INTRO.

1. Emptiness of life without God-Try to find the good life without God. Results: 6:12 "For who knoweth what is good for man in this life, all the days of his vain life which he spendeth as a shadow? for who can tell man what shall be after him under the sun?"
2. This book most needed of our time in the issue of happiness and joy. From 1:2-12:18 the subject is vanity of vanities.
3. Author: Solomon 1:1, son of David; 1:12 king over Israel. Still taught the people knowledge. 12:9-10.
4. OUTLINE OF ECCL.
 - I. THE VANITY OF HUMAN WISDOM. 1:1-2:26.
 - II. THE DISAPPOINTING EXPERIENCES OF LIFE. 3:1-5:20.
 - III. THE VANITY OF WEALTH AND HONOR. 6:1-8:17
 - IV. DEPENDENCE ON GOD TO DEAL WITH THE INJUSTICES OF LIFE. 9:1-12:8.
 - V. LIFE IN THE LIGHT OF ETERNITY. 12:9-14.
5. In an age of disillusionment, despair there seems to be no more timely book for our consideration than Eccl. Eccl. describes the whole duty of man.
6. We might say Eccl. contrasts the life under the sun with the Life under God who made the sun.
7. 2 questions that we can ask and answer:
 - a. What is the true meaning of life?
 - b. Is happiness really attainable? 1:13 and 2:3

BODY

I. QUEST FOR WISDOM.

- A. 1:16 Describes the wisdom of Solomon.
 1. God had given it to him. 1 Kgs. 3:12
 2. "Wiser than all men." 1 Kgs. 4:29-31.
- B. Surely the wisest man of all times would know the key to happiness and thus be happy in his wisdom.
- C. He however concludes that happiness does not come through wisdom alone, after all death ultimately comes to all men. 2:14-16.
- D. People have often let knowledge become their god. Rom. 1:21,22.
- E. Wisdom is only useful as it contributes to a productive life of service and to the glory of God.
- F. Solomon failed to find happiness in wisdom. 1:17-18

II. QUEST FOR WEALTH.

- A. A very widespread conception is that wealth will solve every problem. The sad picture is that the attainment of it makes for unhappiness and the possession of it makes us miserable.
- B. Solomon of all that have life could know its vanity. 2:9-10. Surely he found fulfillment in building his financial empire? NO NO. 2:11 He could not possibly enjoy all he had accomplished. Someone else would inherit all his hard work. 2:19.

ECCLESIASTES CONT

- C. The church of our Lord has not gone untainted by the deception of Satan.
- D. Parable of the Rich Fool Lk.12:15 "Man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things which he possesseth."
- E. We wait too late to view life in light of eternity. I Tim.6:17-19.

III. QUEST FOR POWER:

- A. There are those who develop the desire for a certain position or rank, thinking this will surely bring purpose in living.
- B. Note: "So King Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth. I Kgs.10:23.
- C. After 40 years of governmental, industrial and military domination is Solomon happy? Note words 4:13.
- D. Once again Solomon realized that death visits both the prominent and the unknown, both great and small, in the end there is no difference.
- E. Bible consistently teaches that true greatness is measured by degree of service one renders. Matt.20:25-28, Lk.14:11.
- F. Church was taught this principle. Rom.12:3, Gal.6:3 Phil.2:3.

IV. QUEST FOR PLEASURE:

- A. Many not affected by wealth, wisdom, or power are affected by immoral pleasure, for it seems that all seek contentment through one of these means.
- B. This seems to have been Solomon's greatest downfall. Solomon as old man, had many strange women and God was unhappy with him. I Kgs.11:1,2,4,9,10.
- C. As Solomon reflects on this area of life he says 2:1 "I said in my heart, Come now, I will prove thee with mirth; therefore enjoy pleasure; and, behold, this also was vanity."
 - 1. Solomon had plenty of fleshly indulgence.
 - 2. If it could have made anybody happy, Solomon should have been it.
 - 3. Do your own thing is almost as old as the word. Note inst. to youth. 11:9ff.
 - 4. Bible tells of end of those who give life over to sinful pleasures. Rom.1:18-32, I Cor.6:9-10, Gal.5:19-21.
- D. Our problem in the church is that we are becoming more tolerant of the ungodliness and pleasure around us.

V. QUEST REALIZED.

- A. All he has tried leads to one conclusion; 12:13-14.
- B. Since death makes no distinction between persons, we must live in preparation for that which is sure to come. 9:10, 12:7.
- C. Here then is a whole man. This is reason for us to begin a life of dedication while we are young, so that not one day will be wasted.

ECCLESIASTES CON'T

Living Messages of the
books of the O.T. Billy
R. Smith; pgs.231-240

CONCL.

1. A wise man was asked toward the end of his life what advice he had for young men just starting out on life's journey.
 - a. Belong to something bigger than yourself.
 - b. Work with others toward a common goal.
 - c. Do your part.
 - d. Take pride in doing your job well.
 - e. Work hard to make your ideas take shape in reality.
 - f. Help build something of lasting value.
- (APPLY ALL THE ABOVE TO THE WORK OF THE CHURCH).
- 1:2 Solomon knew, many do not.
- 1:4 Time of joy vs.3 is very short.
- 1:7 Sea never satisfied like us: Much of our problems come from our desires.
- 1:9 Nature, life, basically same.
- 1:10 1 thing new. 2 Cor.5:17
- 1:18 more know- more problems
- 2:2 Can't laugh everything away.
- 2:18 leave all behind.
- 3:1-8 make use of what God gives.
- 3:11 All beautiful in God's time. Certain event will happen.
- 3:16ff not hearken to God no better than beast.
- 4:4 Every successful person had to work hard.
- 5:1 be careful in worship.
- 5:12 sleep of working man.
- 6:9 Don't want too much.
- 7:1 Good name; day of death better.
- 7:2 Better to go to funeral. -
- 7:6 Thorns burn quickly, Don't last.
- 7:17 hasten days.
- 7:20 Don't expect people to be perfect.
- 7:29 "image of God!" apostasy-still happening.
- 8:12 Don't be fooled.
- 9:8 Moderate in dress
- 9:9 stay with same woman
- 9:10 work hard at a task
- 9:18 one can do much damage.
- 11:1 Bread may seem wasted-find it many days later.
- 11:9 Do it but pay for it.
- 12:3ff describes ofl age.

LESSONS FROM SONG OF SOLOMON

INTRO.

OUTLINE:

- I. THE BRIDE AND KING EXPRESS THEIR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER. 1:1-2:7
- II. BRIDE'S PRAISE FOR THE KING. 2:8-3:5
- III. KINGS PRAISE FOR THE BRIDE. 3:6-5:1
- IV. THE DISTURBING DREAM OF THE BRIDE. 5:2-7:9
- V. THEIR UNDYING LOVE AND DEVOTION TO EACH OTHER. 7:10-8:14

- 1. Perhaps the most neglected book of the Bible, yet one of the most beautiful
- 2. The fact that this book is important can be realized by knowing that the Jews read the "Song of Song" every year in its Passover festival.
- 3. Note number of songs that Solomon wrote: I Kgs. 4:29-33.1,005.
- 4. The writer continues to refer to everyday scenes of the ancient world, proving that Solomon had a wise understanding of the world in which he lived.
- 5. The dedication and faithfulness which the king and bride have for each other is the key to the basic message of the book.
- 6. BASIC MESSAGE: "Taken as a historical event concerning the marriage of Solomon and a shepherd maiden from northern Palestine, the Song of Solomon is the ideal representation of human love in the relationship of marriage. It then becomes a model for all to learn of the love which husbands and wives ought to have for each other". Stedfastness of marriage.
- 7. Through pages of O.T. love of God for his people is made clear continually.
- 8. God is said to be married to Israel. Jer.2:2, Isa.62:5.
- 9. Marriage of Hosea to faithless wife, Gomer, represented Israel's unfaithfulness to Jehovah. Hos.1:2,2:2,7,13,17.
- 10. Bible contains many verses showing Israel's relationship with God, describing Israel as an unfaithful marriage partner. Deut. 31:16, Jer.3:1-11.
- 11. Just as Solomon is described as caring for his bride in an understanding way even so God knew the weaknesses of his people and was willing to help them. As Solomon promised to provide for his bride so God promised to provide for his people. Psa.23.

BODY

- I. LESSON OF MARRIAGE IS ONE GREATLY NEEDED.
 - A. In our do-as-you-please world man has failed to recognize the Bible as the final authority in all moral and religious decisions.
 - 1. Many families are started today on the try-to-see-if-it-works basis.
 - 2. 3 years ago there were over 2 million marriages in the U.S. In the same year there were also over 1 million divorces. There are many staying together. Many who divorce have been divorced 2, 3 or more times.

SONG OF SOLOMON CONT

- B. No matter what would arise the devotion to each other of this books would work it out.
- C. The successful marriage has committed partners and they realize that divorce is not a possible solution.
- D. The successful marriage has a union of personalities. Both can be happy and feel pain with the other. Times of joy are greater with our mate and times of sorrow are cushioned with them. 3:1 Probably a dream; Whether sleeping or waking we ought to think of our beloved.
 - 1. Abraham and Sarah realized the importance of basing the married life on God. Heb.11:8-10.
 - 2. Sarah and Abraham had a marriage that depicted the devoted life which Song of Solomon teaches, "shoulder to shoulder."
- E. All need the lesson: Young and Old. Marriage is entered with love and devotion.

-Living Messages of books
of the O.T. James H. Laws
pgs.241-247

II. LOVE WHICH GOD AND CHRIST HAVE FOR THE CHURCH.

- A. The church is described in more vivid terms than any other Biblical subject, body of Christ. Eph.1:22,23, church of living God I Tim.3:15, church of the first-born Heb.12:23, but perhaps the most meaningful for us in this lesson is the picture of the church as the bride of Christ.
 - 1. Again and again we have expressed the love between a bridegroom (Christ) and his bride. Matt.9:15 Jno.3:29, Eph.5:32, Rev.21:9, Rev.19:7. NOTE HOW AN ORIENTAL MARRIAGE FITS OUR RELATIONS TO CHRIST AS HIS CHURCH (BRIDE).
 - a. First the betrothal: This was considered more binding than an engagement today. The terms of marriage are accepted in the presence of witnesses and God's blessings pronounced on union. From this day groom and bride are legally husband and wife. 2 Cor.11:2.
 - b. Interval: between betrothal and the wedding-feast. During this time the groom pays the dowry to the father of his bride if this has not yet been done. Gen.34:12. Then the bride prepares and adorns herself. The groom arrayed in best attire accompanied by his friends who sing and bear torches proceeds to home of the betrothed. He receives the bride and conveys her, with a returning procession to his own house or to home of parents. Matt.9:15.
 - c. Finally, the wedding-feast including the marriage supper. The usual feast lasted seven days or at times twice 7 days. Matt.22:1ff.

*We now live in that interval; The bride must now make herself ready. At the end of this dispensation the bridegroom

SONG OF SOLOMON CON'T

accompanied by angels of glory, Matt.25:31, comes to receive his bride, the church. Now the wedding feast begins and it lasts not two weeks but eternally. (IN CHRIST THE BRIDE WAS CHOSEN FROM ETERNITY. THROUGH THE ENTIRE OLD TESTAMENT THE WEDDING WAS ANNOUNCED THEN THE SONG OF GOD ASSUMED OUR FLESH AND BLOOD : THE BETROTHAL TOOK PLACE. THE PRICE(DOWRY) WAS PAID ON CALVARY: AND NOW AFTER AN INTERVAL THE BRIDEGROOM WILL RETURN.

- B. Union of Christ and Church so close can't accept one without the other. By immersion in water unto remission of sins, man is added to the body of Christ. Eph.5:30, Rom.6:4-5. To persecute the Church is to persecute Christ just as much as when my wife suffers I suffer.

"More Than Conquerors"

William Hendriksen

pgs.215ff

CONCL

1. Book of Solomon in not guilty of Asceticism, that is looking at one's marriage partner as a god or goddess, incapable of mistake nor does it to to opposity extreme by looking at love totally sensuous or erotic affair. (Examination of poetry from same era shows that poets of ancient near east did not have erotic connotation about sexual references as today.

VERSE TO STUDY

- 1:2 true love so precious and tasteful.
1:5 Black(spiritually sins) woman speaking of self-vs.6 cause she worked outside.
2:1 Best roses grew.
2:2 Church among thorns
2:4 Banner over me was love. She did not properly belong is such a place. the banner over her was a covering of the shaft(piece of cloth fastened to staff)
2:15 Foxes spoil vines. Revmove everything (rendered harmless) that would disturb the peace of this love. The foxes would destroy the vineyards by holes and passages they made in ground and thus loosened the soil.
4:7 no spot in thee-Without blemish. Eph.5:27.
5:16 My beloved and my friend.
6:1 gone to ga rden; knows what he likes; Also knows where he is. Eccl.2:5 Solomon's gardens
6:9 None other like church
6:10 Not my own, but his, so is church.
8:6 Christ's death ;Love equal to death; Love seized men with irresistable force like death.
8:7 Love not quenched. No heaping up of adverse circumstances can extinguish true love.
8:14 leave together; arm in arm; enjoy fields of spices.

LESSONS FROM ISAIAH

INTRO. OUTLINE

- I. JUDGMENT FROM GOD. 1-39
- II. COMFORT FROM GOD. 40-66
 - Expanded outline of Isaiah.
 - I. JUDGMENT FROM GOD. 1-39
 - A. Prophecies concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 1-12
 - B. Prophecies concerning foreign nations. 13-23
 - C. Judgments upon the nations. 24-27
 - D. A book of woes. 28-35
 - E. A historical section. 36-39
 - II. COMFORT FROM GOD. 40-66
 - A. Deliverance from Babylonian captivity. 40-48
 - B. Jehovah's suffering servant. 49-57
 - C. The glory of the Messianic Age. 58-66

Information for introduction.

1. Prophets name means "Jehovah is slava~~tion~~ation".. This also serves as the theme of the book. 17:10, 25:9 63:16
2. Isaiah, son of Amoz 1:1, lived in Jerusalem with his prophetess wife and at least 2 sons 7:3; 8:3. He prophesied during reign of at least 4 kings and his prophesying covered a period of 40-60 years.
3. Basic Message: An urging of Judah to return to Jehovah. The northern kingdom (Israel) had already gone deeply into apostasy, and will fall to Assyria 721 B.C. The southern kingdom (Judah) is sandwiched between two pagan political forces, ascending Assyria to the northeast and declining Egypt to the southwest. In the shadows of these two looming powers, Judah was inclined to form alliances for protection. They desperately needed to learn however that "Jehovah is slava~~tion~~ation," protection derives from Him. Prophet also sweeps across the centureis and reveals that ultimate deliverance is to come through the Messiah, through whom all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Isa. 40:5, Lk.3:6 and Acts 4:12
4. Isaiah places strong emphasis on the fact that Jehovah is the only "Holy One of Israel " (Expression is used some 25 times in the book, and Jehovah sends judgment 52 times in the book, comfort is used 18 times in the book) each depending on how the prople respond to Him.
5. Same number of chapter in book of Isaiah as there at books in the Bible.
6. Work of prophet :Not just predictive. A prophet was the mouthpiece of Jehovah. He would deliver divine message. Prophecy is instruction--It included instruction, rebuke, desolation, deliverance, coming Redeemer.
7. Isaiah was the first of the Major prophets.
8. Prophet urged that coming events were predicted on their continued sinful condition.
9. Messianic prophet-Prophet of Redemption. At beginning of prophecy announced divine and human nature of our Lord 7:14 and his human decent. 11:1.

10. It is the gospel in Isa. that Philip interpreted to the eunuch in terms of Jesus. Acts 8:32-33
11. Isaiah had to denounce the sins of the time: Emptiness of religious formality, deadness in religion; Note 1:13 "Bring no more vain oblations: incense is an abomination to me."
12. More quotations from Isa. in N.T. than any other book. 308 quotes or references.

BODY

- I. VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST 7:14
 - A. In an age of skepticism and doubt it is grand to know of the great miracle involved in the birth of Christ.
 - B. Divine commentary on this passage. Matt.1:23
- II. THE NATURE OF CHRIST.
 - A. Many are the glorious glimpses of the Christ.
 1. Rejection of the divine Christ as a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence. Isa.8:13, 14 I Pet. 2:8.
 2. Jesus as Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace and heir to David's throne Isa.9:6 and Lk.1:32.
 3. Messiah and His benevolent and universal reign during the Christian age. Isa.11:1-10, Rom.15:12.
 4. Christ is the precious, tried cornerstone that is to be laid in Zion. Isa.28:16 Rom.9:23
 5. The Master's compassionate and just ministry. Isa.42:1-4 Matt.12:18-21.
 6. Atoning work of Jehovah's suffering Servant. Isa. 53:1-12, Acts 8:32-35
- II. THE MESSIANIC AGE.
 - A. Many have used figurative language in the book of Isaiah and taken it as literal and thus look for an age of gull peace on the earth. They thus look for a kingdom to be set up on earth and for Christ to rule and reign.
 - B. One particular problem passage is Isa.11. Dispensationalists, view the coming millenium with a deliverance of earth's present curse, Even the animals will live together in peace "the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid..." 11:6ff.
 - C. There is no hint of the mythical earthly millennium.
 1. The first 5 verses are a prophetic pictorial of the coming of Christ, the branch of Jesse. vs.6-9 contain a beautiful but symbolic description of the peaceful atmosphere that would characterize the kingdom of Christ, further described as a "holy mountain" 11:9 Dan.2:35.44
 2. To literalize the languages is to make it absurd. In order for this to be literally true God would have to re-design the animal kingdom.

3. The passage obviously has a spiritual thrust as evidenced by the fact that vs.10 is quoted by Paul in Rom.15:12 and shown to be applicable to the reception of the Gentile nations into the church.

Wayne Jackson; Living Messages of the Books of the Old Testament. pgs.248-258

VERSES TO STUDY

1:2-3 Don't know God.
 1:6 condition of people.
 1:11ff Religion a form.
 1:18-19 Willing and obedient.
 2:2-3 prophecy about church.
 2:8-9 open sin.
 3:16ff no godly women
 5:1-7 parable of vineyard.
 6:8 Here am I, send me.
 9:17 Hypocrisy-not new.
 11:11 God just to All
 10:20-23 Deny Premillennialism
 11 Reign of Christ
 11:2 Spirit of Lord-Dove
 13:19-22 Desolation of Babyon
 17:7-8 Eyes respect Jehovah
 28:10 Precept upon precept.
 28:20 Bed too short; covering too narrow
 30:10ff speak smooth things.
 32:2 song-rock in a weary land.
 35:3ff Sound likework of Jesus
 35:8 a way-an highway
 38:1 set house in order
 38:18-19 Living praise to God.
 40:8 word abide forever
 40:22 circle of earth.
 41:10 Fear not
 45:9 Can't strive with maker
 50:6 punishment of Christ
 52:7 Preachers received
 55:8-9 my thoughts not your thoughts
 59:1-2 iniquities separate us from God.

LESSON FROM JEREMIAH

OUTLINE:

- I. Jeremiah's Call; Judah's idolatry condemned. 1-3
- II. Evil heart condemned. 4-6
- III. Remaining chapter of the roll of Baruch: chapter 7 containing the famous Temple Discourse; chap.8-10, additional prophecies of Jeremiah which were included in the roll when it was rewritten. Chap.45 is held by some to have been a subscript of Baruch at the end of chap.1-7, 7-10, 45.
- IV. Even Moses and Samuel cannot avert Judah's approaching doom 11-17
- V. Miscellaneous prophecies pertaining to different periods (Chapters 25,26 and 35,36 pertain to the early period of the reign of Jerhoakim. Messiah's coming predicted, chap. 23, the Seventy years of Judah's Restoration, chap.30,31; the New Covenant 31:18-36)
- VI. Interesting and consecutive account of Jeremiah's activities and experiences during the last part of Jerusalem's siege and thereafter. 37-44
- VII. Against the Nations, Oracles. 46-51
- VIII. Historical Appendix. 52 cf. 2 Kgs.25

Bible Survey:

Hendriksen, pg.274

- ** Matt.16:14 Here is a compliment to both Jesus and Jere
Jeremiah possibly one of the greatest preachers who ever
lived.

INTRO.

1. THEME: SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD: I mean that God's will will be done. Jer.10:23
2. Time in which Jeremiah prophesied: He taught for about 40 years. His reign began under the leadership of Josiah (good King of the reform) but then continued through 4 wicked kings (Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah.) Both prophet and king were relatively young and the work for them was extremely difficult. Josiah met his untimely death in battle. Thus God's people continue to rebel against him. The young weeping prophet left to carry out his great task for God. Jer.1:9-10
3. Under the secondary theme of Judgment and Love-Backsliding 18:6-10
4. Jeremiah believed in the sovereignty of God- Words echoed in other passages I believe fully express the confidence of Jeremiah.
Psa.33:9 "For he spake, and it was done: he commanded and it stood fast."
Psa.46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."
Psa.24:1 "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein."
Prov.15:3 The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." comfort to saints and terror to sinner..

Jas.4:15 "For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live and do this or that."

Heb.6:18a "That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie..."

Job.13:15 "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him; but I will maintain mine own ways before him."

Hab.2:20 "But the Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him." He prophesied under similar circumstances; Message is quit talking to idols, hush up and listen to God.

5. Jeremiah's own view of God explained in book. 16:19 and 29:13
6. Gen.18:25b "Shall not the judge of all the earth do right? Many Christians have problems willy believing in the sovereignty of God. Want to believe as long as it doesn't conflict with them. Note chap.7,11,14-God told Jeremiah not to pray for people.
7. Might sum up Jeremiah's attitude by a passage from Psalmist: Psa.27:1 "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life: of whom shall I be afraid?"

BODY

- I. BONDAGE OF SIN. Best described 3:25 and Note 6:16 (need a double dose in our day.)
 - A. People committed 2 evils; ALL SINNERS DO TODAY.
 1. 2:13 Leave God and do what they want. vs.11
 2. Sin of Judah written with indelible pen. 7:1
 3. 7:9 got what they deserved.
 4. Prophet taught wrong, priest practiced it and people loved it. 6:13 and 5:31
 - B. Sanctuary had become their cemetery. 6:30-7:4. As long as we have temple, we have God. How many today think as long as they go to service they are really faithful?
- II. DEVOTED PROPHET HIMSELF:
 - A. Wasn't hired so couldn't be fired; Not preaching for money. Had he been he would have quit long before his death. Many today quit when someone gets a little sore at them. Don't quit God whether preacher or member.
 1. Note 20:9 "Then I said, I will not make mention of him nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay." The priest had slapped him and he thought he'd quit preaching, but he couldn't.
 2. Not a patriot. Some so loyal and zealous to church and Christ as they are to nation and politics we could preach gospel to the world. His own wanted to kill him. They said he had turned on them
WHY: 25:9 God's servant to punish; So they wanted to kill him. 26:8

3. Micah who had lived 100 years before saved his life; the Elders said Micah preached the same thing and we praised him and we want to kill Jeremiah.
4. Other prophets.(lied) 27:9ff Cf. 28:10-11
- B. Does something in chapter 32 that is on par with Abraham by faith offering Isaac and Jacob telling them to take his bones to Canaan. He buys a field in country of Benjamin. All are captive, What use will it be? God will let them return after awhile: There is Jeremiah's FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO WHAT HE SAYS.
- C. Whether Josiah the faithful king or in some old miry pit with snakes, spiders and snails Jeremiah still believed and trusted God's word to come true.

III. POWER OF GOD'S WORD.

- A. Jer.8:9 People just aren't smart even if they do know a lot about things. Wisest of men may be fools before God.
- B. Jer.31:22ff Promise of Christ and covenant.
- C. Note effect of word: Offended many; How can convict man of sin if he doesn't feel worse after hearing the word of God. Christ preached perfect and they killed him.
- D. Can't destroy the Bible with Knife or Fire. That is what Jehuda tried. 36:23

CONCL

1. Need to let the words of Paul ring loud in our ears:
Acts 27:25 "Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me."
2. In times of change whether for us or for Jeremiah one thing remains steadfast; God's word of promises.
Time is filled with swift transition
Naught of earth unmoved can stand
Build your hopes on things eternal,
Hold to God's unchanging hand.
Trust in Him who will not leave you,
Whatsoever years may bring
If by earthly friends forsaken
Still more closely to Him cling."

"Living Messages of
Books of the O.T."
Johnny Ramsey;
pg.263-278

Jer.21:8 Way of life and way of death
 Imp. Verse to Note in your study
 1:5 born-Sanctified before birth
 1:7 say not "I am a child"
 1:10 work of a prophet
 1:14 north-Babylon
 2:2 kindness of youth (strong while young 3:4)
 2:5ff esp.vs.8 things that were s in
 2:22 sin not washed with soap.
 2:32 bride forget attire; forget what kind of dress she wore
 3:14ff described coming church.
 4:22 wise to do evil
 5:31 people love to have it so.-
 6:14 Cry peace, where there is none.
 7:4 lying words.
 7:5-7 change life.
 8:10 do evil
 8:12 not blush
 8:20 harvest is past: judah had their chance-missed it.
 9:1-2 Lamentation of Jerusalem.
 9:14 taught by father.
 A 13:1ffgirdle-people good for nothing vs.10
 15:1 godly men not change God's plan; If present only could
 save themselves.
 17:7 Blessed if trust in Lord.
 18:1-10 Potter and clay. God's absolute power in destroying
 nations. Judah would not yield as clay; God broke them.
 21:8 Way of life and death.
 22:30 David's throne not prosper; Deny premillennialism.
 23:23 God close and far.
 29:13 Find God, if seek with all heart.
 39:1ff All book lead to destruction. Here it is.
 42:2,3,5 Promisd of remnant.
 43:2 Practice of remnant. 44:16-17
 48:10 Cursed if do Lord's work negligently.
 51:5 Israel not forsaken.

INTRODUCTION

1. The first 4 chapters of the book are acrostic; Note each chapter, except chapter 3 has 22 verses. The first verse begins with the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. In chapter 3 the first 3 verses begin with the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. One would think that this would cramp the writers style, yet there is no indication that this was the case.
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
2. Writer: Jeremiah-eyewitness.
3. This book suggests grief, sorrow lament and anguish. It is a book of poems, fine laments. It has been rightfully said that this is a "masterpiece of anguish". It is a group of funeral hymns composed shortly after the fall of Jerusalem. So we have the cry over the fall of the nation of God.
4. TITLE: GOD'S FAITHFULNESS. 3:22-23 Even in fall God is still true.
5. OUTLINE:
 - I. SORROW AND SADNESS OVER FALL OF JERUSALEM AND JUDAH. 1:1-22
 - II. DESOLATION AND LAMENT OF JERUSALEM. 2:1-22
 - III. THE SUFFERING PROPHET AND THE GOD WHO NEVER SLEEPS. 3:1-66
 - IV. THE NEED FOR HELP. 4:1-22

BODY

- I. A VIVID DESCRIPTION OF THE DISHONOR THAT HAS BEFALLEN JERUSALEM..
 - A. What a deplorable condition; Jeremiah had pleaded and begged his people to change before it was too late and now it was too late.
 1. How pathetic to remember the glory of the city and now have to walk around in the ashes and ruin of the great city of God. This was so disgraceful.
 2. Ages of sin is death.
 - B. In all this sorrow Jerusalem has not one to comfort her.
 1. She is a ghost town.
 2. 1:12 "Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?" Greatest problem in church "Indifference". Many dying lost.
 3. Such a cry for sympathy. How indifferent the world seems to our problems. Folks just really don't care much anymore.
 4. the same human need exists; CRAVING FOR SYMPATHY. I Cor. 12:25
 5. Jeremiah's heart made so low over conditions of people; Such should be true of God's leaders today.
 - C. Chapter 1:21 READ: The enemies were glad the Lord did it. If you fail as a Christian you will certainly make a lot of sinners happy. "I knew he wouldn't make it. I'm just as good as they are." Church fail; Knew it wouldn't make it. Chapter 2:15 and 3:14; 3:45.
 - D. 1:1 Like a widow; None to care for her.
- II. FORGOT TO RETAIN GOD IN HEARTS AND LIVES: SO WRATH OF GOD.
 - A. They begin to look at God as their enemy. Let us remember that God is no one to overlook sin. God will not leave man to his own devices. We provoke the anger of God when we trespass His will.
 - B. We have national as well as individual responsibilities. The prophets held up coming doom before people but it went unheeded.
 - C. Often think that because punishment is deferred, sin is forgotten. NOT TRUE. Forgiveness takes place in mind of God. Heb. 8:12. God never forgets, unless we confess and do his will.
 - D. Even cast down the sacred things. God had rejected their worship for it was no longer sincere. King and priest were rejected. 2:6
 - E. No man could heal them. 2:14-16

III. POUR OUT HEART UNTO GOD FOR HIS PEOPLE. LIGHT OF SORROW. CHAPTER 3

- A. We can feel in a sense with Jeremiah. He knew suffering at its hardest points. "We do not know life until we have felt pain."
- B. Suffering can open one's eyes to facts of life and break up many idle dreams.
 1. This unnamed suffered of the Lamentations seems to foreshadow the unique distress of the Man of Sorrows; Christ.
 2. 3:7 READ. Reminds us of Job; Satan said God had hedged him about. Job 1:2, 9-10 Job was perfect. There are some divine hedges; These are not pushed on us.
 1. Bible. Keeps us from harm and hurt. Job 10:28-29
 2. Church; divine hedge; Salvation.
 3. Brethren; Use each other for encouragement.
- C. Suffering is not all bad. Good can come from sorrow. 3:22-23 We learn God better. Self better. Mellow heart, teaches kindness, courage, meaning of life.
- D. Though he is in distress he is not dismayed. He is not ready to give up. 3:24 That hope these early Christians had who faced whatever came their way and handled it with a trust in God as the anchor of their soul. We need that kind of hope revived in the church today. Being a Christian gives zeal and freshness to life by supplying it with abundant work.
- E. God has said to Jeremiah "Fear not" 3:57

IV. SIN CONSEQUENCES: LURED OF LURE.

- A. SIN was the problem with them. Heb. 2:1 Take heed.
- B. Little by little allowed sin to overcome them. Note 1:8; 3:42; 5:16
- C. Sin is like a rattlesnake; we ought not want it around and do all we can to get rid of it.
- D. The sin of yesteryear is just as fresh in the mind of God as if it happened today. God does not forget. To have things like they used to be; 5:21 While in youth, Pure.
- E. Leaders had sinned. 4:12-14 So engrossed in things (not know how to lead). Not only inhabitants of land of Canaan (that was important) but they also had the oracles of God. Tit. 1:9 I Cor. 16:15 One must be devoted, addicted to service of God. We've got enough dope addicts we need some addicts for God.

V. PRAYER UNTO GOD FOR PEOPLE. Chapter 5. (POWER OF PRAYER-PRIVILEGE)

- A. The people had learned on Egypt and Assyria 5:6 and finally had learned what a weak crutch they were. In verses 1-7 supplication and petitions are made regarding the great distress the Jews were in.
- B. A further description of the anguish is seen in the fact that the servants rule them, rather than they ruling the servants. God warned. Deut. 28:48
- C. He wanted it so much to be like it was in the former times. 5:21
- D. It can never be as of old until the ways of old are restored. Trust and obedience to God.
- E. Realized too late that we must serve God. -Living Messages of books of the O.T. William Wilder

Verses To Study

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1:5 Reason-Deserve it. | 2:14 prophets see vain and foolish things. |
| 1:7 days of old | 2:18 apple of eye |
| 1:13,14,15 Lord did it. Punish | 2:22 completeness of God's wrath: none escape |
| 1:18 Lord is righteous | 2:24 Hope and wait; good |
| 2:7 enemies making a noise in house of Lord. We don't use right. Something could be taken away. | 3:48-49 Jeremiah weeps continually |
| | 4:5-6, 10 utter suffering. |
| | 5:2 inheritance to strangers. |

OUTLINE

- CHAPTERS 1-24 Destruction Jerusalem-Preparation of exiles for destruction.
CHAPTERS 25-32 Depicts sins of Paganistic cities and nations (Their destruction).
CHAPTERS 33-48 Future hope of God's people-Israel (Rebuilding of temple desc.)

Introduction

1. Ezekiel is known as one of the major prophets, sharing this title with Isaiah, Jeremiah and Daniel. He contemporary with Jeremiah and Daniel.
 2. Ezekiel's name means God will strengthen. Not only did he receive a wonderful name but by a good life added a measure of luster to that good name.
 3. PROPHET, PERIOD AND PROPHECY.
 - A. Prophet: At an early age he was taken into Babylonian captivity. Ezekiel was in the second group that was carried into captivity about 597 B.C. So both Daniel and Ezekiel prophesied during the Captivity or the Exile period. Ezekiel was the prophet to the Hebrew exiles, while Danile was God's appointed spokesman to royalty. He prophesied for about 20-22 years. He received his call about 5 years after going into captivity. His early days were spent in the dark and dismal days of dying Judah. Maybe influenced by Jeremiah. He was a Hebrew boy by birth, a Levite by tribe and a priest by earlier profession. He was a man that stood tall; He was made and molded by his time, yet I believe that Ezekiel would have been faithful in any age. I believe had he lived with Snock there would have been two who walked with God. Same as with Noah, Moses, David or the apostles. PROPHET DEF. Had been to the people and brings a gift to God. PROPHET DEF. Had been to God and bring a message to the people.
 - B. He was a married man; 24:16 She was taken quickly and God told Ezekiel to shed no tear nor exhibit any show of mourning for her. This was to be an object lesson to Israel.
 - C. He is called "the son of man" about 100 times in the book that bears his name. As a prophet looked intently and prophesied earnestly in regard to his people and the destruction soon to be visited upon Jerusalem. He also painted a desperately needed picture of hope for the hard pressed captives.
- HE LOOKED THROUGH DAYS
1. Sins of own people
 2. Sins of evil cities and nations round about
 3. Future-Hope and comfort for his people.

HE WAS TRULY A LIVING PROPHET WITH A LIVING MESSAGE FOR A LIVING PEOPLE WHO NEEDED A LIVING HOPE FOR AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE.

THE PROPHETS AND THE APOSTLES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT RECEIVED EXACTLY WHAT THEY GAVE. DIDN'T CHANGE THE WORD IN ONE BIT.

BODY

THE-BASIC MESSAGE OF THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL AND HOW IT LIVES FOR US TODAY

I. THIS BOOK TALKS IN BOTH POSITIVES AND NEGATIVES.

- A. Many do not believe that we ought to use any negative preaching; They would not have been happy with the mosaic economy: 61-62 of it is negative. Then Paul admonished Timothy 2Tim. 4:2 reprove, rebuke exhort; twice as much negative as positive.

3

II. NO PAYDAY FOR SIN DEFUTED.

- A. Men since Eden have lived like there was no payday. This was the continual story of Israel. God did show Israel through Babylonians that there is a pay day. Ezek.18:20 "soul that sinneth, it shall die."

- B. Even the spiritual leaders of the people could not escape the payday.
Ezek. 14:8, 10.
- C. The New Testament teaches that the final wages of sin is spiritual death.
Rom. 3:9, 23; 6:23.

I

III. CALVINISM REJECTED: T U L I F

- A. Total hereditary depravity-Head zek. 18:20XXX Adam was not born in sin or born a sinner, he became a sinner.
- B. Unconditional Predestination; zek. 18:24-27 Shows that the righteous person can become wicked and the wicked person can become righteous.
- C. Limited atonement; All who would comply with God's will would receive blessings.
- D. Irresistible grace; God make the offer but none were made to take it.
What better time could God have done it if that was the plan.
- E. Perseverance of the saints. Many of these saints lost their lives.

IV. PREMILLENNIALISM REJECTED

- A. The very fact that Ezekiel and the Hebrew people were taken captive from Palentine is proof that Israel once inhabited the land just as Joshus said they did. Josh. 21:43-45. Josh. 23. Ezekeil prophesied of their return WHILE they were in the Exile not AFTER it ended. Ez. 20:33ff
 - 1. Vision of the dry bones was God's proof of their restoration. 37:1ff
 - 2. Also return as one nation; 37:16-17 Two sticks-one for Judah and one for Israel became one in the prophets hand. This promise did not have to wait till 1946 or 1970's but at the end of the 70 years of captivity. The twin books of Ezra (return) and Nehemiah (rebuild) prove that the Restoration promise was fulfilled. Premillennialists think it is future. See what happens when we don't study it all in context. Proof; Never two kingdoms spoken of in New Testament.

V. INFIDELITY REJECTED

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

- A. The book begins with the visions of God 1:1ff and the book closes with the quartet of words. "The Lord is there". Some reference as to this is the word of God or similar about 300 times in the book. This book one big or all truth.

VI. IDOLATRY REJECTED

- A. Entire history of Israel is plagued with idolatry.
 - 1. Jacob had to urge his family to put away. Gen. 35:1-4
 - 2. Aaron was pressed into a scene of idol worship while Moses in mountains.
 - 3. Joshua challenged his people to worship God and turn forever from all idolatry. Josh 24:15
 - 4. Samuel's early days as prophet saw problem. I Sam. 7:3-4
 - 5. Solomon fell victim to it. I Kings 11:4ff
- B. Primary reason they are in the shape we find them in Daniel. Ez. 6
- C. Ezek. 14 Find elders coming to God with their idols. Lord refused to acknowledge such men. Evidently they thought that God would not destroy Israel because of the righteous. Even if Daniel, Job and Noah were present they only would be saved and not you. 14:14

VII. DEISM REJECTED: Set the world in motion and went off and forgot it.

- A. Ezek. 8:12 and 9:9
- B. God would not have sent into exile if cared nothing of them, or sent a prophet of exhortation and seer of hope if not interested. Not any promise of a Restoration and better days if Deism was true.

- A. Ez. 2:3ff Hard-hearted, cold and rebellious people.
- B. Ezekiel was to preach so powerfully and forcefully that the people would know that a prophet had been among them. 2:5

IX. PAGAN NATIONS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN REPUTED.

- A. In about 8 chapters God's eye of vengeance is on Ammon, Moab, Seir, Tyrus, Philistia, Sidon, Assyria, and Egypt.
- B. Here is God's wrath.

POSITIVE TRUTHS TAUGHT

I. THE ESTIMATION OF THE SCRIPTURES.

- A. On an average of more than six times per chapter there is some reference made to the word of the Lord, thus saith the Lord.
- B. Could this have survived more than 2500 years if it rested upon a foundation of falsehood.

II. THE IMPORTANCE OF PREACHING

- A. Preaching may have been "OUT" for Israel but it was not out with God.
- B. God didn't use hunches, intimations, feelings or a direct operation of the Holy Spirit to convey such. He sent them a preacher and what a preacher. Don't get discouraged. 2:6-7; 3:7; valley of dry bones; 37:3, 10
- C. He went against all kind of terrible odds. He ought to take courage when we carry out our task of teaching the word.

III. GOD'S CHARACTER IN PERFECT BALANCE.

- A. Ezek. 12:22-26
- B. Rom. 11:22 sets forth the goodness and severity of God.
- C. More allusions in Bible to God's wrath and to His love.
- D. Twice as much in this book or more.

IV. GLORY OF GOD

- A. Opening chapters with vision of Ezekiel of the four cherubin and the four wheels and the closing chapters with the ideal temple portrayed and these great blessings God had in store for his people set forth the glory of God.

V. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Ez. 14:14 Mention of Daniel, Job and Noah.
- Ez. 9:4 Some who still know how to do right.

VI. RESPECT FOR GOD'S WORD.

- A. Unlike prophets of Israel 13:2-3
- B. He had a deep respect for the word of the Lord. He spoke when God said speak listened to God and did not weep when God said not to. 24:16ff

VII. GIVE HEED TO THE MATHAI

- Ez. 3:17-21

VIII. NEEDED A NEW HEART

- Ez. 11:19-20 Ez. 18:31-32

IX. EXAMPLE IS SUCH A GREAT FORCE. Ez. 16:44

- A. Special attention to Chapter 23; Samaria and Israel (Jerusalem).
- B. If this influence is so true of Jerusalem with her Hittite mother how much more it is true in physical home. Ex. Herodia and Salome or Eunice and Lois.
-Living Messages of books
of the O.T. Robery R. Taylor
pgs.289-305

INTRODUCTION

1. More miracles in Daniel than other prophetic books.
2. The Israelites had failed to spread the light to Gentiles and God uses Daniel and 3 Hebrew children to spread light to all, then God could judge them all.
3. Daniel was the prophet of the Babylonian and Persian courts. He prophesied to royalty. Whereas Ezekiel prophesied to the people.
4. NOTE LESSON OF BOOK: The most high ruleth in kingdoms of men. Babylon's gods are not greater. God is over all. Nebuchadnezzar would acknowledge that fact. The miracles prove the God of Israel is only true God. 4:17, 25, 32
5. Note prophecy in Isa. 39:1-7 It was approximately 100 years later when the prophecy came true.
6. Background of Isa. 39:1-7 Hezekiah (712 B.C.) king of Judah, the third of the 4 royal kings of Judah was in the 14th year of his reign. He had just recovered from a grave illness. The cause was the "pride of his heart" in allowing neighboring nations to bear gifts to Jerusalem for him in recognition of the divine interposition of His God at which time the Angel of Jehovah went through the camp of the Assyrians and slew 185,000 of the men of valor, the leader and captains. Meanwhile Sennacherib, king of Assyria, was distressed and humiliated so he returned to his capital at Nineveh. He thus sends to Jerusalem to find out about "wonders of the land" under the pretense of knowing of Hezekiah's health. Hezekiah was very flattered to receive such attention from one of such prominence. He treated the Ambassadors royally and showed them all. Isa. 39:2 Isaiah the long time preacher and prophet for kings appeared immediately upon their leaving to find out what happened. Pronounces the curse to follow that is fulfilled in Daniel and 3 Hebrew children. Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego 100 years pass and the new and first king of Babylon moved against Jerusalem and took with him they that skillful, Dan. 1:4 They were made eunuchs. These were direct descendants of Hezekiah.
7. Consider the background of these boys: Daniel and the 3 seem to abide in words of psalmists; Isa. 119:9 "herewith shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to the word." Permissiveness and sin all the way from David to them had characterized their forefathers. Even down to the permissiveness of Josiah's royal sons. Remember now that Josiah was a good king. At height of Josiah's reign he was killed. He had three sons: Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim and finally Zedekiah. It was during the reign of Jehoiakim that the first seize was made on Jerusalem and young men taken. There would be 2 more seizes and finally destruction of temple and entire city and carried all except the poorest of land in captivity.
8. How we account of their goodness in midst of all the evil. It is highly probable that Josiah's righteous influence had not failed, with all of those who made up the family of the house royal. These young men had been raised under the hand of some God-fearing person. These young men were from 17-23 years of age. They were made eunuchs and placed in a 3 year study. At end of period they would serve the king.
9. God had warned his people day and night by mouth of prophet but they would not heed. He determined for them a "furnace of affliction" Jer. 1:3, Isa. 30:20 Isa. 48:10 These young men particularly went in at first of captivity to help prepare way for Jews and their final release.
10. Character of boys: Joseph only other we can think of with such strength. Joseph promoted to honor: as was Daniel 2:48
 - A. Refused king's dainties: may have been forbidden; Lev. 11, Deut. 1:4 They were uprooted but still faithful. See 9:23 Great example of faith and character in time of temptation.

- B. The fiery furnace; Chap 3:16-17 They were so conspicuous. Did not bow.
 C. The lion's den. Same Christians ask why risk life for a month: Catch up on praying. Chap 6 He was a man of prayer and the other prince knew that. Note 6:5 They had to violate God's desire in order to get Daniel to deny civil authority. It seems that Darius must have assumed that Daniel agreed with them move. We see that he is much disturbed when he discovers what is about to happen. Note Darius' statement. 6:26ff Psa.55:17-evening, morning, noon.

OUTLINE

- I. INTRODUCTORY OR DANIEL'S PERSONAL HISTORY CHAP.1
- II. HISTORICAL SECTION 2-6
- III. APOCALYPTIC SECTION. 7-12

BODY

- I. NEBUCHADREZZAR'S DREAM. Couldn't find anyone to tell him the meaning of dream. Send out decree to kill all wise men. Upon hearing that Daniel asked for a hearing before the king. When doing a work good to ask prayers for others. 2:18 God was in charge. 2:28, 47 THIS GREAT IMAGE: UNDERSTANDING EACH EMPIRE AND ITS CONTRIBUTION.
 - A. Head; fine gold Babylonian Empire; The chief contribution is made to the Jews was the Jewish synagogue. This would affect worship in New Testament. These became prevalent throughout the entire Roman world and these were used as stepping stones to preaching in the first century.
 - B. Breast and arms of silver: Medo-Persian; The chief contribution of this world empire was the principle of law and order. See 6:12 This passed on to succeeding ruling powers. This would certainly be of benefit in the coming kingdom.
 - C. belly of brass; Grecian Empire: Chief contribution was Greek language. Wherever they went (Alexander the Great) he infused the language to the people. Thus a language for the New Testament with sufficient versatility for fine spiritual distinction in wording.
 - D. legs of iron, its feet apart of iron and part of clay. This represented the Roman Empire. Contributions of this world empire
 1. Contributions made by 3 prior world empire, synagogue, law and order, Greek language.
 2. an empire of good roads and provinces without customs, thereby providing for freedom of travel and communication.
 3. Roman citizenship; Became a protectorate for infant church. Look at Paul as case in point.

We do note that the 4th empire would have some weaknesses as indicated by the two legs. So it was that the empire did suffer in internal struggle.
- II. 4 WORLD EMPIRES UNDER THE SYMBOLS OF 4 GREAT SEA MONSTERS.
 - A. In first year of Belshazzare, Daniel was given a revelation, with emphasis on final judgement on 4th beast. Note chap. 7
 - B. Note understanding of his vision.
 1. Lion with eagle's wings. This beast represented the Babylonian kingdom and eagle's wings represented the fast rise of that kingdom to world power.
 2. Bear raised up $\frac{1}{2}$ on one side: 3 ribs in its mouth Medo-Persian 3 ribs-mastery over Babylon, Lydia and Egypt.
 3. leopard with 4 wings on its back and 4 heads represents the Grecian empire and 4 wings represent its exceedingly fast rise to world power. Its four heads represent how that, at the death of Alexander the Great his kingdom was divided among his generals. The fourth was a diverse beast with iron teeth, nails of brass and ten horns. Roman empire.

There are differences in opinion as to this diverse beast and all its members. Its ten horns and then came up the eleventh horn which put down three of the 10 and then turned and made war with the saints. There seems to be appointed notice of 11 kings:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Pompey----- | A.D. 63 |
| Julius Caesar----- | 49-47 B.C. |
| Augustus Caesar----- | 27 B.C.-A.D. 14 |
| Tiberius Caesar----- | A.D. 14-37 |
| Caligula Caesar----- | A.D. 37-41 |
| Claudius Caesar----- | A.D. 41-54 |
| Nero Caesar----- | A.D. 54-68 |
| Vespasian----- | A.D. 68-70 |
| Titus----- | A.D. 70-81 |
| Domitian----- | A.D. 81-96 |

Pompey conquered Jerusalem, massacred thousands of Jewish, profaned the holy temple, reduced the territory of Judea and destroyed forever the Jews last vestige of national independence. Pompey then takes 11th place as ruler for being named emperor. He dispatched his Titus with an army of 20,000 to Jerusalem to put down once and for all the rebellious Jews. More than one million Jews were slaughtered and more than 100,000 were taken captive. Later, the Colosseum at Rome was built primarily by Jewish slaves. After some 300 years of suffering at hands of Roman rule we can summarize when Daniel said in 2:44 that the God of heaven would set up a kingdom which would break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, the prophecy had its fulfillment in the Christians who conquered by means of the blood of the martyrs and by the endurance of persecution without their denying themselves, or retaliating in kind. Further, when Daniel was told that the saints would possess the kingdom, the meaning was that the saints who make up the kingdom of God, the church, would possess the Roman Empire, not through physical might or through military power or through their overwhelming influence for righteousness upon the hearts of heathens. So our strength today is in our faith in God and Jesus, not in our political power or power of the sword.

1. Word of God of heaven by Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar, etc. 2:28, 2:37, 4:34-37
2. Can't compromise religion because in a high office: 3:6, 3:18, 17
3. Real character at first of Nebuchadnezzar. 5:13 Not a miracle: no smoke smell: 2:37
4. 4:27 Daniel wants his (Nebuchadnezzar) to do right.
5. Can't buy souls of Daniel: 5:17
6. "Ancient of Days" 7:18

-Living Messages of books
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pgs.306-322

OUTLINE

- I. Hosea and Gomer; Jehovah and Israel (Chap 1-3)
 - A. Hosea and Gomer 1:2-9; 3:1-3
 - B. Jehovah and Israel 1:10- 2:23; 3:4-5
- II. The Prophetic Discourses (chap 4-14)
 - A. The nation's guilt. chap 4.
 - B. Universal corruption and the inevitable judgements chap 5-8
 - C. Exiles and destruction; punishment for religious and moral apostasy chap 9-11.
 - D. Jehovah's love versus Israel's; ingratitude and faithlessness chap 11-13
 - E. The restoration of the divine favor. Glorious promise. (In the end Israel cries unto Jehovah and He hears their cry and responds by an outpouring of rich blessings upon them. chap 14

BASIC MESSAGE: HOS. 4:1-3 (Prophet of love) Through his own experience with an unfaithful wife, came to know heartbreak of God.

INTRODUCTION

1. Every age is an age to try men's souls.
2. A nation can become so corrupt that it can destroy itself. Unlike Amos, Hosea prophesied to own people

BODY

I. MESSAGE OF HOSEA.

- A. Has 3 distinct cycles.
 1. Pollution and it's cause.
 2. Pollution and it's punishment.
 3. Pollution and it's forgiveness.
- B. Man of God is instructed by God to take a wife named Gomer.
- C. She is unfaithful to her husband, he takes her back and she plays the harlot again.
 1. Children of this adulterous union;
 - a. Jezreel-vengeance---a son
 - b. Lo-ruhamah-uncompassioned---a daughter
 - c. Lo-ammi---not my people---a son.
- D. Hosea's tragedy with a faithless wife becomes a type of God's majestic, compassionate love for a backsliding Israel.
- E. One word sums up the teaching of Hosea; WHOREDOM: Used 16 times in the book.
- F. Hosea lived in the very darkest hours of Israel's history.
- G. Yet in all this tragedy there is comfort and consolation-God has a burning love for his creation.
- H. Hosea learned of God's agony over sin; true nature of sin and God's love love: OUR PAIN COMES VICTORY

II. HOSEA'S MESSAGE TO US TODAY.

- A. Inward Corruption of a Nation is more dangerous to her existence than her external enemies.
 1. Irov. 14:34 "Righteousness exalteth a nation."
 2. Moral corruption has filled every day living; Look at Reader's Digest;
 3. Hos. 4:1-3 God had a "lawsuit" with the inhabitants of the land.
 - a. Lord was not longer their bond.
 - b. Sanctity of home defiled. Let everything tear up home. *Note*
 - c. crime followed crime.
 4. All will be affected by their evil.
 5. James 4:4 "friendship of world, enmity with God."
 6. In our land the escalation of immorality, pornography and widely publicized rights of homosexuality, lesbians, ERA and etc. Use of Alcohol.

2 Kgs. 14-17

*Don't Ever
give up on
a marriage
God kept on
with his effort*

- B. Rapid Fall of a Nation Is Inevitable When Her Religious Leaders Become Corrupt
1. Hos, 4:6, 9 People do it. Preacher condemns social drinking, Adultery
 2. The greater blessed it seems the farther they left God.
 3. Priests fed on the sins of people
 4. The more the people sinned, the more numerous the sacrifice and the more numerous the sacrifice the greater the profit to the priests.
 5. We have merchants of religion; Capitalizing of the people who fall for the emotional gimmicks and clap-trap. Even some of our own giving uncertain sounds.
- C. Inevitable Penalty of Condoning Vices.
1. Israel pictures as a stubborn heifer, who refuses to hear God's word. 4:16, 4:17. 4:9, 4:11, 5:4-5. 5:10
 2. This kind of life reaps an inevitable harvest. 5:14-15
 3. Until now Israel's goodness is as a morning cloud and dew 6:4 doesn't last long
 4. Church is not free from permissiveness.
- D. God Still Loved Them 14:4-9

CONCLUSION: OUR TASK IS TO REBUKE SIN WHENEVER AND WHEREVER FOUND AND HELP PEOPLE SEE GOD'S LOVE EPH. 4:31-32.

-Living Messages of books
of the O.T. Andrew M.
Connally, pgs.323-328

OUTLINE

- I. Day of Jehovah's Judgement and Power (Call to repent) 2:17
 II. THE RESPONSE OF JEHOVAH: Jehovah speaks. (Destruction of enemies.) 2:18-3:32

INTRODUCTION

DICKSON BIBLE

1. We know nothing other than this about the prophet Joel. Of course, we are made aware very much of the type person he was based on this book. Study more about his type preaching later.
2. Length of book: 73 verses; Maybe we need to take note of the length of our sermons. Need to say what needs to be said and then quit.
3. Joel's name: Definition. "Jehovah is God". Reminds us of Psa. 90:2 "everlasting to everlasting thou are God." All the way back and all the way forward there is God.
4. Time of writing of book: About 850 B.C. Possible that he taught following the reign of Hezekiah (good king). His son took over having married the wife of Ahab and Jezebel and things grew increasingly worse. This is the type setting in which Joel preached.
5. The response of the people to his preaching: It seems they changed. People can't stay the same after hearing the gospel. Some are hardened, others go on in sin, and yet still others change. He had to call on people, preachers and priests to repent. In our day we need to do the same. People from every walk of life are turning their face from God (preachers, people, leaders, etc.)
6. The book begins in gloom, but ends with a bright and glorious hope. Out of terror of locusts, plague and judgement comes the anticipation of a future great and glorious.
7. BASIC MESSAGE: The doom of wicked nations and the ultimate glory of the Lord's cause. Sounds like book of Revelation.
8. This must be studied with emphasis on the "Day of the Lord". Occurs 5 times in the book. 1:15, 2:1, 2:11, 2:31, 3:14
9. Invasion of locusts was a warning and call to national repentance. Unless they change the locusts are only a forerunner of a greater judgement to follow.
10. Locusts flood country in a magnitude unparalleled in prior history. 1:2 The locusts plague must have been great indeed. The locusts eat almost everything in it's path.
11. "Day of the Lord" applied in 5 different situations.
 - a. day of temporal judgement.
 - b. day which leads men to repent and return to God.
 - c. day which contains great promises for the faithful.
 - d. day of Pentecost as described in 2:28-32 and interpreted by Peter in Acts 2:16-21.
 - e. Final day of judgement upon all humanity at end of time.
12. Just here let's notice some emphasis on day of "Pentecost". It was a day when gates of righteousness are opened to men. Lord becomes man's salvation. Lord became head of the corner.

From these desc latter writers draw their references Jesus 2nd of Joel in Mt 24:29 and John in Rev. 6:12-14

BODY (APPLIES TO CHURCH TODAY)

- I. The need in our time for real hard, clear preaching, that comes from the heart with its only motive being love for God and the lost. Joel was above all else a preacher.
 - A. Joel is not heartless, and pitiless. He cries to the Lord for his people 1:19
 - B. Isa. 60:10 reminds one of Joel "for in my wrath I smote thee, but in my favor have I had mercy on thee."
 - C. God's people couldn't pay their way out of sin (Simon the sorcerer) or claim family heritage (Jews tried to do with Abraham) but repent was the only answer. It will not do good to soothe the conscience of others if we don't get to the problem.

- II. The danger of mere external religion was clearly a problem.
- A. As long as outward is O.K. they felt that was sufficient. Daily living not tied to religion. Penitent heart results in changed life. Difference in walking an aisle and repenting. note 2:13. Had to have a changed heart
 - B. It should be of concern to us that we can offer our lips totally apart from our heart. Matt 22:36-40 Matt. 15:8-9 "IT IS A CONCERNING FEATURE WHEN IN OUR WORSHIP (OR BUSINESS MEETINGS) THAT WE SPEND MORE TIME BEING CONCERNED ABOUT SAVING TIME THAN WE ARE ABOUT SAVING SOULS. Rom. 6:17-18
- III. PRIDE AND HUMILITY mix like oil and water; They don't. Psa. 51:17 God wants tender hearts and teachable hearts.
- (IV) Sins associated with luxury and intemperance had to be confronted. Before devastation struck land like garden of eden 2:3 The Lord had to take away all blessings before they could see their sin and need of God.
- A. Every problem today in the church stems from a spiritual problem. worldliness, false teaching, compromise. It
 - B. It may be that we too will have to lose it before we see.
- V. Since Joel is known as "Prophet of Pentecost" note something about it. The church doesn't spend as much time in Acts as it ought or as it once did. We must have the basic principle sermons. Whether radio, T.V. pulpits or preaching must be distinctive. Thank God for our enlightened age.
- VI. JOEL is a book that deals largely with judgement; judgement by God in time and at the end of time upon sin and sinners. 2:11 "Who can abide it?" We ought never complain; Ask God to help, not remove.
- A. Isa. 26:9 "When thy judgements are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness."
 - B. Many think the judgement is not near or altogether impossible. Note Eccl. 8:11 "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil."
 - C. The church of Christ in America has not known the judgement of God. We do not seem to realize that our nation too could fall. Acts 17:28.
 - D. Let us acknowledge God's goodness: It is not luck when things go right. God often blamed for things he didn't do and left our things he does.

VERSES TO NOTE

- 1:3 Need to pass on to others.
- 1:4 Lose more and more.
- 1:12 Land desolate because joy is withered from sons of men.
- 1:14 Get together and pray.
- 1:15 Theme alas for the day. 2:1 2:11
- 2:13-14 God wants inward more than torn clothes. God is patient.
- 2:17 Note what we do affects others. 2:25 God's army.
- 2:28ff prophetic (Church) 3:14 valley of decision.

-Living Messages of books
of the O.T. Pat McGee
pgs. 329-337
(Poem included)

OUTLINE:

- I. THE JUDGMENTS OF GOD AGAINST NEIGHBORING NATIONS AND AGAINST ISRAEL 1-2
- II. GOD'S CASE AGAINST ISRAEL AND THE IMPENDING DOOM AS A CONSEQUENCE OF ISRAEL'S IMPENITENCE. 3-6
- III. FIVE VISIONS POINTING TO THE END, AND AN EPILOGUE OF HOPE 7-9.

THEME: Punishment and Pardon; Secondary and really theme of all Bible; Sovereign rule over all by God.

INTRODUCTION

1. Israel had risen to the summit as far as prosperity had to go. There were 2 classes of people (very rich and very poor)
2. Date: 760-755 B.C.
3. Parallels: I hope that we will not miss some of the parallels between Israel 8 centuries before Christ and the church today 19 centuries after Christ.

BODY

I. AMOS THE PROPHET:

- A. He was a country preacher; herdsman and dresser of sycamore trees.
- B. Not born preacher 7:14 Therefore he was not a professional. He couldn't be fired or hired.
- C. From Tekoa; A small rustic town a few miles south of Bethlehem.
- D. Isn't it strange that God sent a man from Judah to Israel. This certainly shows to what extent Israel had gone to ruin. He was sent to Bethel (Israel) northern kingdom. Real center of sin. (Idolatry)
- E. He was a real man; Not easily run off nor was he intimidated by the riches of Bethel. Not popular preaching.
- F. Would just love to have seen his face when he saw all the luxury and laziness of Israel.

II. CONDITIONS IN BETHEL: RICHES: How well they lived.

- A. 3:12, 15 Can you imagine this farm boy as he sees all those houses and
- B. 5:11 luxury
- C. 6:4

HO: THEY TREATED THE POOR

- A. 2:6, 7 Greed-coveted even the dust on head of poor: Meaning-possibly want even the land of the poor.
- B. 5:11, 12
- C. Conclude it was not so much the luxury as it was their attitude toward them.

III. 2 MAIN PROBLEMS THAT WE SEE IN ISRAEL:

- A. Luxury 6:1, 4ff Also note 4:1 "Honey bring me another drink" These people were so indifferent and lukewarm. There is no greater danger that this anywhere in the world (Note especially church)/
VALCONA: I FEAR THIS CHURCH IS DOING THAT: LOOKING TO PZST: HARD TO GET PEOPLE INVOLVED: TAKE VISITATION CARDS. BE "MAY BE FIDDLING WHILE ROME BURNS."
- B. Formalism: Here form and ritual was the way of that day. There were extremely religious people then. As we would say they went to church every Sunday. Never missed a service but oh, what sin. Don't have to be a Sodom or Gomorrah. Note the irony in 4:4ff. Did not relate religion to lifestyle. MOST SCATHING: 5:21 They just wanted to do and be seen. Note 5:24 (HIGHPOINT) What does God want? This is what God still wants today from us. Tit. 2:1, 10

INVERT EARLIER IN STUDY:

AMOS MAY BE PROPHET OF GOD WHOSE MESSAGE WAS THAT HE PROCLAIMS THESE TRUTHS:

I. He first begins by discussing the nations around them, even to Judah.

A. He discusses of 7 nations before coming to Israel.

5

1. Damascus cruelty in war.
2. Gaza- enslaving captives.
3. Tyre-violate "brotherly covenants"
4. Moab-pursuing brother without mercy.
5. Ammon-severe and senseless cruelty
6. Moab-inhuman vengeance
7. Judah-rejecting law of God.

B. I'm sure they thought that Amos was really a good preacher; he might have even gotten some money.

C. Someone probably said, "I wondered when someone would say something about those wicked people." Preach it brother. As long as we talk about others it is alright.

D. When he came to Israel they had not excuse. They could not say well look at others. Illustration: Police catch man on radar and then he reasons "You know how many robberies and murders there are and he catches an innocent man like me going 7 or 8 miles over the speed limit."

II. Beginning in 2:6 he starts in on Israel

III. Chap. 3-6

- A. Don't escape judgment just because God's people.
- B. Wicked nations captures them. 3:11
- C. Sin and cruelty of women. 4:1ff
- D. Calamities and trials didn't move them. 4:6ff
- E. God's attitude toward their worship 5:21ff
- F. Indifference 6:1, 6

IV. Chap. 7-9A. Amaziah complains to Amos. 7:1-15 Difficulties that Amos encounters. Only narrative in book. You just wonder if he wore gallouses in pulpit and said ain't on occasion/ I guess Amaziah thought he was like all the other preachers, just up there for money. Amos had God behind him and Amaziah had Jeroboam behind him. AMOS STOOD LIKE A MAN. TOOK COURAGE.

B. Shattered Temple.

C. Remnant saved 9:11-12

THERE ARE THREE RICHES IN THE BOOK

-Living Messages of books
of the O.T. Alan E.
Highers pgs.338-344

V. TO CONSIDER

2:4 Punish Judah-sins

2:6 Punish Israel

3:2-3 Not walk with God

3:7 Lord do nothing

4:12 Prepare to meet thy God

8:5 When Old Testament ends

9:2ff Can't hide from God

9:11ff Hope of restoration

OBADIAH

OUTLINE

- I. OBADIAH'S VISION vs. 1-9
 - A. Edom to be destroyed. vs. 1-2
 - B. Edom's false hope vs. 3-9
- II. EDMON'S SIN. vs. 10-16
 - A. Her opposition to Israel.
 - B. Rendered aid to enemy.
 - C. Refused to aid Israel
- III. DELIVERANCE IN ZION vs. 17-21
 - A. Deliverance in Mt. Zion vs. 17-20
 - B. The kingdom to be the Lord's vs. 21

INTRODUCTION

1. BASIC MESSAGE: As we sow so shall we reap. Edom and relation to people of God.
2. HISTORY OF EDMON: They were descendants of Esau Gen. 36:43 Note the promise; Gen. 25:23 After their birth we find favoritism and jealousy of the parents towards the sons. "Issac loved Esau...but Rebekah loved Jacob. Gen. 25:28 Jacob stole the birthright of Esau and later deceived Issac and stole the blessing. Later in Num. 20:17-20 Israel sought passage through Edom to go to Canaan, but this was refused. This hard feeling continued.
3. BOOK OF OBADIAH: It is the shortest in the Old Testament. God helps us to be mindful of small things. Jeremiah 49 sounds very similar to this one chapter.
4. THE NAME OBADIAH: The name means "servant of the Lord." We don't know if any other mention is made of this writer or not. We do have references to other men named Obadiah, but it is hard to know if it is the same. Certainly to possess a name defined as his is sufficient to tell us about his character. Many great men in God's sight may never have their name recorded for posterity. The book is short and may not fulfill all our curiosity., but it is all we need to know.

BODY

I. OBADIAH'S VISION.

- A. vs. 1 God spoke through Obadiah. We do not have such today, but then it was God's means of revealing his will.
- B. God had sent an ambassador among the nations.
 1. When sin has gone so far, even God's mercy can no longer tolerate it. God calls men and gives time to repent, but he will not always strive with man. Gen. 6:3 God set a limit.
 2. When man turns from God, God will ultimately turn from him. 3 times in Rom. 1. it is said. "God gave them up." note. vs.2

C. Edom's pride: Obadiah enumerates the things upon which Edom relied:

1. Strong position in their rocky fortress: It is said that there was only one ascent to it. Only an enemy would know of its existence. Strong armies made repeated assaults on Edom, but the Edomites easily won victory. vs.3
2. Her allies will not save her for the nations are under the judgment of God.
3. Their wisdom will not save them. vs.8

II. EDMON'S SIN. vs. 10-16

- A. One cannot rejoice at another's failure and be guiltless. When Israel needed Edom rather than help, she took pleasure in Israel's defeat.
- B. Edom's sin was progressive. Edom stood "on the other side." Then they looked on Israel's conditions with joy. Their hearts rejoiced over Israel's destruction, and spoke 'proudly'. But deliverance for Israel came. vs.15.

I. Righteousness exalteth a nation.

- A. 6 times the Old Testament law said, "Remove not the ancient landmarks". Our nations was built by people who believe in God. Psa. 9:17 "The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God." ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN SAID, "Communism has managed to persuade all of us that those concepts are old-fashioned and laughable. But if we are to be deprived of the concepts of good and evil, what will be left? Nothing but the manipulation of one another. We will sink to the status of animals."
- B. CHRISTIANS, DO NOT ALIGN YOURSELVES WITH THE ENEMY. We must stand together and fight the foe. You would think that some of our own brethren were our worst enemies. They often will take some of the same stands denominations have taken for years. Some brethren have become lawmakers and have divided the church. 2 cor. 6:17-18
- C. GOD'S PROMISE IS TRUE: Edom is gone as Obadiah predicted. All of God's predictions came true.
- D. PRIDE GOETH BEFORE DESTRUCTION. The pride of the "elder brother" will condemn one. Pride promotes strife as seen in the disciples. Matt. 9:33-37 Pride keeps one from believing God James 3:13-18 Christians cannot worship an arrogant heart. James 2:1-6
- E. ISAAC'S SPIRIT LIVES TODAY. The Genesis record gives us the account of the strife of the two boys. The spirit continued. We must learn lesson of Matt. 6:14-15

HARVEST TIME IS COMING

-Living Messages of books
of the O.T. Frank D. Young
pgs. 345-354

JONAH

OUTLINE

- I. JONAH- Man with a Mission 1:1-2
- II. JONAH- Man the deserter 1:2
- III. JONAH- The Disciplined 1:4-17
- IV. jonah- the Penitent 2:1-10
- V. JONAH- Prophet of Jehovah 3:1-10
- VI. JONAH- Presumptuous Prophet 4:1-11

INTRODUCTION

1. setting: II Kgs. 14:25 It is likely that this is the same Jonah for his name and his father's name appear only once in the Old Testament.
2. "When Israel rejected Jehovah-as we learned from the prophesy of Amos, Jonah was commissioned to carry the word of God to Nineveh, the capital of that very nation (Assyria) which was even now expanding its boundaries until, after about half a century, it would destroy the kingdom the 10 tribes. The Prophet, probably fearing that Jehovah would transfer his love from Israel to Assyria, disliked his commission and boarded a ship." BIBLE SURVEY-HENDRIKSEN
3. THE CITY OF NINEVAH: pg.246
Archaeologists say that the whole space of the city ruins is 60 miles around. A pagan historian describes the wall of the city as being 100 feet high and so broad that 3 chariots might drive abreast upon them, having 1500 towers, 200 feet high.
4. Remember now that Jonah was a prophet to sinful Israel. He had to learn as did all Israel that Jehovah was not exclusive for them. They must not rejoice over the calamities of outside nations. Had Jonah thought none would have repented then he would gladly have gone. How tragic!
5. Right sum up book in 3 words:
A. COMMISSION: GO
B. FIELD: NINEVAH
C. MESSAGE: PREACH
* I think it's sad that Jonah and man today will work harder at disobedience than obedience. The change of location did not change the responsibility.

BODY

I. ASSIGNMENT:

- A. Jonah was told where to go and what to preach.
- B. Ek. 15:15-16 SO ARE WE. The biggest problem of reluctance on part of Jonah was his attitude toward Ninevah. I mean they deserved what they are going to get. We must be careful lest we adopt the same attitude in the church

II. GOD'S EMPHASIS ON THE MESSAGE:

- A. In a day when our brethren think they need gadgets and gimmicks the book of Jonah reminds us that God places emphasis not on the man or the method, but rather on the message.
- B. The word is power of God. We might need brilliant minds, but we need dedicated minds more.
- C. He was to "cry against" Our philosophy "Win friends and influence people"

III. FROM JONAH WE MARK THE VALUE OF DISCIPLINE:

- A. When we read the description of the deep from Jonah we probably have a feeling of horror. 2:1ff, yet when we see him preaching and people repenting then we rejoice.
- B. The discipline of Jonah had great and lasting effects on all. Jonah, sailors and Ninevah. GOD PRACTICED DISCIPLINE.

- C. Often today churches are afraid to practice discipline for fear of the results; Only good can come if it is done properly. Note. 2 Thess.3:6
The elder must give account. Heb.13:17.
- IV. A SIMPLE PLAN, A SINGLE MESSAGE.
 - A. After experience in fish, Jonah is ready to go. He evidently spent no time in planning. No substitute for preaching the word.
 - B. Holy Spirit did not teach directly.
- V. SIMPLE BREACHING.
 - A. None in Ninevah misunderstood the message of Jonah. 3:4 "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown."
 - B. Sermon on Mount and Sermon on Pentecost were simple and they were designed to lead men to repent.
- VI. ATTITUDE TOWARD THE LOST.
 - A. I Pet.2:9a "That ye show forth the praises (Excellencies) of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."
 - B. Ex. of gourd that grew up then died. Jonah is angry that God spared all these yet he will weep over a dead gourd. 4:10-11
 - C. Too many people worry about the gourds and not enough about souls.

Concl.

The Holy Spirit does not work directly on the hearts of sinners: There is not 1 New Testament example of Salvation when the Holy Spirit does work apart from word.

Living Messages of
the Books of the OT.
Paul T. Kidwell, Sr.
pgs.355-361

LESSONS FROM MICAH

INTRO. THEME: MIC.6:2 JEHOVAH'S CONTROVERSY:

OUTLINE:

- I. WITH THE CAPITALS: JERUSALEM AND SAMARIA: 1-2
 - A. Idolaters and those who exploit the poor shall be punished.
 - B. The remnant shall be blessed: "Their king is passed on before them, and Jehovah at the head of them."
 - II. WITH THE RULERS: PROPHETS, PRIESTS AND PRINCES. 3-5
 - A. Those who "skin" the needy 3:3, shall go into Babylonian exile.
 - B. The remnant, rescued from Babylon, shall be blessed when he come who "Shall be a Ruler in Israel; whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."
 - III. WITH THE PEOPLE: 6-7
 - A. Ritualists should consider the questions: "What does Jehovah require of thee, but to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with they God?"
 - B. The remnant shall be blessed, when "all their sins are cast into the depths of the sea."
- Hendriksen, pg.258-259
- 1. Micah was a contemporary with Isaiah. His messages seems to be directed to all Israel.
 - 2. His name signifies "Who is like unto Jehovah"? This is the questions oft repeated in the book.
 - 3. Micah was a country preacher in contrast with Isaiah a man of the city. No prophet was more clear in emphasizing that "Worship and Morality cannot be divorced from each other."
 - 4. MESSAGE OF THE BOOK: Though much emphasis is given to sin 1:5,9; 2:1-3; 3:1-4, etc. and the coming of Christ is announced the main emphasis seems the concern the matter of authority. We have constantly stressed the need for living within the bounds that God has set. This was true of people, prophet or priest. All human authority is subservient to divine authority.

BODY

- I. MICAH AND THE PROBLEM OF AUTHORITY.
 - A. This problem has plagued men since the beginning.
 - 1. Adam and Eve challenged the authority of God.
 - 2. Not long after the flood man was again challenging the authority of God.
 - B. Questions of authority is basic to book of Micah; Graven images were in abundance 1:7. Israel had defected and Judah's wound was incurable. 1:5,9.
 - C. God's people were erring before God by listening to false prophets and bowing to idols.
 - D. This seems to be a growing problem not only in world but the church: lack of respect for authority of the Bible. Note I Cor.2:9-10.
- II. MICAH AND PREMILLENNIALISM.
 - A. This is certainly not a dead issue. Just the other evening I heard Billy Graham refer to the Armageddon. Many of the big name evangelists believe in Premillennialism.

- B. This unscriptural doctrine dishonors Christ and His church by making his advent a failure and the church an afterthought of God.
- C. Micah 4 has been misinterpreted and misapplied in an effort to support Premillennialism. Mic.4 and Isa.2 should be studied together. Jesus alludes to this in the Great Commission given by Luke in 24:46-47. A comparison of vs. 4-8 of Mic.4 with Zech.9:9-10 then with Matt.21:4-5,8,9 will show that the expression "in that day" refers to the gospel dispensation, and the freedom of all men under Christ. The O.T. had the church as one of its subjects so it was not an afterthought of God.

III. MICAH AND MORALITY.

- A. Moral bankruptcy was the dry of the day. 2:1
 - 1. Oppression of the poor. 2:2, 3:1-4
 - 2. Unscrupulous use of power. 2:1ff; 3:10
 - 3. Lack of integrity 6:12, 7:2-6.
 - 4. Reckless scorn of religion. 3:5-8; 5:12-14.
 - 5. False prophets 3:5,7, 9-11
 - 6. Greedy corruption in church and state. 7:3

IV. MICAH AND FALSE TEACHERS.

- A. Note 3:8 Unlike false teachers.
- B. Denounced idolatry and priests who taught for hire and prophets who divined for moeny. 1:7, 2:11, 3:5, 5:12-14
- C. Many are hesitant to mark anyone as a false teacher. Rom.16:17. Jesus and John affirm that truth can be known, so if we can know truth we can know what is untrue. We must hate every false way.
- D. Some don't want to be involved in controversy, but Mic. said, "The Lord hath a controversy with his people."

V. MICAH AND CULTS.

- A. "Soothsaying, witchcraft, superstition and idolatry were prevalent in the land. The Assyrian practices and cults were still influencing religious behavior. 5:12-13."
- B. All these types of works of darkness are condemned by God. Ex.22:18, Acts 19:18-19. Fortune telling, soothsayers, palm readers are all wrong. ICor.2:11 still true.

CONCL

- 1. None more clear than Micah on subject of empty formality. 6:6-8
- 2. For first time birth place of Jesus is given 5:2. Note Matt.2:6 and Isa.43:10 in view of doctrine of Jehovah's Witnesses.
- 3. Mic.7:15 points to the length of miraculous age in the New Testament. See Strong's concordance: "Marvellous!" Includes Christ A.D. 30-70-----40 years.

Living Messages of
the books of the O.T.
Charles R. Williams
pgs.362-368

LESSONS FROM NAHUM

OUTLINE:

- I. HYMN CONTRASTING JEHOVAH'S VENGEANCE UPON HIS ADVERSARIES WITH HIS GOODNESS TOWARD HIS PEOPLE. 1:1-18
- II. NINEVEH'S OVERTHROW. 1:9-3:19
 - A. Nineveh's overthrow means Judah's freedom. 1:9-15
 - B. Account (graphic and prophetic) of Nineveh siege and fall. 2:1-10.
 - C. How Nineveh earned its fall. 2:11-3:7
 - D. Unlike No-Amon (hebes) is Nineveh It shall likewise be destroyed. 3:8-11
 - E. Marked for destruction are all its defences. 3:12-19

THEME: JEHOVAH'S VENGEANCE AND GOODNESS REVEALED IN NINEVEH'S OVERTHROW.

INTRO.

- 1. Date: Between 663 and 612 or 606 B.C. (Year in which Nineveh was destroyed by Medes and Chaldeans).
- 2. Nahum is a prophet of which little is known. His name means Councilor or Comforter.
- 3. Nahum's prophecy like that of Jonah's was exclusively against Nineveh.

BODY

- I. NONE CAN KNOW GOD APART FROM SPECIFIC REVELATION.
 - A. It was needful for the prophet to reveal the person and nature of Jehovah God to Ninevites 1:2-7. Their forefathers more than a century earlier had known of Him. For some reason this generation had not received the knowledge of Him (God).
 - B. Many believe that they can know God apart from revelation. Just go out in nature and look at the sky, but no one ever learned the plan of salvation or how to live the Christian life by looking at a flower or a tree or a star.
 - C. There are those who will serve the idols of land and others who mount pulpits saying that God gives it directly to them through the Holy Spirit, and they don't have to study the word. Only way it comes is by the word (revelation of God) Psa.19. We can know of design of Creator. Note. Heb.1:1-2. Must study God's word.
- II. TWO SIDES OF GOD.
 - A. God of wrath and vengeance.
 - 1. Nineveh was wicked and Nahum first reveals the Characteristic of God that they had lightly considered if even at all.
 - 2. The unchanging one. Mal.3:6; Jas.1:17, he describes as a God of jealousy, revenge, fury and wrath, great in power and none can successfully oppose Him.
 - 3. The justice of God demands that He be a jealous God. Will not allow affection shown to others.
 - 4. God of vengeance. Deut.32:35.
 - 5. God's anger is a perfect anger for it is controlled. It is directed toward the objects of his displeasure.
 - a. Destroy his own, Num.11:1, bar Israel from land of Canaan, put in captivity. Nah.1:6

6. While the forgiving nature of God is appreciated by saint and sinner, some have never learned of the unforgiving nature of God. Nah.1:3 He cannot allow sin to go unpunished. The only satisfaction for sin is found in the blood of Christ. 1 Jno.2:2, 2Cor.5:21
- B. God is Good. Nah.1:7
 1. David spoke of goodness of God. Psa.100:5, 46:1
 2. Nineveh had earlier seen God's anger assuaged by their repentance under preaching of Jonah.
 3. The great consolation of those who serve God is found in 2 Tim.2:19 "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are his."
 4. The ultimate measure of goodness of God was in sending his Son. Rom.5:8

III. ALL KINGDOMS FALL SAVE ONE.

- A. Most of nations of history were small. The great ones would be Assyria, Babylon, Persian, Grecian, and Roman. Their motto was "Might is right, man's wisdom is supreme." They sought and glorified their own strength. Everyone fell. Not another world ruling kingdom has arisen since the Romans. Dan.2:44-45.
- B. All kingdom of men are under the Lord. Rev.11:15
1 Tim.6:15-16

IV. THE POWER IS OF GOD, NOT MAN.

- A. 2 Cor.4:7 The treasure is the word, the vessels are fleshly, earthly men. Power of gospel is not in man. Rom.1:16-17.
- B. God never depended on the greatness of the man in the exercise and execution of His divine plan. He did have his Moses, and Solomon and David but he also had his Nahum's, Matthew's and Peter's.
- C. Christ entrusted the preaching of His gospel to fishermen, a tax collector, tentmaker, physician. He did not call many 10 talent men to do his work.
- D. The fact many may not have known Nahum, did not reduce the truthfulness of his message.

OTHER LESSONS

1. Riches Offer No security Before God. Nah.3:16, Lk.12:13-21
1 Tim.6:17-19, Rev. 3:17-18.
2. God's Unchanging Law of Sowing and Reaping 3:8 Nineveh had lived by the sword, and so shall she die. She had fed on carnage and violence. She should be overcome by same. Matt.26:52, Gal.6:7-8.
3. The Might hand of God rules over all nations. 1:14, 2:13. Nations are to rule in the righteousness of God. Rom.13:1-7
4. Violence hardens people and Nations. Cruelty was one of the outstanding characteristics of Nineveh. She was hardened against humanity.

-Living Messages of
the books of the Old
Testament-Max R.
Miller. pg.369-377.

LESSONS FROM HABÁKKUK

OUTLINE:

- I. THE FIRST QUESTION OF THE PROPHET AND GOD'S REPLY. 1:1-11
- II. THE SECOND QUESTION OF THE PROPHET AND GOD'S REPLY. 1:12-2:20.
- III. A PRAYER OF PRAISE TO THE MIGHTY GOD OF ISRAEL. 3:1-15.
- IV. THE PROPHET'S REACTION TO THE VISION AND HIS DECLARATION OF FAITH IN GOD. 3:16-19. -Maurice Lusk, III-

THEMS: 2:4 "But the just shall live by his faith" Note Rom.1:17, Gal.3:11, Heb.10:37-38.

FAITH STRUGGLING A most unusual aspect of book is that other

FAITH SEARCHING prophets carry Jehovah's message to people

FAITH SINGING but he carries complaint of people to God.

1. I find in this book that there may be doubt that is not wrong. If we go to the word for our answer it can be wholesome and provide excellent opportunity to grow.
2. Now to main point of book. There are still God's own that are doing wickedly 1:3ff. The problem was that the prophet saw that they were getting away with it. Why does Jehovah allow this to continue? So the prophet questions God and God answers by staging 1:5ff; The wicked will be punished by the Chaldeans (Babylonians).
3. Now the next question: Why does God allow the Chaldeans to punish the Jews who at least are more righteous than they? He sits on a tower to wait for answer 2:1. So God answers by pointing out that all sinners will be punished (Chaldeans also will be). BUT THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL LIVE BY HIS FAITH" It is his duty and glory to trust even then when he is not able to "figure out" the justice of Jehovah's doings. In this humble trust and cheer he shall live.
4. God strengthens that faith by more than just words but by a vision Chap.3. Habakkuk sees the symbol of Jehovah's presence. So striking was the vision that the prophet trembled in his body 3:16. God will take care of his own. From now on the prophet will wait quietly and make that commitment in 3:17ff. -Hendriksen-pg.264-65-

(Bible Survey)

BODY

- I. ARE NATURAL PHENOMENA SUCH AS EARTHQUAKES AND FLOODS EVIL? ARE EVIL AND HUMAN SUFFERING ONE AND THE SAME? NO, NO, NO.
 - A. Job was an individual suffering but in Habakkuk was a nation suffering as a disciplinary measure.
 - B. Evil as used in the Bible is equivalent to sin, not human suffering or calamity. All that is evil is a violation of the will of God.
- II. Why were God's own people evil?
 - A. 1:4 Violated the law. Iniquity and perverseness, violence and destruction, strife and contention filled the land. 1:3
 - B. How long go on before God did something? Not long.
- III. THE EVIL OF NON-COVENANT NATIONS.
 - A. How could God so pure and holy allow such a wicked nation to scourge his covenant people. 1:12-13

- B. Was Babylon not subject to punishment. 1:17
- C. Here is a most perplexing problem in the O.T. If evil is correctly defined as violation of God's will; how can it be argued that Babylon justly deserved punishment from God if they did not know His will.
 - 1. Law was given to house of Jacob; Ex.19:3-6.
 - 2. If they were not under the law of God, under what law were they serving that made them subject to punishment for their evil deeds. The same law that made those in day of Noah wicked Gen.6:5, same law as people of Sodom and Gomorrah because "their sin is very grievous" Gen.18:20 When Jonah went to preach to Nineveh what law had they violated to be considered sinners" UNIVERSAL LAW OR MORAL LAW OF GOD. From the beginning all had been under a moral law. All have a sense of moral right though many do not live by it.

IV. APPLICATION OF THIS PRINCIPLE IN HABAKKUK.

- A. God assures the prophet that Babylon will not escape.
- B. Look at 5 woes pronounced on them in light of universal moral law. Evil is self-destructive.
 - 1. plunder 2:6-8
 - 2. ill-gotten gain. 2:9-11
 - 3. violence and blood-shed 2:12-14.
 - 4. human debasement. 2:15-17
 - 5. idolatry 2:18-19.
- C. 2:20 "Let all the earth" God is alive and well.
- D. All people everywhere are answerable to God for their actions.

CONCLUSION

God's word is sure. In 586 B.C. the nation of Judah paid for their evil at hands of Chaldeans and in 539 B.C. the Chaldeans paid for their evil at hands of Cyrus of Persian. God's word is sure. Growth of faith from perplexity and doubt to the height of absolute trust is one of beautiful aspects of the the book.

-Living Messages of books
of the O.T. Maurice Lusk,
III. pgs.378-381.

OUTLINE:

I. THE DAY OF WRATH.

- A. Zephaniah announces Zero hour-the day of Wrath -for the whole earth. 1:1-3
- B. Even Judah shall not be spared. 1:4-13.
- C. Picture of the Day of Wrath. 1:14-18
- D. Humble yourselves before Jehovah. 2:1-3
- E. All the surrounding nations shall be punished. 2:4-15
- F. Neither shall Jerusalem be spared. 3:1-4
- G. I said: "OM that she would fear me." 3:5-8

II. JEHOVAH HIDES AND EXALTS HIS PEOPLE.

- A. All the nations shall serve Jehovah. 3:9
- B. He will hide and exalt the "remnant of Israel." 3:10-20

****Though much is said of destruction and the day of wrath the full theme seems to be "In that terrible day Jehovah will hide his people, his faithful remnant." The meaning of the name Zephaniah as well as the main thrust of the book is this: "Jehovah has hidden or treasured" his own; even, "The remnant of Israel," those who take refuge in Him. 3:12-13. In turn this pious remnant will be a blessing unto the nations among whom Judah will be scattered. Gentiles; 3:9 cf. 3:20**

Hendriksen, Bible Survey
pgs.263-264

INTRO.

1. We know when he lived 1:1 in days of Josiah, and that Zeph. great, great, grandfather was Hezekiah. If it be the case that this was the same Hezekiah as was king of Judah then the prophet was not only of royal blood, but also a relative of the reigning king.
2. His prophesying came during the life of a good king of Judah (Josiah) began to reign when he was 8 yrs. old. Josiah was the one you remember for the great reform. 2 Chron.34-35.
3. STYLE OF BOOK: By many his book would be harsh, cruel, critical, pessimistic, and negative. Some think there is never a place for this but you must remember this was the word of the Lord. 1:1 Even so since he denounced Judah some might think him to be unpatriotic.
4. CHRONOLOGY. By now all the 10 tribes of Israel had long since been taken into slavery. The great Assyrian capitol city of Nineveh was to be destroyed in about 607 and Babylon would rule as supreme. The destruction of Jerusalem was to take place in 4 stages by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, starting in 606 B.C. and ending with burning of city in 586 B.C.

BODY

I. "GOODNESS AND SEVERITY OF GOD"

- A. Good: 3:17
- B. Idolatry was still rampant because Josiah's father and grandfather had encouraged it. They had even borrowed the worship of the sun and stars, burning incense to them upon their housetops. 1:5
- C. Zeph. also mentions those who sought to worship both heathen gods and the true God. 1:5 This practice is still continuing today. Can't mix worship with God and other religions like Masonry.

D. Severity. 1:7

E. A beautiful thing about Zeph. is that it shows God is concerned about every individual.

II. DIVINE PROVIDENCE.

A. In Zeph. time, people in Jerusalem had come to think that God would not intervene in the affairs of men, either to reward or punish. 1:12

B. Many have believed that God no longer has any interest in the affairs of men.

1. Benjamin Franklin "If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can arise without His aid?"

2. Today even, we as Christians believe in prayer and God's providence.

III. GOLD AND SILVER CANNOT SAVE: CONTRARY TO THE GOLD AND SILVER BOOM OF RECENT DAYS. 1:18

IV. THE HEATHEN NATIONS.

A. They were to experience the judgment of God. Philistia, Moab, Ammon, and Ethiopia. 2:4-12

B. Zeph. is the last to speak of Nineveh as an existing city. 2:15. Pride before the fall. Prov. 16:18

V. JERUSALEM DESCRIBED.

A. Bad enough when judges and princes were corrupt but it went on to prophets and priests. 3:4

B. Remember it was the religious power struggle that was determined to put Jesus to death.

vi. hope for the future.

A. The prophet looks beyond the immediate destruction to a time when the surviving remnant will have great reason to rejoice. 3:20.

B. Note description of remnant. 3:13, 17

C. One characteristic of the people would be "pure language"

1. This is always of concern to God yet most every age has seen us influenced by those around us and we develop a mixed speech. Neh. 13:23-24.

2. N.T. Note 2 Tim. 1:13 "Hold fast the form of sound words." 1 Pet. 4:11 "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God."

VII. THE GOSPEL AGE.

A. Some verses even seem to look beyond the return from captivity to the Christian age.

B. God's interest in saving the Gentiles, not just in making them proselytes. Zeph. 2:11, Jno. 4:20-24.

Living Messages of the
books of the O.T. James
R. McGill. pgs. 382-88

OUTLINE:

- I. REBUKE AND COMMAND. 1:1-15 Get to work
- II. REMINDER AND COMPARISON. 2:1-9 Glory of new temple
- III. RECONSIDERATION AND CLARIFICATION 2:10-19. Return of blessings of nature. -
- IV. REVENGE AND CONSOLATION 2:20-23. Promise of salvation to His own.

BASIC MESSAGE: 2:9

INTRO.

1. We are along about the same time as Zechariah maybe a few months earlier.
2. Upon returning from exile the Jews began to reguild the temple but work had stopped by decree of Artaxerxes and remained halted for 15 to 16 years. Some of this time included a period (perhaps 1½) years in which Artaxerxes was no threat yet they still had not gone back to rebuilding.
3. Here's where men like Haggai and Zechariah come in. Ezra 5:1
4. All the recorded prophecies (4 in number) occurred within 4 months time.
 1. On first day of 6th mon. he urged the people to commence work on the temple.
 2. On the 21st day of the 7th mon. he addressed the people on the glory of the temple.
 3. On the 24th day of the 9th mon. he considered the uncleanness of the Jews.
 4. On the some day he prophesied again respecting God's declaration that He would punish the Jews' enemies and would bless Zerubbabel.
5. What was the effect of his preaching: 23 days after his first address the work on the temple began Hag.1:1,15 and 4 yrs, and 6 mons. later the work was completed. Hag.1:1, Ezra 6:15
6. Much has to do with what they did during the period of 15 or 16 years while they were not rebuilding temple. Must have been given to their house and personal comforts. They had their paneled houses.

BODY

I. THERE IS A NEED FOR TIMELY, PENETRATING QUESTIONS.

- A. What does the law say concerning it? 2:11 The Jews were to ask the priests what the law said. If they could only do that, they could see themselves as God saw them. All our actions and thinking are to be judged in the light of God's law Col.3:17, 2 Jno.9, 1 Cor.4:6. If God's law does not authorize a given practice it is sinful. If our day our brethren must constantly be impressed with the question what does the Bible say?
- B. Is it Time? 1:4 Was it a time to dwell in their ceiled houses while the house of God lieth in waste? It is always time to put God first Matt. 6:33 It was past time for the Jews to work on the temple. The structure they completed lasted till 20 B.C. It stood far longer than any of them did. We need to do that which is timely and will help the church not only while we live, but also benefit the church after awhile.

- C. How do you see it now? 2:3 The temple of that day was inferior to that which existed in Solomon's time. HOW DOES THE CHURCH MEASURE UP NOW? It has had it's problems in every age. Just as those of Haggai's day obeyed the command of God, so must we even if opposed.
 - D. How does a thing become clean or unclean? 2:12-13 Jews were to go to priest. In Leviticus and also Haggai on becoming unclean by touching or becoming contaminated by that which itself was unclean. When the church ignores, is silent regarding, privately encouraged or openly endorses false doctrine, she has become contaminated.
 - E. Is the seed yet in the barn? 2:19 All the time they had failed to serve God, their land had not been productive. Seed still in barn, why plant. 1:6 Even if planted, have meager harvest. Missed so much by not being faithful. Psa.37:25.
- II. GOD'S PEOPLE ARE UNDER CERTAIN SPECIFIC FUNDAMENTAL OBLIGATIONS.
- A. Consider your ways. 1:5,7; 2:15,18. If something wrong the fault had to lie somewhere; God, enemies or the people. It was the people; They simply were not interested enough to do the work. More concerned about own pursuits. 2 Cor.13:5
 - B. Build the house. 1:8 We should go up to God in prayer, bring down blessings and secure His house.
 - C. Be strong. 2:4 Not many but had a great work to do. Eph.6:10, Psa.84:5
 - D. Work 2:5 The temple would not build itself.
 - E. Fear ye not. 2:5 Don't be intimidated by opposition.
 - F. Ask now the priests concerning the law. 2:11. They had gone into captivity because of sin and not indifferent so they needed the law.
- III. OBLIGATIONS DO NOT DISAPPEAR MERELY BECAUSE OPPOSITION APPEARS. Just as the Jews faced enemies then we do so today/ From within Acts 20:30 and without Acts 20:29. The church must not quit. We must not allow the world to make the church over.
- IV. PEOPLE NEED TO BE REMINDED TO THEIR DUTIES.
- A. No doubt they knew many of the things he taught them. Much of our work consists of reminding brethren of the things they already know. We must ever stress old paths, sin of instrumental music, the church, one way, etc.
- V. AFFLUENCE CAN BE DANGEROUS. 1:4 Must have lived somewhat elegantly even though crops not so good. (Inside walls of costly wood). Their attitude not that of David, 2 Sam.7:2 Note also. Prov.30:8-9
- VI. GOD'S WORK IS SOMETIMES CONTROVERSIAL. Not everyone wanted the temple rebuilt. Lk.6:26, Beware if all speak well of you
- VII. A REMNANT MAY BE ALL THAT IS LEFT TO DO THE WORK. 1:12,14; 2:2
- VIII. GOD FAVORS THE FAITHFUL. He promised the Jews present help. 1:13, 2:14 He promised to be with them and defeat their enemies.

INTRO.

- I. ORACLES AND VISIONS DURING THE BUILDING OF TEMPLE: 1:1-8:23
- II. ORACLES AND PROPHECIES AFTER THE BUILDING OF TEMPLE: 9:1-14:21
 1. About the prophet; Zechariah means "Jehovah remembers" or "Jehovah has remembered." The name Zech. was a very common name among the Jews as we find it more than 20 times in O.T.
 2. Zechariah was a contemporary with Haggai, sharing the mission of encouraging Zerubbabel, Joshua and the people to build the temple.
 3. He prophesies during the reign (Note Ezra 5:1-Haggai and Zechariah-) of Darius 1:1 Nothing is known of the last years of the prophets's ministry except for the touching reference by Jesus in his scathing denunciation of the Jews in the 1st century Matt.23:34-37.
 4. Unity of book: There are definitely two sections 1-8 and 9-14. Chap.1-8 refer to the time of the rebuilding and 9-14 to the need of restoring the worship and service to God. It is possible that 1-8 was written earlier in life and 9-14 later in life. In the last section nothing is said of rebuilding. In his younger years he is concerned with rebuilding the temple, in his old age he looks into the future through the eye of God and sees the coming of the Messiah and the glory of his Kingdom.

BODY

- I. A CALL TO TRUE REPENTANCE: God is merciful and forgiving, They should repent and go to work. First call is to repentance. The sum total of message is if you will return to God, the Lord will return to you. 1:3. Don't be like your fathers who turned a cold shoulder and a deaf ear to Jehovah. 1:4 7:11ff.
- II. VISIONS OF ZECHARIAH. We learn a key to the visions as we note this statement in the midst of them. 4:6 "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." All the visions have the same source "word of Lord" and all visions have the same date. 1:7
 - A. The 4 riders' Vision; Some months earlier Haggai 2:7 people had been guaranteed that God would intervene in the affairs of the heathen nations and bring a new glory to temple. Yet not great event had taken place to confirm this promise. The 4 riders report the world is at peace, indicating that God had kept his promise. So we have the MESSAGE OF GOD TO THE DISCOURAGED. Note 1:14
 - B. 1:9 The Angel of the Lord. The angel is encountered in the first vision. This seems to be the Word of God personified, representing God to man and as Zechariah's vision also represent man to God.
 - C. 1:18ff The 4 horns vision; 4 horns represent the nations who had opposed God's own. Then 4 carpenters or iron-smiths appear and start to fray (terrify) the horns. In other words the enemies of Judah are to be thrown in to disorder and chaos.
 - D. 2:1ff The Man with the measuring Line. The 3rd. vision. The vision symbolized God's intention to again make Jerusalem the great fortress it had previously been.

In future would be an unwall'd city (No walls in Great Commission). Zechariah included 2 special appeals in this vision.

1. Jews w'till in exile to return. 1:6-7

2. to present inhabitant to sing and rejoice 2:10-11

- III. THE INVESTITURE OF THE HIGH PRIEST. Need leadership to build. God use us only when garments are white "Fit for Master". The previous visions were dependent upon the faithfulness of the Jews. They realized both people and priest had sinned. Chap.3 we see Joshua, high priest, standing in representation of people and sin. 3:4. filthy garments sin/ Yet by sheer grace of God he removes barrier between himself and people, and commands that rich, festal apparel be put on him.
- IV. MY SERVANT, THE BRANCH. The restored priesthood is an omen of the coming of Christ. 3:9 apply to Jewish day of atonement but also future the day Christ would die and put away sin by his sacrifice. 6:12,15 also Heb.9:26
- V. THE FLYING SCROLL VISION. This depicts the judgment of God upon the individual sinners. 5:1ff Two visions are given in chapter 5 to assure God's people that the land would be cleansed of evil (common criminals) thieves and perjurers. This was a judgment directly from God. God's 2 ways of dealing with sin.
 - A. One is of grace and loving kindness.
 - B. Those who refuse to receive God's grace through repentance and obedience He has sure judgment.
- vi. THE WOMAN IN THE BARREL. Chap.5, Here is wickedness personified.
 - A. Though attempting to escape he is thrust back.
 - B. There must not only be ritualistic atonement for sin but it must be banished from land.
- VII. THE 4 CHARIOTS. Visions No.8 Chap.6. These represent the judgment of God going forth with great strength to execute judgment.
- VIII. THE CROWNING OF THE KING. O.T. Apocalypse. After the heathen powers have been overrun it is not time for Jews to have their own king again. 6:9ff The crowning of Joshua seems to prefigure the dual role of Messiah as both priest Heb.8:1 and king 1 Tim.6:15.
- IX. CONCERNING CERTAIN FAST DAYS. CHAP.7 Nearly 2 years pass before called on again to speak. A question is asked should they continue to keep the national fast that had been instituted in time of captivity. The divine answer is given in 4 sections.
 - A. Zech. reminds them that the fasting had been done to bewail their exile and ruin. It had not come from divine commandment, therefore did not possess the deepest spiritual meaning. 8:2-3 "Hope of holy city"/
 - B. Zech. recalls the commandments of the Lord that had applied to people while free. God wanted more than ritual (justice, mercy and compassion).
 - C. Zech. tries to motivate people to real obedience.
 - D. Zech. declares that the fasting of people will give way to joyous feasting of vast multitudes, including even the heathen.

- X. THE SECOND SECTION OF ZECHARIAH. We suddenly find ourselves reading of sorrows and disasters concerning cities and entire nations which appear in this book for the first time. The first 8 chapters deal most with contemporary events but the last section is mainly futuristic, pointing toward the coming kingdom.
- XI. THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD POWERS AND PEOPLE OF GOD.
- A. Immediate problems are now over but it seems that she is hemmed in by north and south. So Zech. foretells an approaching invasion force which would sweep away these hostile elements and God would protect his people.
 - B. Zech. thus foresees the conquering career of Alexander the Great.
 - C. In Zech. 9:9-12 there is a direct and immediate reference to Christ. It can only refer to the Messiah, one whose dominion will be from sea to sea. 9:10, Matt. 28:18. When Christ came triumphantly into Jerusalem he was consciously fulfilling this vital prophecy. Lk. 19:37-38
 - D. Zech. further pictures the Messiah as the promised Prince of Peace. 9:10. In chapter 10 the prophet condemns the careless shepherds of God's people, but portrays compassion toward the straying flock. In Chap. 11 the prophet becomes the shepherd of God's people, but his services are totally unappreciated. Zech. finally took his staff and broke it signifying the annulment of his covenant of grace with the People. And when he requested his wages they weighed him out 30 pieces of silver, which was the price of an injured slave. God had many good prophets but when the best came and sold him and nailed him to a cross.
- XIII. THE PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL VICTORIES OF ISRAEL.
- A. The last 3 chap. of Zech. are comprised of a group of prophecies relating to the victories of Israel as her enemies are severely punished. 16 times in 3 chapters the expression "in that day" occurs. This must certainly refer to the "day of the Lord" 14:1
 - B. Note Zech. 12:10 Note also Rev. 1:7
 - C. Chap. 13 speaks of a fountain being opened to the house of David for sin and uncleanness. The piercing of the Messiah was the opening of the fountain. Acts 2:38.
 - D. The smiting of the shepherd and scattering of the sheep can be seen in the N.T. when disciples were scattered at the Lord's death, but were gathered again by the power of the resurrection.

-Living Messages of the books
of the O.T. V.E. Howard,
pgs. 398-408

INTRO.

1. Ever wonder if any age has ever had our problems.
2. Problems of Malachi's day seem to fit so well the pattern of our day. The very character of this book is condemnatory.
3. Book dates about 458 to 432 B.C. Malachi was contemporary with Nehemiah. Note Ezra 7-10 sounds similar.
4. The name Malachi signifies angel of Jehovah, messenger.
5. BRIEF PAST OF ISRAEL: The Jews had returned to the land of promise. The hard captivity in Babylon was now a thing of the past and the memory of it was already dimming. The Jews had returned full of hope and zeal with the intention of rebuilding the city. They had relied on the promises of God but apparently in their thinking had changed the conditional promises of God to unconditional and were not meeting the conditions which God set forth. There were things that needed to be changed before the coming of Messiah.
6. STYLE; Jehovah is represented as having a dialogue with his people. "Ye say" is contrasted with "Thus saith Jehovah of hosts" through the first 3 chapters. Or you could say you have the 1. charge, 2. reply, 3. refutation of reply.
7. Key Text. 3:8
8. Look at use of word "WHEREIN" 1:2,6,7; 2:17; 3:7,8.

BODY

I. DARK SIDE OF THE PICTURE: THE SINS OF A DISHONEST, UNGRATEFUL PEOPLE, AND AN UNFAITHFUL PRIESTHOOD.

A. Robbing God.

1. By failure to respond to divine love. ch.1:2. The foundation of the book is love of God ought lead lives. They failed to consider that God's love obligated them to love in return. 1 Jno.4:10 "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."
2. By dishonoring God's name. 1:6 He was "Father of Israel" Deut. 32:6
3. By presenting blemished offering. 1:7,8,13,14 The service rendered was not of faith. 1:10 It was a burden and not a joy to serve. They could have offered better but they would not.
4. The priests, by evil example, becoming stumbling-blocks instead of spiritual leaders. 2:1-8. Religion had become a ritual and form. There is more to religion than form even in the O.T. All Christians are priests of God. 1 Pet.2:5 "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."
5. By honoring sinners. 2:17, 3:15
6. By selfishly withholding tithes. 3:8 Different spirit of giving in N.T. Eph.4:28 "Rather give than get." Not till we learn that principle will we be sacrificial.

7. By justifying impiety. 3:14, 2:17. People lived as if today were all of life. We are in a pleasure crazed world.

B. Social sins.

1. Treacherous dealing with brethren. 2:10 Def. Treacherous-To cover with garment-deal deceitfully. Rom.12:10 "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another"
2. inter-marriage with heathen. 2:11 forbidden; Ex. 34:16.
3. Divorcing wives. 2:14-16 Note tears of wives vs.13 There is one scriptural reason for divorce and remarriage but only one. Matt.19:9.
4. Corcery, impurity, oppression. 3:5

II. THE LIGHT SIDE OF THE PICTURE: GLORIOUS PROMISES.

- A. Of the coming of the Messenger of the Covenant. 3:1-4 John the Baptis; Matt.11:10; 11:14, Matt.17:11-13.
- B. Of the outpouring of a Great Blessing. 3:10-12.
- C. Of the saints becoming Jehovah's peculiar Treasure. 3:16-18. God's jewels. Remnant. How do they live:
 1. They feared the Lord.
 2. Spake often one to another.
 3. Thought on his name.
- D. Of the dawning of a New Day in which righteousness shall triumph. 4:2-3. Christ -Sun of Righteousness.
- E. Of the appearance of a Spiritual Reformer before the day of the Lord is ushered in. 4:5-6. John the Bapt. Lk.1:17

CONCL

1. As Israel was restored to land, church has been restored today.
2. As love for God languished in the time of Malachi and Zeal died in favor of materialism, the church is facing the same problem.
3. Many analogies from this little book ought to cause us to examine ourselves. 2 Cor.13:5a "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves."
4. Whole church is to work together. Eph. 4:16

*"It should be just as much a surprise to see a Christian living in sin as it would to see a dead man walking among the living."

Not sure as to origin of part of this material. Much is discussed in Living Messages of books of the O.T. Lindsey Warren, pgs.409-18

- B. The Kingdom - Matthew heralds the impending arrival of the "Kingdom of heaven." This term appears 33 times and "Kingdom of God" appears four times. The Kingdom did not exist, in fact during the Lord's ministry, but in a preparatory state.
- C. Christians are the Kingdom's citizenry.
- III. The book of Matthew's place in the Biblical scheme
After 4 silent centuries Jesus came on the scene effecting the possibility of Justification by virtue of His death. 20:28
- IV. Matthew, the apologist - answers arguments
- A. Written within first 40 years of the Church's existence. The book was not only written to evangelize the Jew but to answer Jewish arguments designed to undermine the validity of Christian messages. A few of these arguments (appearing in later writings of Talmud) doubtless were the following:
1. Jesus was the illegitimate son of Mary.
 2. Miracles were but magical tricks learned in Egypt.
 3. His home is despised Nazareth so that he could not be the promised Messiah from Bethlehem.
 4. He was not raised from the dead, but his body was stolen by his disciples.
- THESE SAME CHARGES ARE BEING BELIEVED AND UPHELD BY MANY INFIDELS IN OUR 20th CENTURY. MATTHEW ANSWERS THESE ARGUMENTS.
1. Illegitimate: In giving the genealogy of Jesus from Abraham to Joseph, Matthew uses the verb begat no less than 39 times, 1:2-16 and yet it is left out between Joseph and Jesus. Additionally, he stressed of Mary, "... of whom was born Jesus." The pronoun whom is singular number, feminine gender, excluding Joseph from any involvement. Mary was found to be of child by the Holy Spirit, a fulfillment of Isa. 7:14. (1:22) The child's name was Immanuel, meaning "God with us." Matthew finally states that Joseph took Mary but "knew her not till she brought forth a son. . ."
 2. Jesus' Miracles: Matthew records 20 miracles of Christ, 3 of which are peculiar to Matthew. The Apostle notes that it was as a "young child" that Jesus was taken into Egypt and it was as an infant that He returned. 2:13, 20, 21
 3. Jesus the Nazarene:
 - a. Was born in Bethlehem of Judea 2:1 Ties in with Micah's prophecy Micah 5:2
 - b. Return from Egypt intended to settle in Judea, but warned of God in a dream and thus returned to Nazareth
 - c. Was to be despised and rejected Psa. 22:6-8 Isa. 53:2-3
 4. What happened to Christ's body:

Cannot conceal facts of resurrection 27:62-66, 28:11-15
Note the idea of a sleeping witness or the mention of an earthquake, one easily refuted if it did not occur. And who can argue with a walking corpse?
- V. Matthew and world evangelism.
- A. In that day as well as in ours, we need to grasp a world-wide view of the Kingdom of God.
- B. For the Jew, there had to be a real overhaul in their thinking; they had been the chosen people so long.
1. Lineage of chapter 1, 4 women are referred to, an unusuality, because, most likely, all were Gentiles. 1:3, 5, 6
 2. Very first person to worship newly born Savior were Gentiles, the Wise Men from the East. 2:1-2
 3. John sharply rebuked Pharisees and Sadducees when coming to him not having genuinely repented. 3:9 God can raise up children unto Abraham of these stones.
 4. After healing Centurion's daughter, Jesus commends Gentile officer. 8:10ff

MATTHEW

INTRO.

1. The books of the N. T. are not given in order written but in order of events. Thus we will study the first 5 books at least as they appear in our Bibles.
2. The first 3 books are often referred to as synoptic - for they follow along the same basic outline of thought.
3. However, each book is unique:
 - a. Matthew - Jesus Christ, the Great Prophet
 - b. Mark - Jesus, The Christ, The Mighty King
 - c. Luke - Jesus, The Christ, The Sympathetic High Priest.
4. The gospel falls into 4 sections easily.
 - I. The record begins with a presentation of the birth and childhood of Jesus Christ. 1:1-2:23
 - II. After omitting most of the first 30 years of the Lord's life, the writer details some events preliminary to Christ's personal ministry; e.g., the work of John the Baptist and the baptism and temptation of Jesus. 3:1-4:11
 - III. The bulk of Matthew's treatise concerns the ministry in Galilee to the east of the Jordan River and finally in Judea as the Lord makes His final journey to Jerusalem. 4:12-20:34
 - IV. Conclusion: Dramatic events that terminated Jesus' last days on earth include His final week culminated by Christ's death, resurrection, and Great Commission to His disciples. 21:1-28:20
5. Each writer had his own theme to develop with each a different class of people.
6. Matthew's gospel is decidedly Jewish in flavor. It is a book written by a Jew for Jews about a Jew!
7. THEME: DEMONSTRATE TO JEWS AND ULTIMATELY TO ALL MEN THAT JESUS OF NAZARETH IS THE PROMISED MESSIAH OF THE O.T. SCRIPTURES AND THE AUTHOR OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN WHICH ALL PEOPLE OF THE EARTH MAY BE SAVED.
8. This book is a vital link between O.T. and N.T. There is a need to bring all back to a better understanding of Christ.

STUDY

- I. The relation of Matthew to the Old Testament
 - A. Matthew draws upon the O.T. more than any other gospel writer. There are about 100 references to the O.T.
 1. Uses the word fulfill 13 times showing Christ and events of His life are fulfillment of the O.T. Ex. The Birth of Christ 1:22 and stubborn resistance of Jewish leaders to Jesus' teaching 13:14
(If Jesus did not fulfill the O.T., He did not carry out his mission.)
 2. Appealing to O.T. Matthew records expression "It is written" 9 times, 2:5, 4:4
 3. Matthew represents the Lord directing attention to the O.T. by use of the expression, "Have ye not read" or some equivalent 7 times. 19:4
 4. Note the connection between reading scripture and hearing God. Ex. Read 22:31
 5. Matthew's record opens with genealogy of Jesus as legally acceptable to Jewish custom and reckons through Christ's adoptive father Joseph. 1:1-16
In fact, no less than 9 times in Matthew is Jesus called the "son of David" 12:23, 15:22
- II. The King and His Kingdom
 - A. Isa. foretold of the approaching kingdom of the Prince of Peace Isa. 9:6-7, and Daniel pinpointed its arrival in the days of the Roman Empire Dan. 2:44
Both David and Zechariah suggested that the reigning King would also serve as an atoning priest. Psa. 110, Zech. 6:12-13
 1. Legal descendant of King David 1
 2. Wise Men - "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?"
 3. Introduces to Jerusalem "Behold, thy King cometh unto thee." 21:5
 4. Pilate asks the question, "Art thou the King of the Jews?", and Jesus answers, "Thou sayest."

The whole world is to come to Christ. Jews shall be cast into outer darkness.

5. In the parable of the tares, Christ sowed seed in his field, and the field is the whole world.
6. Matthew reaches a zenith when he describes the words of the Savior.

20: 18-20

These are great words because of their

(a) Giver (b) Scope (c) Simplicity (d) Promises (e) Challenges

VI. Practical lessons from Matthew

- A. Attitude, right or wrong, Jesus knows the thoughts and intents of the heart. Chapters 5 and 23
- B. Putting first things first 10:37-58
- C. Filled with compassion 15:32
- D. Loving children 18:1ff
- E. Fearing hell and desiring heaven 25:46

VII. Messianic prophecies fulfilled

- A. Virgin birth 1:23, Isa. 7:14
- B. The birth place of Jesus 2:6, Micah 5:2
- C. Slaying of children 2:18, Jer. 31:15
- D. Called out of Egypt 2:15, Ho. 11:1

VIII. Ministry of Jesus

- A. Forerunner 3:3, 11:10, Is. 40:3, Mal. 3:1
- B. Great light 4:15, 16, Isa. 9:1-2
- C. Bearer of burdens 8:17, Isa. 53:4
- D. Healer of the blind and the lame 11:5, Isa. 61:1
- E. Servant of Jehovah 12:18-21, Isa. 42:1-4
- F. In the grave 12:40, Jonah 1:17
- G. Speaking in parables 13:35, Psa. 78:2

IX. The Passion Week

- A. Triumphal entry 21:5, 9, Zech. 9:9, Ps. 118:25-26
- B. Cleansing the temple 21:12, Isa. 56:7, Jer. 8:11
- C. Rejected stone 21:42, Psa. 118:22-23
- D. Judas' betrayal, 30 pieces of silver 26:15, Zech. 11:12
- E. Potter's field 27:9, Zech. 11:13
- F. The parting of the garments 27:35, Psa. 22:13
- G. Given vinegar to drink 27:48, Psa. 69:21

- X. The word righteous and righteousness occur more in Matthew than in the other three gospels combined.

- XI. Matthew is the only gospel where the word church occurs. 16:18, 18:17

Living Messages of the
books of the N.T.

Wayne Jackson, pgs.

INTRODUCTION

1. Theme: Tireless Servant of Jehovah or The Mighty King
Eliminates such false impressions of Jesus as weak, puny, or long haired
2. GENERAL STATEMENT OF THE BOOK: It is a gospel of power, of action, of conquest over nature, spirits, disease and death. The Romans would have no interest in fulfillment of prophecy, thus this book is silent on all points of genealogy, birth, infancy, and the life in Nazareth of Jesus. The Romans wanted deeds more than discourses. The kingdom Mark discusses is the kingdom of power, not of prophecy. There are only 2 parables of the 7 delivered on seashore delivered in this book (sower and the mustard seed, both of which set forth world-wide extension of a kingdom which would interest the Roman.)
3. Written to Gentiles in general but it seems more specific to the Roman church
4. The key words are immediately (17) and straightway (19). See chapters 1, 10, 12, 18, 28, 29, ff.
5. Peculiarities: minute and specific in details - speaks as a bystander to express feelings of people and Christ.
6. The key verses are 1:1 and 10:45.
7. Authorship of Book: It is commonly accepted that John Mark was the author. John Mark was a cousin of Barnabas (Col. 4:10). He accompanied Barnabas and Paul from Jerusalem to Antioch (Acts 12:25), but returned to Jerusalem. Later the decision whether to take him on the second journey caused a dissension between Barnabas and Paul. In a few years Mark was with Paul in Rome and sent greetings to the Collossian Christians (Col. 4:10 and Phil. 24). At the time of Paul's last letter, Timothy was urged to bring Mark to Paul at Rome because Mark was profitable to Paul for the ministry. (2 Tim. 4:11)

OUTLINE BY WILLIAM WOODSON

- I. Ministry of Jesus in Galilee and surrounding areas 1:1-9, 50
- II. Events in Perea enroute to Jerusalem 10:1-52
- III. Events during the last week of the ministry of Jesus on earth 11:1-15, 47
- IV. Resurrection and some appearances of Jesus 16:1-20

INTERESTING SIDE NOTE

Many references by historians shortly after the first century stated that Mark wrote what Peter preached. Look at Acts 10:34-43. Here is a perfect outline of the book of Mark. Mark also writes chronologically.

STUDY

THE NUMBER AT THE SIDE REPRESENTS THE VERSE BEING DISCUSSED WITH THE COMMENTS TO FOLLOW.

1. Beginning: That is the beginning of the facts of the gospel. Jesus-Savior, Christ, Anointed, Son of God - Divine Origin
2. Preaching of John the Baptist is in all 4 accounts of the gospels. The gospel according to the prophets was to begin with John the Baptist. Luke is the fullest account of the preaching and life of John. John is the messenger to bring tidings, to prepare, or to make ready. It was customary for prince and king to send a herald or messenger when they were to journey to visit a new place. They were to prepare the way; for example, notice how today preparations are made for the building of roads.
3. Crying: speaking with a high, strong voice
Prepare - to make ready the hearts of the people for the gospel
Prophecy - Combination of Mal. 3:1 and Isa. 40:3-5 This is the only O.T. quote by Mark although Jesus makes some references.
4. John - Matt. 11:11 - was six months older than Jesus.

MARK(continued)

4. (cont.) Purpose of John's baptism was remission of sins. Those who repented were baptized. There is no record of how long John started preaching before Jesus, but it is generally accepted that John and Christ both started at the age of 30. Jesus' disciples administered John's baptism. (John 4:1-2 and Luke 7:29 - Galilee)
 5. All - not necessarily every person
River - peculiar to Mark. (Note John 1:28.)
In - not near but in the Jordan
Confessing - confessed their sins (Matt. 3:6)
Preaching for results - John did NO MIRACLES.
 6. Camel's hair - vesture woven of camel's hair
knowing that he was promised to be the coming Elijah, it is possible he adopted the clothing. (2 Kings 1:8)
Wild honey - The limestone rock offered shelter to bees. Many made subsistence by bee-hunting.
 7. Preached - rebuked and exhorted
Mightier - lesson on humility
I am not worthy - This was a job for slaves of the lowest rank. To Jew, Greek, and Roman - The preacher is influential, yet humble.
To stoop down - peculiar to Mark
 8. With water - The woman colors her cloth and the smith cools his iron by dipping in water - shows substance not manner in which applied
 9. Those days - doesn't appear that John had been preaching very long before Jesus comes to be baptized. Jesus journeyed between 60 and 70 miles to be baptized
Nazareth - verse 5 represents Jews; the one from Nazareth represents perfection.
 10. Straightway - coming up out of the water - first coming up and produced coming down from heaven
Heaven opened - (Isa. 64:1)
Like a dove - Rabbis referred to dove as symbol of community of Israel.
At baptism, Jesus is the one true Israelite.
Jesus acknowledges judgment of God on Israel by his baptism.
New Israel will emerge.
 11. Son - not the messianic title, but the highest sense of relation to Father - Jesus did not become Son by baptism, but the chosen of God for a great task.
- (Note: Those of John's baptism did not have to be baptized again at Pentecost.)

LESSONS FROM JESUS IN THE BOOK OF MARK

1. Jesus grew and preached in spite of ridicule. 2: 6-7, 2:16-17, 3:2, 7:2
2. Jesus' ministry was advanced by teaching and prayer; the key to His great work was prayer and humility. 1:35, 6:46
3. Jesus used a variety of methods in teaching. 1:38-39 Jesus came to preach. 4:2, 6:7 (He sent others out to do the same.)
4. Jesus manifested time for the needy. 4:39ff (calmed the storm) 5:19 (healed the man with unclean spirits). 7:29 (The Greek woman who had a daughter with a devil)
5. Jesus repudiated the doctrines of men. 12:38-40
6. Jesus was aware of the innermost secrets of men. 9:3
7. Jesus had respect for little things. children 10:13ff - widow's mite 12:41ff - a little girl 5:42 (Fathers should spend time with small children.)
8. Jesus forgave sins directly while on earth. 2:5
9. Jesus called sinners to repentance. 2:17 (Most of our time is spent encouraging members.)

LIVING MESSAGES FOR OUR DAY FROM MARK

1. Mark abounds in case after case of miraculous acts of Jesus. No modern day claims of miracles will even hint at some of the things Jesus did like feeding 4 or 5,000 with a few loaves and fishes. 8:1-9, 6:34-44. No modern claims have involved the proof of one walking on water. 6:45-52
2. The Book also contains a major passage in reference to the kingdom of God and its establishment. Mark 9:1
3. Mark 16:16 is a major proclamation of the plan of salvation. We ought to rejoice in the simplicity of the gospel.
4. John the Baptist willingly became a forerunner for one greater to come. Can we humbly do our work in preparing for others to come?
5. We are to be made fishers of men 1:17-18. The healed man couldn't wait to tell others 1:44-45 even though told not to. Today, we can't get people to go who have been healed spiritually and we're told to go.
6. Disciples left their parents and followed Christ. 1:20
7. New doctrines were challenged. (ask by what authority) 1:27, 8:33
8. People watch us so that they might accuse Christianity. 3:2
9. We must have stronger spiritual ties than family ties. 3:31-35
10. Different type of Christians then and now? 4:14ff
11. Personal work - 2 points - (1) Good to be sent out in pairs and (2) if rejected shake dust off feet and go somewhere else. 6:7-13
12. Reason for evil today as then - evil heart 7:21ff
13. Loving anyone does not keep us from telling him what to do. 10:21
14. We must be forgiving. 11:25-26
15. When Christ is ridiculed before us, will we own Him as our Savior? 14:66ff

CONCLUSION

TO CONCLUDE THE STUDY OF MARK, WE WOULD HAVE TO COME TO THE SAME CONCLUSION AS DID THE CENTURION. "Truly this man was the Son of God." 15:39. He gave His life as a ransom for many. 10:45

-Living Messages of
books of the N.T.
William Woodson,
pgs.43-53

LUKE

INTRODUCTION

1. The early tradition and testimony of the title are evident proof that Luke was the writer.
2. According to Eusebius and Jerome, Luke was a native of Antioch in Syria and therefore the only Gentile writer of the Scriptures. If this is the case, then he would have had much information from the church at Antioch, the first Gentile church that also worked closely with Paul. Luke was a man of education, a physician, a profession that in his day was almost entirely in the hands of the Greek. He was no eyewitness.
3. Connection with Paul
 - a. It is evident that the writer was present with Paul and served as his companion from Toras to Philippi on the second missionary journey. Note the use of the pronoun we in Acts 16:10-17.
 - b. Paul mentions him in 2 epistles of his first imprisonment. Col. 4:14, Phil. 24
 - c. Paul mentions that Luke was with him during the second imprisonment. 2 Tim. 2:11
4. Theme: convincing Theophilus and in general the Greeks, that Jesus is the Christ, the Sympathetic High Priest, the Savior of the world
5. A word that appears in Luke and not in other gospels is REDEMPTION - REDEEM. 1:68, 2:38, 21:28, 24:21, KEY VERSE - 2:30-32
6. To appreciate this book, we must understand the mind of the Greek (Gentile) (Dickson Bible) "There were 3 classes of that day to whom our Lord was presented according to their needs and characteristics: the Jew, the Roman, and the Greek. The great intellectual work of the world has been done by the race of Japheth to which the Greeks belonged. It was the Greek that attempted to create the perfect man by the mental processes. He bequeathed to the world the grandest models of beauty and thought that the unaided mind of humans has ever produced. He aimed to realize man at his best. Man, to him, is diviner than all things physical, greater than empires and the world itself. He created his gods in the likeness of man.
 Another characteristic of the Greek was his universality - he was the universal man and could come into sympathetic relations with man as man. It has been truly said that "The Jew and Roman were by nature exclusive. The Jew could fraternize readily with him only who came from Abraham and received the prophets; the Roman with him only who wielded power in the empire, or was born to a place in the empire. The full-grown Jew was a Pharisee; the full-grown Roman was a Caesar; but the full-grown Greek, a world man. The Greek could meet all the world on the common platform of humanity as the Jew and Roman could not." Hence, Luke takes the genealogy of Christ back to Adam, son of God.
7. About one third of the material is peculiar to Luke.
8. The date of writing is 58-61 A.D.
9. One note about this writer being a physician: notice the physician's interest in the sick as compared with the same narrative in Mark. Lk. 4:38 / Mk. 1:30, Lk. 5:12 / Mk. 1:40, Lk. 6:6 / Mk. 3:1
10. Luke is Part 1 of a 2 volume work.

STUDY

I. Points and Peculiarities of Luke

- A. This is the Gospel of the perfect humanity of Christ. He is seen as a

being having the development, feelings, sympathies, and powers of a man. Luke gives the fullest account of the birth, childhood, growth, and domestic and social life of Christ. He grew in wisdom and grace of God. 2:40-52. He was a subject of Joseph and Mary 2:51, rejoiced in the Holy Spirit 10:21, "wept over the city" 19:41, "prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became as it were great drops of blood falling down upon the ground." 22:44. Taking a meal with various people - 7:36-50, 10:38-42, 5:16, 6:12-13, 9:18, 28.

- B. Luke makes much of prayer. Christ is represented as praying 15 times. Eleven of these are found only in Luke's gospel. Also, a good deal of teaching on prayer is found in this gospel that is not found in the others. 11:5-13, 18:1-8, 21:36.
- C. Luke makes much of praise and thanksgiving as well. The book begins and ends with worship. 1:9, 24:52. It is often said the "men glorified God." 2:20, 5:25, 7:16, 17:15. The expressions praising God and blessing God are almost limited to Luke.
- D. Women and children are prominent in this Gospel. More about Elizabeth and Mary; Anna, widow of Nain; woman bound by Satan; women who ministered to Him of their substance; woman who was a sinner; woman who appealed to unrighteous judge are all mentioned only in Luke. Children are referred to more affectionately than in other accounts. Certain children brought to Him are called infants. 18:15. Jairus' daughter was "an only daughter." 8:41-42. The widow of Nain's son was "the only son of his mother." 7:12.

P. and P. Thiessen, Introduction to N.T.

II. Basic Messages for our day

A. Demonology

1. Luke's gospel tells of demons or unclean and evil spirits living in human beings. 4:3, 6:18, 7:21. These were real, not a phantasy.
2. Demons talked through the mouth of a victim. 4:34.
3. These could be ejected by Jesus and the seventy. 4:35, 10:17.
4. The power to perform exorcism of devils demonstrated Jesus' mastery over Satan. 11:22. In context, 10:18. "Satan fallen from heaven" does not speak of the origin of Satan, but Jesus' superiority over the devil's power. Jesus thought his power to do so was a sure sign of the approaching kingdom. 11:20.
5. Since the kingdom has been here over 1900 years, the stated purpose for exorcism has disappeared, thus ability to exorcize passed away when there were no more devils living miraculously in people.
6. Highest good not in casting out devils - Name written there 10:20.
7. Today, we have a choice as to whether the devil lives in and controls our lives. James 4:7.

B. Status of women

1. Unisex - Attempts are being made to fuse humans into unisex. Zechariah and Elizabeth were 2 human beings righteous before God. 1:6. God did not discriminate against Zechariah when he chose Elizabeth to be a mother. God recognized the distinction that he made a long time ago.
2. Abortion - The Supreme Court says a fetus is not human and is killable during its first 6 months and yet this is at variance with Luke's teaching of a certain fetus during the sixth month being knowledgeable and joyous. 1:26, 41, 44.
3. Women's lib - Advocates described Anna as a temple preacher, but when one looks at the record, she was simply a happy, excited, dedicated lady,

B. Status of women (continued)

Who stressed to everybody she met her joy in seeing Jesus. 2:36-38 Anna is a good example for women today.

- a. You will find no women in the Bible marching with placards against Jesus for selecting all male apostles. Luke tells, though, of Mary, Joanna, and Susanna. 8:2-3
- b. Women listen to Jesus as he speaks to Martha, illustrating that things physical are not as important as spiritual. 10:38-42

C. Old Testament predictions

- a. Elijah, the prophet 4:5-6 Prophesied 433 B. C. by Malachi, the prophet
- b. Voice in the Wilderness Isa. 40:3-4
- c. Anointed preacher Isa. 61:1-3
- d. Numbered with transgressions Isa. 53:12

D. The word-
Redeemer
as key

- a. Birth of Redeemer's forerunner 1:5-30
- b. Birth and childhood of Redeemer 2
- c. The external and internal preparation of the Redeemer 3:1-4, 13
- d. The Redeemer's early ministry in Galilee 4:14-7, 50
- e. Redeemer's later ministry in Galilee 8:1-9, 6
- f. The Redeemer's withdrawal northward 9:7-50
- g. The Redeemer's later Judean and Perea ministry 9:51, 19:28
- h. The Redeemer's closing ministry in Jerusalem 19:29, 21:37
- i. The Redeemer's betrayal, trial, and death Chapters 22-23

III. Other key verses and lessons

- A. Thin. of Abraham - Nothing is too hard for God. 1:13
- B. A beautiful section on God's man - Jesus and Simeon 2:25-32
- C. Courage of John 3:19
- D. Devil not leaving any alone for long James 4:7, 4:13
- E. Be watchful if all speak well of you. 6:26
- F. Blessing to a giver 6:38
- G. Spread without mass communication 7:17
- H. Reject baptism - rejecting the counsel of God 7:20
- I. Mary chose good part. 10:38ff
- J. Beatitude - heart-keep 11:28
- K. Ashamed 13:17
- L. More concern on our part 14:13-14
- M. Rich man and Lazarus 16:19ff
- N. Pray for faith of another. 22:31-32
- N. Some don't believe even if you tell them. 22:67
- O. Is your name written there? 10:20

-Living Messages of the books
of the N.T. Hugo McCord
pgs. 54-64

JOHN

INTRODUCTION

- I The essential glory of the Son of God 1:1-5
- II. The incarnation and general reception of the Son of God 1:6-18
- III. The revelation of the Son of God to Israel 1:19, 12:50
- IV. The revelation of the Son of God to the disciples Chapters 13-17
- V. The manifestation of the Son of God in resurrection's power and glory Chapters 20-21
- VI. Authorship
 - A. All early testimony most decisively points to John the Apostle as the author.
 - B. The internal evidence supports the external evidence.
 - 1. The statement Jno. 21:24 "The disciple whom Jesus loved, who also leaned back on his breast at the supper," as the author of the gospel.
 - 2. He was a Jew. This is seen in his attitude toward the O.T. He quotes 3 times from Hebrews 12:40, 13:18, and 19:37. He also makes application of the O.T. to persons and events 13:18, 17:12, etc. It is also seen in his acquaintance with Jewish feasts. Note 3 Passovers or possibly 4. 5:1, the feast of Tabernacles 7:37, feast of Dedication 10:22. He also knew about Jewish habits and customs of thoughts. Jewish marriage 2:1-10, burial customs of the Jews 11:38, 44.
 - 3. A Palestinian Jew - knows Jacob's Well is deep 4:11; that there is a descent from Cana to the Sea of Galilee 2:12; details about the temple 10:22ff, 2:20, 8:20; and about Golgotha as the place of a skull 19:17.
 - 4. John the Apostle - claims to be an eyewitness 1:14, 19:35. He reports things known only by those closest to Christ. He was the disciple that leaned on Jesus' breast at the Last Supper 13:23-25, and so one of the three: Peter, James and John. Peter is distinguished by name and thus not the writer 1:41, 42, 13:6, 8. James had been killed long before this time Acts 12:2. Study with this Jno. 21:24. Have the answer.
- VII. Date - probably around 85-90 A.D. There is no mention of the destruction of Jerusalem.
- VIII. Theme - Faith and the divinity of Christ 1:1, 20:30-31 John's book is a supplement to the Synoptics. It seems to be the total aim of this book to point out Christ as spiritual. John wanted to lead men to faith and so to eternal life. This he seeks to do by proving the deity of Christ. He does this by showing the signs and the work of Christ. There is application to the various figures such as Bread, Light, Shepherd, Truth, Life, and Vine.
- IX. It is addressed to all Jews and Gentiles. The Church had been established for a long time. This book helps even the Christian to understand the deity of Christ. It is the spiritual gospel or the "gospel for the Church."

STUDY

I. Points and peculiarities

- A. The gospel has an announced purpose. 20:30-31 Things delivered are chosen with a purpose in mind.
- B. It omits the account of birth of John the Baptist and of Jesus' birth, genealogy, youth, baptism, temptation, transfiguration, and ascension. Christ is preeminently deity, and for deity, these things have no significance.
- C. John is the only one who reports the early Judean ministry. If it were not for the fourth book, Christ's ministry would seem to have lasted for only one and a third year, but by mention of the possibility of 4 Passovers, we know that it lasted for somewhat more than 3 years.
- D. There are no parables in John. The word translated parable in 10:6

John (continued) page 2.

I. D. (continued)

should be rendered proverb or allegory.

- E. There are eight miracles recorded in John, all but 2 (feeding the 5,000 and walking on the sea) are peculiar to John.
- F. John has only about 20 days of the Lord's ministry given. Nearly one third of the whole gospel covers only one day. Chapters 13-19
- G. The key words are believe and its derivatives, appearing about 100 times. God as the Father appears 122 times, and some form of the word love appears 57 times.

Introduction and Study to this point is from M.T. Thiessen's Introduction to the New Testament.

II. Living messages for today

A. Jesus' divinity 1:1

- 1. Before Abraham was born, "I am." 8:58
 - 2. Became flesh 1:14
 - 3. Creator of all things through Him 1:10
 - 4. There are 3 classes of people who do not believe in Jesus Christ as the Divine Son of God:
 - a. No believer in the gospel of Christ in any form
 - b. Believer in only 1 personality in the Godhead
 - c. Those whom human theology forbids glorifying Christ as the Son of God by making Him an inferior God
 - d. The Christian view - If Christ is not divine, all else is meaningless.
- I Jno. 1:2

B. Difference in the Old and New Testaments

- 1. Difference in the law and the gospel 1:17
- 2. Christ is the last prophet to the Jews. A failure to recognize the fundamental difference in two covenants causes much religious confusion.
- 3. A major accusation brought against Christ was that what he taught would bring an end to the Jewish nation 11:47-54.
- 4. The new covenant is separate and apart from the old one.
 - a. Includes new revelation about God and holiness 17:3-4
 - b. Includes a new birth 3:5
 - c. Includes a new name Acts 11:26
 - d. Includes new and glorious promises of eternal life 3:16
- 5. The most misunderstood page in the Bible is the title page that separates the books of Malachi and Matthew. This has caused millions to believe that the N.T. began with the birth of Christ. Christ taught people to live by the Old law during His ministry. Much teaching was done in parables and thus not fully intended for the Jew to understand all, but the apostles would later reveal all. There are no mysteries as such in the kingdom today.

III. Ministry of John and Jesus: Restoration of Israel

- A. The ministry of John and Jesus to Israel is the basic thrust of Jno. 1:19, 12:50.
- B. Jesus came to open salvation and covenant relationship to God among all nations, but it was not possible until after His death.
- C. Their preaching is one of restoration.
- D. Why was Jesus baptized? There is a problem arising when people confuse the baptism of John to Israel and the baptism of the gospel in Acts for all men. Jesus was baptized as an Israelite, not to be forgiven, but because He

John (continued) page 3.

III. D. (continued)

could not reject the counsel of God in unbelief as the Jews were doing.

IV. The two covenant's births

- A. First, the fleshly birth - The Jewish covenant birth was the only one Nicodemus understood. Only the Jew's fleshly birth was a covenant birth. Gen. 17:10-14
- B. The new covenant birth was yet to come.
- C. As the Old Covenant ended, it would be necessary for this Jew and all Jews to come into covenant relationship with Christ by a spiritual birth of water baptism and Spirit as taught in the gospel dispensation. Mark 16:15-16
- D. It was not possible for Nicodemus to be "born again" under the O.T. Acts, the second chapter tells how the Jews were born again.

V. Examples of the Jewish faith in the Messiah:

- A. Romans 10:17
- B. Justification by faith has always included belief in God's testimony to man and obedience to God's teaching and commandments. I John 5:9-13
 1. God's revelation to man in different Biblical periods had not always contained the same commandments. Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, for examples
 2. The Mosaic covenant included a time of continued revelation to God's people.
 3. Up to this time, people were taught to believe God's promises that the Messiah was coming. When Jesus came, God told the Jews, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." Matt. 3:17
 4. The faith described in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John is the faith that God required of the Jews. Beginning with Acts and through Revelation, conditions of faith are in force: baptism, the Church, the Lord's Supper.

VI. Faith to the Jew under the Old Covenant 3:16 Words of John the Baptist 3:26

VII. Textual lessons - key verses

1. The most profound statement 1:29
2. Andrew, a seeker who told others - not that hard 1:40-41
3. Attitude of John was joyous. 3:29
4. Christ's ability 3:34
5. Samaritan woman - living with a man 4:7ff
6. Healing of nobleman's son - distance, no problem 4:46ff
7. No faith evidenced - not necessary to have miracle performed 5:6-9 versus 13 Compare 9:38.
8. Contrast the spiritual with the literal 5:25 versus 26-29
9. Following only for material gain 6:26-27
10. Tells of death 6:51
11. Know who would betray 6:64
12. Family not believe - good to be encouraged 7:5
13. Watch judging by appearance. 7:24
14. Cried- to call aloud, exclaim - emotional preacher 7:28
15. Have any smart people done it? 7:48

VII. Key verses continued

- 16. Bond servant of sin 8:34
- *17. Description of the devil 8:44ff
- 18. Death is real. 11:14
- 19. Die with Christ. 11:16
- *20. Comforting the bereaved 11:19
- *21. Faith of Martha and the understanding of the Resurrection 11:24
- 22. Influence of Christ 12:19
- *23. Never lost sight of loved ones 13:1
- *24. Evil loves darkness. 13:30
- 25. Love one another. not only criteria 13:35
- 26. No cloak -- not guilty of rejecting Jesus if he had not come 15:22
- 27. What Thomas missed -- 7 days until appear again, according to record 20:20
- 28. Blessed 20:29
- 29. Books -- John knew of all events of Christ's life. 21:25

-Living Messages of books
of the N.T. Dan Billingsly
pgs. 65-79

THE BOOK OF ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

INTRODUCTION

- I. The extension of the Church in and from Jerusalem Chapters 1-12
- II. The extension of the Church from Antioch 13-28
- III. Authorship - Both Luke and Acts are addressed to the same individual.
Also, similarity of some medical terms shows the identical authorship is Luke, the only Gentile writer of the Bible.
- IV. The Book of Luke sets the work of our Lord in His redemptive labor, and in Acts is set what He continues to do through the Holy Spirit.
- V. Acts traces the history of the Church from its beginning through persecution, dispersion, the spreading of the Gospel, and finally the planting of the Church by the labors of Paul.
- VI. Much is said of Paul's work among the Gentiles (the Church at Antioch - a Gentile church) and that is not hard to associate since Luke was the author and since his gospel record was directed to the Gentile about the universality of Christ.
- VII. The key verse is 1:8.
- VIII. Though referred to as "Acts of the Apostles," it records the work mainly of 3 apostles: Peter, John, and Paul.
- IX. The book's plan is basically to show how the work of Christ was carried on.
- X. The date of its writing is A. D. 61. The Church had been in existence for some time when it was written.
- XI. Points and peculiarities
 - A. Uses the term the Way or Way 9 times 9:2, 18:25, 19:23, 22:4, 24:22
 - B. It is a great missionary book.
 - C. Acts is also the inspired account of the Advent, Mission Work and Operations of the Holy Spirit. Examples: Philip guided by the Spirit and the work of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.
 - D. There are 24 addresses or excerpts from Acts: nine by Peter, nine by Paul, one each by Gamaliel, Stephen, James, Demetrius, town clerk, and Festus.
 - E. Miracles recorded 4:19

STUDY

I. Key verses

- A. Beginning of John's baptism 1:22
- B. Judas sent where he belonged 1:25
- C. Hub to evangelize world 2:9ff
- D. Every church feeling responsible for evangelism 2:40 N.I.V. "Pleaded with them"
- E. Unschooled and ordinary men - had been with Jesus - (Some brag about ignorance.) 4:13
- F. Should see man and say nothing - what if the world would see men today living and preaching error and say nothing against? 4:14
- G. Joseph (Son of Encouragement) - need plenty of them today 4:36
- H. Lie to God not men. Every excellence has its counterfeit. 5:4
- I. All were healed. 5:16
- J. Guilt for Jesus' blood 5:28
- K. Persuade men to lie - The Devil will do anything to stop truth. 6:11

Acts (continued) page 2.

I. Key verses (continued)

- L. Dying words - What would we preach if we preached our last thought as a message topic? In last words, some mention spiritual things; some do not. 7:54
- M. The Way is through the Church. 9:2
- N. Ananias' excuse - come for harm - God preaches. Message was the same for Jonah when he quit running. Same for Ananias 9:13ff
- O. Cornelius called in relative and friends for preaching. Met in his house 10:24
- P. Peter sleeping - church praying 12:6,12
- Q. Herod did not give praise to God. 12:21ff
- R. Elymas - strong words of Paul 13:8ff
- S. Circumcise Timothy - accepted by all (Greek father) 16:3
- T. Often must defend truth among brethren 15:1ff
- U. Exploiting of another human for gain 16:19
- V. Ought to be distressed by sin around us, then do something 17:16
- W. Many did not even know why they were there. 19:32ff
- X. Spoke all night 20:7ff, 11
- Y. Work of Paul as his goal - Hope 20:24ff
- Z. Paul's sincerity as a preacher - tears 20:31
- A.1. Emotional departure - V.I.V. "Torn ourselves away"
- B. 2. Folks have been assuming for a long time. 21:29
- C. 3. Basically the same as against Jesus - Kill him 22:22
- D. 4. Keep conscience clear. 24:14ff

II. Basic message of Acts and how it lives for men today

- A. Theme - The book of Acts graphically and thoroughly deals with basic issues facing the Christian today. The book deals with 5 basic issues of our times. The book of Acts is the bridge between the O.T. and N.T. It is a pattern book in that it shows what action the Holy Spirit led men to do and what teaching God wanted men to hear. Since it is fundamental to understanding the establishment and spread of New Testament Christianity, it is essential to the work of God on earth today.
- B. Basic issues of our times
 - 1. The book of Acts describes the work of the Holy Spirit today.
 - a. The work of the Holy Spirit is a fascinating subject. The Holy Spirit is deity. He is eternal Heb. 9:14; he is omnipresent Psa. 139:7; he is omniscient I Cor. 2:10; so when we turn to the Christian dispensation and its beginning in the book of Acts, it begins with the person and work of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1.) With the fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel in the second chapter of Acts, we have the confirmation of a new era in the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - 2.) The baptism of the Holy Spirit was a promise of God.
 - a.) The promise first came from John Matt. 3:11
 - b.) The promise then came from Christ Lk. 24:48-49

Acts (continued) page 3.

- (1.) "Wait in Jerusalem"
 - (2.) Receive "power from on high"
 - (3.) Were then "to witness"
- c.) This "charge" was again given or repeated. 1:2-4
- d.) The "promise" of the power was again given. 1:5
- 3.) While it may not be quite clear as to the meaning of receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit in Matthew 3:11, Jesus in repeating and explaining the promise to the apostles clearly shows the "apostles only" were the ones involved.
- 4.) Those who were to receive the "promise" were to receive "power." Now, who received the "power"? 2:1-4 Only apostles had power to speak in tongues. 2:13
- 5.) Apostles were special witnesses 1:22; this they claimed 2:32
2. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was from heaven and was both seen and heard.
 - a. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was directly from heaven and was not bestowed through human instrumentality.
 - 1.) "God hath poured forth."
 - 2.) "That which you see...and hear" 2:3
 - b. It was an audible demonstration 2:2 Something was done. "...they began to speak in languages." 2:7-12
 - 1.) All who were baptized in the Holy Spirit did speak in tongues. 2:1-4, 2:6, 2:8, 2:11, 10:44-47
 - 2.) But there were others who spoke in tongues who were not baptized in the Holy Spirit. 19:1-6, 1 Cor. 12:10
 - 3.) Therefore, we conclude that the baptism of the Holy Spirit was always accompanied by the miraculous and inspiration; i.e., they always spoke in tongues.
3. The household of Cornelius was baptized in the Holy Spirit.
 - a. This was called a "like gift" 11:17, but was different from anything except what had taken place "at the beginning" 11:15. Baptism was urged after this. 10:47. Therefore, the Holy Spirit came before faith, as they could not believe until after the preaching, which produces faith Rom. 10:17, takes place. (Therefore, the faith, repentance, and baptism all took place after the reception of the Holy Spirit.)
 - b. Since the baptism in water 10:48 was for the remission of sins 10:44, then the reception of the Holy Spirit did not show their sins were remitted; therefore, the reception was not evidence of salvation.
 - b. Why then did they receive the miraculous baptism of the Holy Spirit?
 - 1.) To show that God had accepted the Gentiles as well as the Jews 11:17-18
 - 2.) To integrate the church of Christ 11:19-26 - God waited approximately 10 years to call his people Christians after the gospel dispensation came. It was done only after the Jews recognized that Gentiles were to be fellow heirs of life and after they both worshipped together in one church.
 - c. Although the work of the Holy Spirit is wonderful and powerful, no one today can claim such power, proofs, or demonstration.

III. The book of Acts depicts the divinity of the Church today.

A. The Lord had promised to build His church Matt. 16:18. The book of

III. A. (continued) Acts shows the fulfillment of this promise. The church is divine in its establishment. The Church had not only been established, it became international because of the various groups present.

B. When the first gospel sermon was preached, Acts, Chapter 2, the call was clearly set forth: "Repent ye and be baptized."

C. When they received those words, God added "those being saved" 2:47 to those apostles who were already saved, hence the church came into existence on that day.

D. The Church is founded on the deity of Christ. 2:36-37

E. It became the "sect everywhere spoken against." 28:22 They made no compromise. People did not wonder where they stood. They were militant.

1. The city of Jerusalem was turned upside down for Christ. 4:32-35

2. Jewish law was dealt a severe blow by "great numbers of priests becoming obedient to the faith." 6:7

3. Stephen was stoned; persecution was so great because of the opposition to the Church. Acts, Chapters 7-8

F. It became the only means of salvation 4:12 and caused great opposition to "the way." 6:7

IV. The Church was divine in its organization.

A. The apostles laid the foundation of Christ as the chief cornerstone. 4:12
The death, burial, and resurrection of Christ was the heart of their preaching. 3:11-28, 31

B. They ordained "... elders in every church." 14:23

C. There were special servants in the Church to aid in the physical ministrations of the local congregations. Acts, Chapter 6

D. The members willingly and lovingly carried out the divine directives. 2:48 and carried the "good news" wherever they went. 8:2-4

E. The apostolic teaching was always the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. Acts, Chapters 8 and 15

F. The elders of the local congregations were severely warned not to allow men to arise who might speak perverse things. Acts 20:28-32 So the elders were responsible for what was and what is taught in the Church.

V. The Church was divine in its worship.

A. From its beginning, the spirit-filled apostles guided the worship of the Church.

B. "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship and in the breaking of bread and in prayers." 2:42

C. Teaching the truth was paramount to every congregation and disciple. Everywhere the disciples went, the gospel went.

D. The "fellowship" always included the poor. 2:44-47, 4:32-37 They were concerned with widows, Chapter 6, and when drought struck the brethren. 11:27-30 Homes were opened 12:12 and lives were often endangered for the sake of the brethren 8:1-4 and the cause of the truth.

E. The brethren "broke bread" each first day of each week. Acts 20:7 It was not optional.

F. They never neglected prayer, whether it was for the coming Kingdom 1:14 or for boldness to speak the word 4:29 or deliverance of the saints from evil men. Chapter 12 They "continued steadfastly in prayer." 2:42

G. Their singing cheered them in their darkest hours. 16:25

Acts (continued) page 5.

VI. Finally, the Church was divine in its mission. 1:8 (See the heading of World Evangelism.)

VII. The book of Acts destroys denominationalism today.

A. The early Christians were unified, not divided.

1. "These all with one accord continued steadfastly . . . 1:14 The early Church exemplified the Lord's prayer for unity. They did not parade "unity in diversity", but rather had one heart and one soul. 4:32
2. They preached a unity of doctrine. It was "one faith."
3. This alone destroys the foundation of denominationalism. They rejoice in "the church of your choice."

B. The early Church demanded baptism for the remission of sins.

1. The first gospel sermon separated sinners from saints by baptism for the remission of sins.
2. It was not done to show previous salvation, not done to get into a denominational fellowship, but rather done because it was commanded. . . "to wash away sins." 22:16
3. Bible-believing Christians included obedience from the heart to command of immersion in water for remission of sins. 2:38-46

Bulletin Article from Anthony
Emmons, Jr.

VIII. The early Church recognized the Kingdom as being established on the Day of Pentecost.

A. The Old Testament prophecies were all fulfilled on Pentecost.

1. It was in the days of those kings." Dan., Chapter 2
2. It was the "time fulfilled." Matt. 3:1-3, Mk. 1:15
3. The Holy Spirit came with power. Mk. 9:1
4. Jesus was preached as the King 2:22-26, as sitting on David's throne. 2:30
5. Jesus was preached as God's prophet. 4:22-26
6. He was preached as the blood offering of God for men's sins, therefore, the only one through which salvation comes. 4:12

B. Therefore, Premillennialism is as false as night and seeks to dethrone our Lord. It is a baseless lie that robs men of the true hope of heaven.

IX. The early Church gave as they were prospered according to the needs of the Kingdom and partook of the Lord's Supper every first day of each week.

A. Tithing was relegated to the Law of Moses from which it came and had no place in the New Testament Church.

1. It was a fact that no apostle ever bound anything from the Law of Moses on the Church.
2. People were called upon each Lord's day to give cheerfully, generously, "as they were prospered" to meet the pressing needs of the Church. 2:42, 4:32-35, 11:27-30

B. The apostolic Church met each Lord's day for communion even if it meant staying an extra week in order to be with the brethren on the Lord's day. 20:1-7

1. The communion was not a church ordinance, but a communion of the body and the blood of our Lord.
2. It had no magical powers, but was the heart of the Christians' worship. 20:7

X. The Book of Acts demands world-wide evangelism today.

- A. Propagation is the law of life. Each generation must reproduce itself or cease to exist. Such is true of New Testament Christianity.
 1. The Lord, Himself, recognized this at the beginning of the book of Acts. 1:3 The Word was to go forth to fulfill prophecy.
 2. This began to be fulfilled when the Church was established.
 3. They taught "...in the temple and at home." 5:42 They taught "...publicly and from house to house." 20:20
 4. As a result of such teaching "...many disciples were added to the Lord and their numbers multiplied, both men and women."
- B. Some were inspired 21:9 and some were not, but all felt a burning compulsion to speak of Christ. Wherever they went, they fought the battle for the Lord. They were attacked on every side.

XI. Such results demanded the overruling providence of God.

- A. When Jesus commissioned the apostles in Matthew 28:18-20, he promised to be with them.
- B. It was God working in them that "opened a door of faith to the Gentiles." 14:27 God constantly guided them, taught them, and opened the doors of opportunity for the ongoing of the gospel. The entire picture is "of God," "by God," and "for God."

Brother G. C. Brewer

XII. The book of Acts decries racial discrimination today.

- A. The burning issue of race relations was the great issue of the Jew-Gentile world. Each hated the other. Each held the other to be barbarians. Into such a world God thrust the Church.
- B. God revealed that "in every nation he that feareth him and worketh righteousness, is acceptable to him." 10:35
- C. This great truth was enforced by a miraculous manifestation on the household of Cornelius. (We need more folk to see a sheet with animals as did Peter.)
- D. Jesus had abolished the law which formerly divided the Jew and the Gentiles. Eph. 2:14-17 "Now in Christ there is no more respect of persons."

XIII. God reserved the name Christian until both Jew and Gentile were united in one congregation. 11:26-27 Christ died for all. All are acceptable by Him.

CONCLUSION

- I. No wonder the early Church grew. Acts is the answer to indecision and despondency and possess the answers to the religious confusion found on every side.
 - A. Though suffering, Paul was still faithful. 2 Cor. 11:23-28 Even on his first journey after being beaten at Lystra and so close to home at Derbe, he turned to retrace his steps. What zeal and love for Christ and His Church!
 - B. Paul owed it all to Christ. Eph. 3:8 He claimed he was "less than least of all the saints." He had deep conviction, was a man of prayer, a man with a message, and a man "in Christ."
 - C. Paul was a great missionary. He had a particular strategy of his work.
 1. He went to the larger cities.
 2. He went to the synagogue.
 3. He based his reasoning on the Scripture.
 4. There was immediate contact with worshippers in the synagogue. The Old Testament had been translated in the language of the people.
 5. He adapted his messages to the hearers. (Living Messages of books of N.T. Andrew Connally,
 6. He followed up his work. pgs. 80-90

ROMANS

INTRODUCTION

I. Basic message of Romans and how it lives today

- A. Basic theme: The gospel ". . . is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. . . For therein is revealed a righteousness of God from faith unto faith; as it is written, The just shall live by faith." Romans 1:16-17
- B. The gospel is of God and of Christ. 1:1,9 It was prophesied, 1:2, concerning Christ and what He has done to make our salvation possible, 5:1-21 and is now revealed in its fullness 16:25-26. It was confirmed by miracles 15:19 and must be preached and believed 1:16. Faith must result in obedience 1:5, 15:18. The gospel is for all 1:5, and it reveals God's way of making men righteous 1:16-17. It is God's power unto salvation to those that believe. 1:16-17
- C. The gospel includes facts and the meaning of the facts concerning the person Christ. It involves the Commander, Christ, and commands, for the gospel to be designed to produce obedience of faith to the promises to be enjoyed and the hope to sustain us 5:9-11 and the motivations to be healed. 2:4-5

BRIEF OUTLINE

I. God's wrath on man because of man's sin

- A. Gentiles 1:18-22
- B. Jews 2:1-3; 20

II. God's provision for man's salvation

- A. Through Christ, through faith 3:21-7:25
- B. Forgiveness of foes does not grant a license to sin. 8:1-13
- C. God helps us in the new life. 8:18-39
- D. God's Word is not made void by Israel's disobedience. 9:1-36

III. The new life

- A. Christians must offer their bodies as living sacrifices to God. 12:1-21
- B. Christians are not free from subjection to civil authority. 13:1-7
- C. Christians must live by love, and this includes their treatment of their brethren. 13:8-15:32

IV. Concluding commendations and exhortation 16:1-27

DOCTRINE OF GOD

I. In an age in which there exists the largest atheistic movement Communism, Romans affirms that they are without excuse. 1:19-21

- A. Atheist pride themselves in being able to reason. They claim Christianity is unreasonable.

Romans (continued) page 2.

DOCTRINE OF GOD, I. (continued)

- B. Yet they accept all that we are and have come to be by chance, with no reasoning behind it at all.
- C. Atheism leads to gross superstitions, immorality, and pessimism.
- II. In our world many acknowledge God but are neither thankful nor worshippers of God.
 - A. When a man turns from God, he turns to idols and finally to corruption of morality and the exaltation of the abnormal and impure. 1:21-32
 - B. What a different world we would have if all would heed the book of Romans.
- III. In a world in which many think God is indifferent to man, Romans assures us that God loves us even though we are weak, ungodly, sinners and at enmity with God.
 - A. He has made visions, at great cost, for our redemption.
 - B. See 5:6-11 and 3:21-26.
- IV. In an age in which the love of God is thought to exclude the wrath of God and the judgment of God on man, Romans shows that God can give a sinner up to do those things unseemingly.
 - A. Romans affirms the wrath of God. 1:18
 - B. God does give some people up to their own sinful ways. 1:24, 26, 28
 - C. The day of the righteous judgment of God will take place. 2:3, 5, 16
- V. In any age in which there are those who think that forgiveness is easy and cheap, Romans shows that it is not easy and cheap.
 - A. In order for God to be just and to justify the sinner, Christ had to die.
 - B. 3:23-26
- VI. In an age in which some maintain that God has spoken to pagan prophets and revealed himself in all pagan religions, Romans shows that God has not.
 - A. Romans teaches that although God gave up the Gentiles in the past, he is now calling them through the gospel.
 - B. The preparation of the gospel was not through pagan prophets but through Old Testament prophets.
- VII. In a world which even some people in Christendom deny that God has spoken through the written word, or claim He has spoken so uncertainly that His voice is garbled and mute for all practical purposes, Romans shows that He has not. 15:15-21
- VIII. In a world in which so many think of themselves as orphans of time, Romans tells us that those who accept Christ can look forward to the eternal inheritance. 8:17-39

DOCTRINE OF MAN

- I. Man is not without any responsibility, but is an accountable being.
 - A. God will call man to account. 2:3-16
 - B. Though man can't merit salvation, Romans makes clear that man's actions are involved in whether or not he is saved from sin. 6:17-18, at the time of judgment. 2:5-11
- II. In an age in which many want to deny responsibility for their misconduct, but claim credit for their achievements, and in an age when pride blinds so many to the fact that they are sinners, Romans proves that they are responsible.
 - A. Romans says that man is responsible and that he is a sinner in need of God's grace.

DOCTRINE OF MAN II., continued

- B. Romans shows us that we can't be good enough without the blood of Jesus to be saved.
- C. It is not earned as wages due for work done; it is the gospel which is the power of God unto salvation. 1:16
- III. Our age is one in which there are some who deny that man is anything but an animal.
 - A. Man is not just a mortal being but a being whom God loves and who will be judged. 2:1-16, 5:6-11
 - B. This indicates there is a life to come.
 - C. It also shows we should view the world and brethren 14:15 as people for whom Christ died.
- IV. Many today are without self-esteem and think that unless they earn or merit love, they then must be unloved.
 - A. We are the objects of God's love.
 - B. See 5:6-11.
- V. There are those today who want to limit Christianity to meditation or subjective and emotional experiences.
 - A. There is to be sacrifice.
 - B. See 12:1-2, 6:12-13.
- VI. Many would deny the reality of the moral law. Morality exists and that which is immoral in man is degrading in him. 1:24-32
- VII. In our religious world, there are many who affirm that the moral law in no sense applies to a Christian. We obey the truth, though. 2:8 We work good and not evil. 2:9-10 We are not to continue in sin but to serve righteousness. 6:1-19 We are under "the law of the Spirit of life in Christ" 9:2, not like after the flesh 8:12-13. Our religion involves principles as well as specifics, 12:1-21, and we are under the law of the loved. 13:8-10
- VIII. In a world filled with racial pride and animosity, Romans tells us that we have sinned 3:9, that all need the Savior, 1:16-17, that Jew and Gentile, strong and weak, ought to receive one another "even as Christ also received you to the glory of God." 15:1-21
- IX. Our age denies sin. Romans affirms that sin is a reality and that man is a sinner.

THE PAST

(Living Messages of books
of the N.T. James D.
Bales, Pgs.91-119

If I could go back and undo
Some wrongs I've done along the way,
And know that the wounds I have caused
Were healed of all the scars today,
If steps I've caused someone to take
By thoughtless ways in which I've trod,
Have led to a confused estate
Instead of simple trust in God,

Poem "The Past" (continued)

If someone else still wonders on
Who followed my unsteady tracks
And lost his way for lack of light
Because my lantern globe was black,
If I could gather up and bind
The wasted years that I have spent
And treat them as if they'd never been,
Today, I'd be much more content.

LESSONS FROM I CORINTHIANS

INTRO.

1. The sinfulness of the city of Corinth was notorious. It was here that all the social forces met and all the sin and religion of other places gathered. Impurity was engaged in as a religious practice. The Greek of that era were light minded, had a love for disputing, a want for deep earnestness, and an interest in displaying his mental attainments and gifts. "Dickson Bible"
2. Paul labored in Corinth for 18 months. The life that had to be lived for that time was one of sharp contrast to the lifestyle of the city.
3. Note Acts 18:1ff for the account of his work in Corinth. No one handed out any meeting advertisement or there were no paper articles, just him coming to preach the gospel.
4. Why was 1st Cor. written? What is its' basic message?
 - a. Christ and his gospel constitute the solution to every problem, and the answer to every question.
 - b. The book is designed to encourage brethren to be faithful to God and His will.
5. 1:9 sets forth the basic proposition which underlies the entire book. It's great to be in fellowship with Christ and God. So in spite of problems and questions brethren can be faithful and brethren ought to be faithful. God is faithful and so ought we to be.
6. OUTLINE:
 - I. CORRECTION, WITH RESPECT TO
 - A. Contention (party strife) chap.1-4
 - B. Fornication Chap.5
 - C. Litigation chap.6
 - II. INSTRUCTION, WITH RESPECT TO
 - A. Marriage problems chap.7
 - B. Meats which have been offered to idols. chap.8-10
 - C. Meetings; proper conduct at public worship (women veiled; Lord's supper. chap.11
 - D. Manifold gifts. chap.12-14
 - E. Mystery (The Mystery of the Resurrection and the changing in a moment.) chap.15
 - F. Material assistance for the needy in Judea. chap.16

(OUTLINE-Hendriksen pg.344)

MESSAGES FOR OUR DAY

- I. PROBLEM OF WORLDLINESS.
 - A. It had crept into the church at Corinth. It was alright for the church to be in Corinth but not for Corinth to be in the church.
 - B. Broadmindedness had led to toleration of sin.
- II. CHURCH PROBLEMS.
 - A. Even though the church has had its problems since it's beginning (close to that time) we must ever be faithful to preach against error. The philosophy of "Let it alone and it will go away" is not scriptural and was certainly not practiced by Paul.

I Cor. con't

- B. Preventive preaching is essential.
- C. When brethren think as the Bible teaches, and are determined to speak and do what it teaches they will be what it teaches. Thus Paul's encouragement to speak the same thing. 1:10
- III. ATTITUDE TOWARD PREACHERS.
 - A. No doubt these brethren respected and love these preachers they had but there was no justification for dividing or being contentious because of them.
 - B. There are different abilities among preachers just as there are among others. But all of us are needed. 1:12ff
- IV. PROBLEM OF DIVISION.
 - A. In 1:10-4:21 Paul deals with division. There must be unity.
- V. THE PROBLEM OF FAILURE TO GROW.
 - A. I Cor.3:1-3 In consideration of time and opportunity they should have been fullgrown.
 - B. Everybody is a babe in Christ at first, don't stay that way. Heb.5:12-14
- VI. THE PROBLEM OF TOLERATION OF SIN.
 - A. There was a tragic case of fornication. Brethren, were just not dealing with it at all.
 - B. Paul instructed brethren to exercise discipline.
 - 1. Take away from among you. vs.2
 - 2. Deliver to Satan. vs.5
 - 3. Needed to be purged out. vs.7
 - 4. To have no company vs.9
 - 5. not to eat. vs.11
 - 6. judged by them. vs.12
 - 7. Put away from among yourselves. vs.13
- **Do you get the idea that God hates sin?
- VII. GOSPEL IS THE POWER.
 - A. Compare with Rom.1:16
 - B. Great example of that in I Cor.6:9-11
- VIII. PROBLEMS RELATING TO MARRIAGE.
 - A. It is right to marry or to stay single.
 - B. Wives and husbands instructed to be considerate of each other.
 - C. Right for widows and widowers to remarry but only in harmony with Lord's will.
 - D. If a Christian is married to a non-Christian then if unbeliever content stay with them. If one was to depart then the believer must remain unmarried or be reconciled to the companion. chap.7
- IX. CHRISTIAN LIBERTY.
 - A. Principles which govern Christian liberty.
 - 1. Our actions must always encompass brotherly love.
 - 2. We must never seek to bring a person to violate his own conscience.

I Cor. con't.

3. We must be willing to forego "personal rights" in order to avoid the possibility of causing a brother or sister to be offended.
4. Avoid situation fraught with temptation.
5. We must zealously guard our influence. 8:13

X. PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE LORD'S SUPPER.

- A. 11:17-34 Rebukes brethren for abuses.
- B. They had created such a situation that it was not possible for them to take Lord's supper.
- C. He emphasized the:
 1. Origin of Lord's Supper.
 2. Supper is to be observed in remembrance of Christ.
 3. Proclaims the Lord's death till he come.
 4. It is to be taken in a worthy manner.
 5. Personal examination is necessary.

XI. RESURRECTION.

- A. I Cor. 15 Christian hope.
- B. Gospel included the fact of the Lord's resurrection.
- C. Resurrection is proved by 1. Paul's own preaching.
2. Scriptures and 3. at least 513 witnesses.
- D. He discusses the Lord's reign, His final coming and the general resurrection. vs. 58 shows us that the resurrection is a powerful motive for our steadfastness.

-Living Messages of
Books of N.T. Roy
Deaver; pgs. 120-135

OTHER VERSES TO CONSIDER

- 1:2 still referred to as church of God.
- 1:10 principle to guide; take new convert and teach and direct.
- 1:17 sent not to baptize.
- 1:25 wisdom of God.
- 2:3ff Defined carnal-division.
- 3:7 God to be glorified. Men talk about all responses: God gave.
- 3:10 Be careful how we build.
- 3:17 Don't defile temple cf. 6:19
- 1:19 God catch wise at own game.
- 4:3 not worried if men pass judgment.
- 4:17 Paul a consistent teacher; Not change message.
- 8:3 Love god-known of Him.
- 9:16 necessity is laid upon me-Preach Jesus.
- 9:24ff run with certainty to obtain incorruptible crown.
- 10:2 Baptism defined.
- 10:12 Jew thought they had it made-Be careful.
- 10:13 withstand every temptation.
- 10:24 seek neighbors good.
- 10:31 Do all to glory of God.
- 12:12ff Body working together, each doing its part.
- 12:26 still haven't reached it yet.
- 15:10 I am what I am by the grace of God.
- 15:34 some in church ought to be ashamed.
- 16:14 all things done in love.

LESSONS FROM II CORINTHIANS

INTRO.

1. There is an obvious connection between I and II Cor.
2. Paul is still very direct and forceful in his message yet he is relieved to know of the attitude of the church now as he has learned from Titus about their reaction.
3. Paul evidently was unsure of the reaction of the church but the church at Corinth proved that it was open to spiritual guidance.
4. This must have been a real relief to Paul in his labors.
5. He had been hoping to come to Corinth, but he had to alter his plans. This had given occasion for some enemies to criticize the work and apostleship of Paul.
6. Though the report of the church was favourable there were some things that demanded his attention. Paul was charged with:
 - a. with being fickle because he had changed his traveling plans 1:15-24
 - b. that he displayed a boastful courage which veiled an inner cowardice-his letters were "terrifying" (at a distance he roars like a lion) but his bodily presence "weak" (when present he purrs like a kitten.) 10:10
 - c. When he preached the gospel at Corinth without financial remuneration his motives were not pure. 11:7-12
 - d. His speech was rude and simple. 11:6
 - e. His escape from Damascus was preposterous. 11:31-33
 - f. Threatened what he dare not do. 13:1-2

Living Messages of books
of N.T. Rex A. Turner
7. His writing seems to be 3-fold in nature.
 - a. to express his gratitude for the manner in which the church as a whole had taken to heart the message of I Corinthians.
 - b. to urge that the collection for the needy saints in Judea be carried forward energetically; and
 - c. to defend himself against the false charges which had been made by his enemies. Hendriksen; pg.349-350
8. OUTLINE:
 - A. The Past: he reviews his past (recent) experiences in their bearing upon the church at Corinth. Paul had traveled from Ephesus, by way of Troas, to Macedonia on his 3rd Missionary journey.
 - B. The Present: he expresses his (present) desire that the collection for the needy saints at Jerusalem shall be carried forward energetically. Paul is now in Macedonia.
 - C. The Future: by defending himself against false charges he makes preparation for a visit to Corinth in the near future. Hendriksen pg.351
9. Possibly one of the best taught churches of the 1st century. Paul possibly made as many as 3 visits to Corinth. 2 Cor. 12:14; 13:1-2

10. The book of 2 Cor. is intensely personal. It is the most autobiographical of all the N.T. books. Paul seemed forced to do what he would not have under normal circumstances and that is write about himself.
11. Paul addresses actually 3 groups:
 - a. The faithful majority that gave Paul so much comfort.
 - b. The license party-ways of sin and uncleanness.
 - c. Judaizing party; sought to bind circumcision and certain things of the law of Moses on Gentiles Christians.

BASIC MESSAGES OF II COR.

- I. MINISTRATION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS VS. MINISTRATION OF DEATH.
 - A. Chap.3
 - B. The ministration of death was the old covenant, and the ministration of righteousness was the new covenant. One written on the heart the other on a stone.
- II. GOSPEL IN EARTHEN VESSELS.
 - A. Chap.4:7
 - B. The gospel shall be carried or communicated by mortal men. For this reason Ananias was sent to Paul rather than the Lord telling him what to do to be saved.
Acts 22:10. Man is the only one of God's creation who is allowed to preach the gospel.
- III. THE UNEQUAL YOKE. CHAP.6 vs.14
 - A. Paul calls for a break between Christians and heathenism.
 - B. A strict obligation therefore devolves upon every Christian to avoid any unequal yokes, whether in business, in marriage or any unequal association. The world has not so improved that we have no fear of it tainting our lives. SOCIAL CLUBS, LOCALLY OR ON SCHOOL LEVEL IF THEY SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE HEATHEN PRACTICES.
- IV. THINGS HONEST. CHAP.8:21
 - A. Paul had been urging for the last few years for the churches in Galatia and Macedonia to lay up in store for the needy in Jerusalem and throughout Judea.
 - B. In the meant me there had arose a great dissension between Jewish and Gnetile Christians. Paul had no doubt fear that those in Judea would reject the colled-tion. The churches were appointing men to travel with Paul with this collection. Everything needs to be above board when it comes to finances (Lord's Money).
- V. THE GRACE OF THE MACEDONIAN CHURCHES.
 - A. Chap.8 and 9 Paul pays tribute to the grace among the church of Macedonia and concludes with lesson of sowing and reaping.
 - B. These had given beyond their power. Though suffering affliction and poverty they gave liberally.
- VI. STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT. 10:12-13
 - A. When a person says "I am as good as Brother Somebody," he is being very unwise. What if he is as good as Brother Somebody? The true standard of measure-the only true measure- is the word of God.
- VII. OBSERVATIONS RELATIVE TO CHARGES AGAINST PUAL.
 - A. Paul no doubt traveled more, suffered more, and sac-

rificed more than any other apostle.

- B. He like Jeremiah suffered unjustly and both had to come to their defence for moral and spiritual reasons .

-Living Messages of
Books of N.T.

Rex A. Turner pg.

136-146

CONCL

REMEMBER THAT PAUL IS ADDRESSING AT LEAST 3 GROUPS OF PEOPLE IN CORINTH AND THAT EXPLAINS HIS CHANGE IN EXPRESSIONS ON OCASSION. IN NO PLACE ARE MORE CHURCH PORBLEMS RAISED AND SETTLED THAN IN PAUL'S TWO EPISTLES TO THE CORINTHIANS.

SPECIAL VS. TO STUDY

- 1:4 We must comfort-not always seek comfort.
- 1:9 Trust in God, not self.
- 1:11 Helping by prayer
- 1:24 stand by faith
- 2:4 emotions of Paul
- 2:6-8 Deal with sin: Results
- 2:9 be obedient in all things
- 2:11 Don't let Satan get advantage..
- 2:17 we Can corrupt the word cf.4:2
- 3:6 minister of new testament
- 3:18 changed to same image
- 4:14 Assurance of resurrection
- 4:15 inward man renewed
- 4:16 Paul's attitude toward affliction
- 5:1 heavenly abode after death
- 5:9 labor to be accepted of him
- 6:2 now is day of salvation
- 7:9 sorrow after godly sorrow
- 7:14 faithfulness encourage preacher
- 8:2 liberality
- 8:12 first have a willing mind
- 8:15 God supplies our needs
- 9:2 Our zeal and good works encourage
- 10:8 apostles had authority-not like others
- 10:11 practice what we preach
- 11:4 preach another Jesus. cf.11:13
- 11:14-15 transformed devil and augels
- 12:14 Paul sought people not riches
- 13:11ff salutation; closing

LESSONS FROM GALATIANS

INTRO.

1. Galatians is a defence of the motion that James made at the Jerusalem Conference; Acts 15:19
2. BASIC MESSAGE OF GALATIANS: To affirm the divine origin of the gospel message; Thus to show justification by faith apart from submission to ceremonial law.
3. Galatians is among the earliest if not the earliest of Paul's writings. About 57-58 A.D.. Some 25 or so years after the church started.
4. Paul taught that Gentiles were set free from ceremonial law: But the Judaizing teachers were busying themselves striving to bind and teach so that the law (circumcision) was to be bound on them. So they would attack Paul and his teaching.
5. Note a key statement from John:1:17 "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."
6. OUTLINE: JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH-Gal.3:24-27
 - I. ITS ORIGIN: THIS DOCTRINE NOT OF HUMAN BUT DIVINE ORIGIN. 1-2
 - II. ITS VINDICATION: BOTH SCRIPTURE (O.T. AND EXPERIENCE BEAR TESTIMONY TO ITS TRUTH. 3-4
 - III. ITS APPLICATION: IT PRODUCES TRUE LIBERTY WHICH GLORIES IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST. 5-6

Hendriksen pb.336

7. Galatian and the Galatians;

"The Galatians were a simple but a fickle people, easily loosed from their moorings. It would not have been difficult to discredit Paul and his teachings. Like the rest of the Gallic or Celtic race they were susceptible of quick impressions and sudden changes."

Dickson Bible
pg.1340-1341

8. Many are like this today it seems: They are ready to believe and accept but as soon as something else comes along they are ready to follow it.
9. Paul will beautifully connect the promise made to Abraham through the temporary law given to Israel finally at its fulfillment in Christ. It took both the O.T. and Christ to fulfill the Abrahamic covenant, but we are no longer under the Old Covenant.
10. Paul did not consider the perversion of truth a little matter but recognized it could subvert the whole church 5:9. The tragedy was that some had already "fallen from grace 5:4, because they had been troubled and bewitched, and unsettled by false teaching. 1:7, 3:1, 5:12

BODY

I. ATTACK AND DEFENSE:

- A. The attack on truth must always be countered by a presentation of what is right. They were attacking Paul's apostleship along with the authority and origin of his teaching.

Start chap 2 - 5:10-12 4/24/84

- B. Note 1:11-12
- C. Paul discusses past history 1:13, 23 and contrasted it with the present. Though he had good association they imparted nothing to him 2:6. The source of his apostleship was the same as Peters. 2:8
- D. Imposing law would "make void the grace of God" 2:21
- II. THE PROMISE, THE LAW, THE FAITH.
 - A. One of the great contributions of the book is the relationship between the promise God gave to Abraham, the law God gave through Moses to Israel, and the faith God gave through Jesus Christ. 3-4
 - B. The Jews relied heavily on law of Moses and had great respect for Abraham. Paul showed that Abraham was made acceptable before God according to the same plane, in principle, by which men are made acceptable by Christ. TIES ALL THIS TOGETHER.
- III. NATURE OF SAVING FAITH.
 - A. The faith that saves is one that obeys what is commanded 3:26,27, 5:6-7. Man is not saved by faith alone.
- IV. HANDLING ARIGHT THE WORD OF TRUTH.
 - A. This epistle is a demonstration of the instruction that Paul gave Timothy. 2 Tim.2:15
 - B. We have a mixture of both Judaism and Christianity that the religious world is confused.
- V. INSPIRATION AND ALL SUFFICIENCY OF APOSTOLIC REVELATION.
 - A. Paul corroborates his lesson in 2 Tim.3:16-17 with Gal.1:6-9
 - B. This removes and excludes any man from adding or taking away from the word revealed through the apostles.
- VI. TAMPERING WITH THE WORD. GAL.1:6-9
 - A. Modern versions do this very often. Living Bible (Paraphrased) T.E.V. R.S.V. New English Bible and others.
- VII. APOSTASY POSSIBLE: This is what was being prevented in this book. Study 3:1; 4:9,11; 5:4,7,9,. Can't read and not see that it is very real.
- VIII. UNITE IN CHRIST. ALL ARE SAVED THE SAME WAY. 3:28
- IX. WORLDLINESS: Works of flesh Gal.5:19-21 Instead of such terrible conduct there must be growth in all parts of the fruits of Spirit. 5:21-22
- X. NECESSITY OF FAITHFULNESS. 6:9
 - A. They had been "running well" Gal.5:7. Paul had confidence in them. 5:10
- XI. BENEVOLENCE: THE LORD'S CHURCH CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE TO THOSE WITHIN AND WITHOUT. The Church has that responsibility. 6:10
- XII. PRINCIPLE VERSUS PERSON. 2:11 Often confuse the person and the principle. Often proper action is withheld regarding sin because of the person involved. Cannot overlook even if prominent members do it. Paul could have easily overlooked this sin of Peter, but he didn't.

XIII. CHRISTIAN CONFLICT: 5:16-18 Just doesn't mix.

Living Messages of Books
of the N.T. James Boyd
pgs. 147-160

VERSES TO REMEMBER

- 1:4 Jesus delivers us from present evil world.
- 1:6 so soon removed
- 1:10 not please men
- 2:4-5 false brethren
- 2:17 still found sinners
- 2:20 crucified with Christ
- 3:14 God's plan thru Christ
- 3:24 purpose of law
- 4:9ff Go back to old ways.
- 4:15 love for Paul
- 4:16 enemy for telling truth
- 5:3-4 fall from grace
- 5:6 Three elements for success-Faith-working-love
- 5:13-15 love one another
- 6:14 glory in cross-not circumcision(outward sign-buildings
budgets, attendance is often our glory).

LESSONS FROM EPHESIANS

INTRO.

1. Someone has called it the "Queen of Epistles."
2. We do find Paul reaching to the heaven for this grand description of God's scheme.
3. Paul is not satisfied with half-way conclusions in this book. Ex. It is not enough that one is saved or converted they must be brought to "the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." 4:13
4. Ephesians is an inspired book 3:3 written by the apostle Paul 1:1, "to the saints which are at Ephesus" 1:1, about A.D. 62 while he was a prisoner at Rome.
5. Basic Message:
The church, the body of Christ, is the "the fulness of him that filleth all in all; 1:22-23. The book emphasizes that everything that Christ has to give us to be enjoyed and obtained is exclusively in the church. **There can not be even one spiritual blessing received outside the church. Thus the church is not a part of God's scheme, the church is the scheme of redemption.
6. OUTLINE:

I. THE CHURCH-GOD'S ETERNAL SCHEME/PLAN 1-3

- A. The church, as God's scheme, is the absolute fullness of Christ in which is enjoyed every spiritual blessing. 1:1-22
- B. The church, as God's scheme, is the living body of Christ in which men are reconciled to God. 2:1-17
- C. The church, as God's scheme, is the holy temple of Christ in which God dwells through the Spirit. 2:18-22
- D. The church, as God's scheme, is God's eternal purpose by which his many-splendored wisdom is made known. 3:1-20
- E. The church, as God's scheme, is God's very glory on earth through which he is praised and honored. 3:21.

II. THE CHURCH-LIFE THEREIN 4-6

- A. Work for unity 4:1-16
- B. Put off the old man and put on the new man. 4:17-32
- C. Walk in love. 5:1-2
- D. Avoid all uncleanness. 5:3-18
- E. Sing, give thanks, and be submissive. 5:19-21
- F. Husband and wife relationships. 5:22-33
- G. Parent and child relationships. 6:1-4
- H. Servant and master relationship. 6:5-9
- I. Be a strong, courageous soldier in God's army. 6:10-24.

BODY

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CHRISTIAN. 2:22; 3:16

- A. Much loose thinking about Holy Spirit today. Some affirm they can "feel" the Holy Spirit. Others affirm a direct leading of Holy Spirit in certain events and others claim one of more of the spiritual gifts of I Cor. 12.

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- B. The Holy Spirit does endwell the Christian Gal.4:6, but how? The only way we know we have the Holy Spirit is because the Bible tells us. 2 Cor.5:7. Again it doesn't tell how.
 - C. The Spirit indwells the Christian; as an earnest of his inheritance 1:13-14, a seal of his divine sonship 4:30, and as an incentive to keep body clean I Cor.6:13-20. The Holy Spirit does all this through the word. Not in a miraculous way.
- II. THE GREATNESS OF THE CHURCH.
- A. There are so many today that want to speak against the necessity of the church; Even statement like "I would not say that one has to be a member of the church to be save". If that's the case then we might as well through out Ephesians. The church was paid for at Calvary 5:25, eternally purposed by God 3:10-11, innumerable blessings found therein, heaven is it's destiny 5:27, is God's glory on earth 3:21, is the fulness of Christ, 1:22-23, and is a demonstration of God's wisdom 3:10-11.
- III. MECHANICAL INSTRUMENT OF MUSIC: 5:19 What does it say do?
- A. Many today would have no qualms about placing an instrument in our assemblies. Every verse in N.T. on the subject mentions vocal music.
 - B. Most people don't have trouble in other areas, just in this because it sounds good. (Not a good reason).
- IV. NEW-PENTECOSTALISM 4:7-16
- A. vs.8 states that gifts were given. vs.11 states those who receive the gifts. vs.12,14 states the purposes of the gifts and vs.13 states the duration of these gifts.
 - B. The last statement does not mean till we all come to believe the same thing. The passage says "unity of the faith" not unity of faith. The faith refers to the gospel Gal.1:23, I Tim.4:1. When gospel revelation completed no more need for miracles.
- V. DENOMINATIONALISM: EPH.4:1-6
- A. Many today thank God for the many churches of our day so that a person might have the church of his choice.
 - B. There is to be one body 2:16, 4:4 and that one body is the church. Hence the church is to be singular. The section of ones in Chapter 4 leaves no room for denominations.
- VI. MARRIAGE AND HOME.
- A. Eph.5:22-6:4 addresses itself to the current problems now being faced in the home. CHRIST IS MENTIONED 13 TIMES FROM 5:21-6:9.
 - B. Note that there are great principles given in this section and not a lot of rules.
 - C. We also note that people have problems after baptism, so there is a strong relation between doctrine and practice.

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D. What we are at home is the way we really are.

E. Principles;

1. Every family member assumes family roles.
2. Mutuality of love and respect.
3. Mutual acceptance of responsibility.

VII. THE LOCAL CHURCH.

A. There is such a need for the local church and not a lot of folks meeting in separate home, etc. Eph.4:16 emphasized the value of local church and importance of every member therein contributing his part.

VIII. THE MILITANT CHURCH. The church is not a glorified social club or a welfare agency. 6:10-20 The church is a marching, militant army. Wendell Winkler; pg.161-170

VERSES TO STUDY Living Messages of Books of the New Testament

1:7 Redemption

2:3 in times past-evil

2:13-14 Gentile allowed entrance

2:20-21 Build on firm foundation; It stays holy temple.

3:1 prisoner

3:13 Don't weary over Paul's plight.

3:17 Christ dwell in by faith.

4:11f miraculous age ceased.

4:16 work together

4:24 true holiness

4:26 don't harbor anger.

4:32 forgiving, like God does.

5:3-5 Sin condemned.

5:22ff Family religion "in the Lord"

6:8 Do good, blessed of Lord.

6:11 whole armour of God'- we are often unprepared.

6:24 Love Lord in sincerity.

LESSONS FROM PHILIPPIANS

INTRO.

1. History of the beginning of the church; Acts 16: Lydia and Philippian Jailor. Quite a humble beginning but ended with a great loving, caring church. Even though it began amidst adversity, it remained faithful.
2. The Romans were truthful, honest, sane and serious; Not easily impressed but they were loyal.
3. OUTLINE:
 - I. The theme of the book of Philippians is the mind of Christ. 2:5
 - II. The them of Chap.1-Christ our Life; 1:21
 - III. Theme of Chap.2-Christ our Example 2:5
 - IV. Theme of Chap.3-Christ our Hope. 3:8
 - V. Theme of Chap.4-Christ our Strength and Source of Supply. 4:13
4. The Book cries out as a "JOY IN THE NIGHT".
5. The Philipppian book contains one of the most profound and subline doctrinal passages of the entire N.T. Phil.2:5-9 He affirms the divinity of Christ, His pre-existence, His equality with the Father, His incarnation, His perfect humanity, His death upon the cross and His glorious exaltation.
6. The letter bears all the marks of a spontaneous letter to a dear friend. He opens heart and affections. He mentions himself more often than in any other epistle.
7. It is a warm and affectionate letter;
 - a. 6 times he addresses them as "brethren"
 - b. 3 times uses the word "beloved"
 - c. Uses the term "in Christ" 8 times.
8. The note of joy is the keynote to the book.
9. Remember the state of Paul's heart was not due to fortunate circumstances. He was in a prison, with few friends to encourage him and some enemies to add to his affliction. Phil.2:20, 21; 1:15-16 We should not be discouraged; Even if Paul was in prison the brethren ought not be ashamed. How can people live without God? Acts 16:25

BODY

- I. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH: 1:1
 - A. We need the church of the New Testament in every possible way. Note the organization of the church.
 - B. We conclude that all the congregations who had men qualified had elders and deacons.
 - C. Qualifications; 1 Tim.3:13 and Tit.1:5-9.
 - D. Mention made of elders in Jerusalem church. Acts 11:30
 - E. Obey the elders. Jas.3:2 Heb.13:17
- II. THE GREAT NEED TO DEFEND THE TRUTH. 1:15-17, 27
 - A. We should love the souls of men enough to be set for the defense of gospel. When we see people practicing error, knowing this will cause them to be lost our souls ought to be stirred to confront them. Acts 17:16
 - B. We can't expect the denominational world to preach all the truth. It would destroy their denomination.

PHILIPPIANS CON'T

- C. We need the wisdom to discern our enemies.
- D. For too long God's people have been devoured by carnal men seeking pre-eminence. 3:18-19
- E. The story of the N.T. church from its beginning is one of the defense of the faith. I Pet. 3:15ff 1:17
- F. Many of the false teachers are secretive in what they do and teach. How contrary to Jesus who says "in secret spake I nothing" Jno.18:20
- III. NEED TO CLARIFY THE WORK OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH.
 - A. Phil.4:2-3 to labor in the gospel is to teach the gospel.
 - B. There were places that women could teach.
- IV. LESSONS PAUL HAD LEARNED AND WE NEED TO LEARN
 - A. The art of rejoicing is a vital lesson for Christians to learn. 4:4 Rome could not separate the Lord from him. Hard times had not made him hard.
 - B. The characteristics of gentleness is emphasized 4:5 Real gentleness is never the issue of weakness, but offspring of strength. Gal.6:1
 - C. The cure for care is a most needed lesson. 4:6 Worry is wrong. Paul tells us how to handle it.
 - D. God's peace is an encouragement to Christians. 4:7
 - E. How and upon what to think is described in Phil.4:8. Though body is scarred by beating, exhausted from work, he still has the vision for the grand, the beautiful. These things serve as a mental inventory for the mind of the Christian.
 - F. We are to pass from thinking to doing. 4:9 A true change of mind will result in a change of body.
- V. THE GREAT LETTER OF PHILIPPIANS BEGINS WITH A PRAYER OF GRACE AND ENDS IN THE SAME PETITION. 4:23

Garland Elkins-
pg.171-180-Living
Mess. of books of
N.T.

CONCL.

- 1:7 Support Paul in all labors.
- 1:11 filled with fruits of righteousness
- 1:20 magnify Christ whatever happens
- 1:27 one mind in gospel
- 2:12 work our own salvation
- 2:14 don't murmur
- 2:20 one like Timothy
- 2:30 nigh to death
- 3:3ff circumcision which worships God
- 3:13-14 I press upward
- 3:17ff can't follow some people
- 3:21 body is changed
- 4:1 such love and devotion
- 4:2ff Brethren need to get along
- 4:6 Don't worry
- 4:19 God supply all
- 4:22 Paul had made an impact on Caesar's household.

LESSONS FROM COLOSSIANS

INTRO.

- I. CHRIST: HIS SUPREMACY AND WORK 1:13-23
- II. CHRIST: THE GOAL OF PAUL'S WORK 1:24-2:3
- III. CHRIST: THE ANTIDOTE FOR FALSE DOCTRINE. 2:3-23
- IV. CHRIST: THE BASIS FOR NEW LIFE. 3:1-4:6

1. Basic Message: It is most certainly the exaltation of Christ over all things in all ways.
2. The epistle has been named the "most Christ centered epistle."
3. 3 great phrases in this epistle sum up this truth"
Col.1:18 "That in all things he might have the preeminence."
Col.2:9 "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."
Col.3:11 "But Christ is all, and in all."
4. Christ is pictured as the antidote to false doctrines and he is the basis of the Christian's holy new life.
5. Background to Colossians.
 - a. The city was populated with mostly native Phrygians, who themselves were pagan, worshipping many and various deities.
 - b. The problems stemmed from Pagan as well as Jewish systems
 - c. These people lived during a time of fear and superstition. The heavenly bodies were often thought of as affecting the welfare and destiny of human beings. Some thought that either by superior knowledge or by magical art they might avoid these evil consequences. Thus we even have the adoration of angels. Men would borrow ideas and notions for their religion. Thus finally it resulted in the feelings as though the realm of the divine and the world of man was separated by a wide fulg. To bridge the gap there came the need for a series of angelic-like beings. It was an age of experimentation. The apostles did not compromise their religion just to please the people.
6. Some may have found the gospel to simple. Thought they could improve it.
7. Paul believed that prevention is better than cure.
8. Christ must not be considered only as one of the heavenly powers but the fullness of the Godhead.
9. WE STILL NEED TO ASK OURSELVES THE QUESTION: "WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?"

BODY

- I. THANKFULNESS: 1:3 He even prayed for those he never saw. Evidently did not start the church in this place. 2:1
- II. WORLD-WIDE EVANGELISM. 1:5,6,23,28. Every man is a potential full developed trophy for the final triumph.
- III. KNOWLEDGE OF WORD OF GOD. 1:10, 3:16.
- IV. NOT MOVING AWAY FROM THE GOSPEL. 1:23, 2:4,8,16, 20-23, 3:5-10, 12-15
- V. ABSOLUTE UNIQUENESS OF CHRIST. 1:13-14, 15-23, 2:9
 Bodily(If believe flesh is evil-Deny Christ) I Jno.4:1-3

COLOSSIANS CON'T

- VI. ABSOLUTE DISTINCTION OF CHURCH. 1:18,22,24; 4:16
- VII. CHRIST IS TO HAVE FIRST PLACE. 1:18,22,24; 2:17,19; 3:11,15, 2:19.
- VIII. CHRISTIAN PERFECTION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH. 1:28, 3:1
- IX. STRONG CHRISTIAN HOME. 3:12-14, 18-4:1
- X. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITY. 4:3-5

CONCL

- 1. Note Col.2:12 (Salvation-Buried). Col.3:1 (Risen).

Pat McGee;pg.181-190. Living Messages of Books of the New Testament.

VERSE TO STUDY

- 1:4 love for all saints. We need more between us and also other congregations.
- 1:6 Bring forth fruit.
- 1:10 fruitful in every good work.
- 1:13 Translated from power of darkness.
- 1:18 He is head.
- 1:21-23 Type of converts and possibility of falling.
- 1:26 Now we know the mystery.
- 1:28 Need to warn people.
- 2:4-5 Some question Paul's motive.
- 2:11 circumcision of the heart.
- 2:14-16 O.T. done away.
- 2:18 worship of angels.
- 2:19 receive strength from head.
- 3:1 one of favorite; seek above.
- 3:5-7 Sins they left behind.
- 3:8ff Put off
- 3:12ff Put on
- 3:23 work heartily.
- 4:6 right speech
- 4:16 others should also read.

"The Colossians sought a true idea of God-in Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, of creation, Christ is the creator of all created beings, including the angelic orders; of history-all things are from Christ and unto Christ; of redemption-believers in Christ are all buried with him in baptism, and rise with him to walk in newness of life; of atonement-Jesus Christ has by the blood of the cross secured the sinner's peace. They sought a philosophy-in Christ are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden; a higher life-it "is hidden with Christ in God." They sought initiation into the mysteries of God-Christ is the open secret of the universe. They desired to obtain perfection-man is complete in Christ."

David Lipscomb
Commentary on N.T.
Epistles

LESSONS FROM I THESSALONIANS

Intro.

- I. PAUL'S COMMENDATION AND PERSONAL INTERESTS. 1-3
- II. EXHORTATION TO PURITY AND BROTHERLY LOVE 4:1-12
- III. INSTRUCTION CONCERNING SECOND COMING WITH CLOSING COMMENTS. 4:13-5

Dickson Bible pg.1365

1. Silas and Timothy report to Paul. Their report on the whole was good. Their report prompts this possibly the earliest letter by hand of Paul.
2. Some bad news: Jews casting insinuations at character and ministry of Paul. 2:3-10
3. On Paul's second missionary journey we find him traveling into Europe and after first preaching in Philippi he then travels to Thessalonica.
4. Thessalonica was a busy sea-port town. It was nearly 100 miles from Philippi. This town was filled with Greek mythology. So we find 2 great influences in this city and these would still be a problem after the church was founded there.
 - a. The devotees of Judaism no doubt were seeking to pull them back toward the abolished covenant of Moses.
 - b. The forces of paganism were seeking to pull the battered band of Christians into a sensual life again.
5. NOW TURN TO ACTS 17:1-9 Let's read about it's beginning.
6. Some were having trouble being comforted concerning those who had fallen asleep.(dead) 4:13ff
7. If Christ coming is imminent why work any longer. 4:11
8. Paul also emphasized to this young congregation the complete break with immoral conduct which characterized heathens. 4:1-8
9. Also taught proper respect for those in position of leadership.
10. In regard to the second coming; it seems as we read in O.T. of interest and anticipation of coming of Messiah, even so we should have a deep interest relative to his second coming. The second coming is simply explained in this book. Take someone really smart to make it difficult.
11. BASIC MESSAGE: It is to set forth before the persecuted Thessalonians (band of disciples) the divine origin and the heavenly confirmation of Christianity. Paul uses 4 arguments to prove this proposition.
 - a. Christianity had been established in their presence by powerful display of miracles.
 - b. Gospel was brought to you by men who proved beyond all measure what kind of people we were in holiness of character and in righteousness of behavior.
 - c. Gospel we preached was designed richly and powerfully to bring out the finest of their hearts.
 - d. Author of Christianity is divine.
12. MESSAGE AS IT FITS INTO OVERALL SCHEME OF BIBLE. Glorification of God and salvation of man. All five chapters and 39 verses reflect God's glory and seeks for man's salvation.

THESSALONIANS. CON'T

In the first and last verse; The very fact these had come from idolatry was really a great means of glory to God.

13. They were also busy telling others about it.

CRUCIAL ISSUES OF OUR DAY STUDIED FROM I THESS.

- I. THERE IS A CONCERTED EFFORT TO DIVORCE GRACE AND WORKS, TO SEVER WORK AND FAITH, AND TO ROB LOVE OF IT'S ULTIMATE CONNECTION WITH DOING THE WILL OF GOD.
 - A. 1:1-3 Study as a unit.
 - B. These works were not meritorious. 1 Jno.5:3
 - II. NEO-PENTECOSTALISM. PEOPLE CLAIM TO DO MIRACULOUS THINGS.
 - A. 1:5 Paul did those things while present with them.
 - B. He didn't claim some great miracle done in another place.
 - C. When they try to defend themselves in a debate today they never try to perform a miracle.
 - III. REAL CONVERSION HAD TAKEN PLACE AS EVIDENCED BY THEIR WORK.
 - A. 1:6,8,9 Their reputation in fervent, fundamental Christianity was spread abroad.
 - B. They were spreading the good news everywhere.
 - IV. PROBLEMS ARISING FROM PREACHERS AND PREACHING.
 - A. I Thess 2 and 3 will clear up the problems. Every preacher and teacher needs the attitude of Paul expressed in these chapters. We would not have these vacating the pulpit today because of personal disenchantment, unfair treatment by brethren, failure of brethren to provide or a thousand other reasons. Our preaching would be distinctive.
 - B. What a loving relationship would exist if every preacher and the congregation believed and practiced 2:7,8; 3:10.
 - C. Paul was concerned about past converts; Sent Timothy to them. 3:1-6
 - V. IMMORALITY IS SEEKING TO ENGULF THE WORLD AND CAPTURE THE CHURCH. 4:1-12
 - VI. SECOND COMING IS A PROMINENT TOPIC OF 1ST THESS.
 - A. It is mentioned in every chapter 1:10, 2:19-20, 3:13 4:16, 5:1-11
 - VII. CLOSING EXHORTATION OF I THESS. 5 ARE PRACTICAL, PLAIN, POINTED AND PENETRATING.
 - A. How to treat each other, elder-membership relation.
 - B. Letter read to all; How is it today that so many have been led to believe that the gospel can only be studied and understood by a select group of hierarchy.
 - C. All could understand and profit then and so can we.
- VS. TO STUDY:
- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1:1 Church in God and Christ can't separate | Robert R. Taylor |
| 1:3 Faithfulness | pgs.191-206 |
| 1:8 Faith spoken of in every place | Living Mess. of |
| 1:9 Possible to reach those in idolatry | Books of N.T. |
| 2:4, 2:7-8, 2:11, 2:17, 2:18, 3:6-8, 3:12(5:15), 4:11, 4:18, | |
| 5:8, 5:23. | |

LESSONS FROM II THESSALONIANS

OUTLINE:

- I. INTRO. 1:1-2
- II. THANKSGIVING AND ENCOURAGEMENT 1:3-12
- III. INSTRUCTION CONCERNING THE COMING OF CHRIST. 2:1-17
- IV. EXHORTATION. 3:1-15
- V. CONCLUSION 3:16-18

1. Some in the church had misunderstood the Lord's sudden coming discussed in I Thess. 5:3 thinking it implied immediate coming. Idleness and disorderly conduct were the results on the part of a few.
2. To add to the confusion someone sent a forged letter. 2:2 and 3:17
3. This epistle was evidently written soon after the first.
4. The design of the epistle is seen in 2:2.
5. Basic message of the books SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.
 - a. Comfort-from hope of Christ's return. chap.1
 - b. Caution-on time of Christ's return. chap.2
 - c. Command- in light of Christ's return. Chap.3
6. Chap.1; deals with the second coming in relation to the present suffering of the readers.
 Chap.2 considers the second coming in relation to the man of sin and correct some misunderstanding which resulted from false interpretations of Paul's teaching.
 Chap.3 In view of second coming, deals with duties of those whose hope is fixed upon Christ.

BODY

- I. THANKSGIVING AND ENCOURAGEMENT. 1:3-12
 - A. Paul seems to always open with words of encouragement.
 - B. vs.3 They were growing. They had been admonished in I Thess.3:12. When admonished to change we ought to be ready and willing to change.
 1. There are those modern prophets today foretelling of future tribulation; but these brethren were in tribulation then.
 - C. Encouraged in view of Christ's return. 1:5-10
 1. All this suffering naturally raises the question of justice and fair play. Paul proceeds to note the righteous judgment of God.
 2. Future punishment of the wicked is just and proper. Rev.20:10, 1:6
 3. Also offer rest to the afflicted. Judgment will come when the Lord returns.
 - D. Prayer for them in their affliction. 1:11-12
 Paul is often found praying for these and other brethren.
 1. 1:12 The ultimate aim of prayer is "that the name of Jesus may be glorified in you, and ye in him."
- II. INSTRUCTION CONCERNING THE COME OF CHRIST. 2:1-17
 - A. Exhortation to calmness regarding the coming of Christ 2:1-3

II THESSALONIANS CON'T

- B. 3 events to intervene between the date of this epistle and the second coming of Christ.
 - 1. Great apostasy. 2. The removal of that power which hindered the manifestation of lawless one.
 - 3. Manifestation of lawless one and his reign.
 These must cover an extended range of history.
- C. The return of Christ has ever been the purifying and inspiring hope of the church. The most common fallacy is the attempt to set a time and the claim that the return of the Lord will be immediate.
- D. Note 2:5 He had told them these things before. Sometimes when brethren go wrong it isn't the preachers, elders or Bible school teachers fault. Difficult to know exactly who is the man of sin. Possibly not one person; the widespread apostasy would be on the part of his followers. Man of sin can be revealed in any departure from God's way.

III. EXHORTATION. 3:1-15

- A. Request for their prayers. 3:1-2 All Christian workers should covet the prayers of the brethren.
- B. Statement of confidence concerning their progress. 3:3-5
- C. Discipline the disorderly. 3:6-15 Those who are out of step with Christ. The disorderly were no longer to enjoy the fellowship of God's faithful. To encourage those who do work and are loyal. 3:13
- D. Disobedience must be corrected in the church.
- E. Discipline as a brother. There is a standard of behavior for all children of God. I Tim. 3:15.

CONCL.

The opening chapter is filled with "flaming fire", "vengeance" and "eternal destruction". Yet the epistle ends with peace. Paul seems to take the pen in hand and close in his own handwriting.

William S. Cline
pgs. 207-217
Living Messages
of books of N.T.

VERSE TO STUDY

- 1:3 Love of every one toward each other.
- 1:6 Doctrine of future punishment is just and proper.
- 1:7 Christians can be troubled
- 1:8-9 Who punished and how
- 2:2 Forged letter about coming of Christ
- 2:3-4 Man of sin
- 2:5 Fault not always with preaching.
- 2:10-12 Strong delusion. Believe a lie. Isa. 66:3-4
- 2:14 How called
- 3:1 Word of Lord have free course
- 3:6ff withdraw disorderly, 3:11; 3:14-15
- 3:13 Keep working (no matter what others do).

LESSONS FROM I TIMOTHY

INTRO.

- I. SOME GENERAL TEACHING ABOUT DOCTRINE, WORSHIP AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE N.T. CHURCH. 1:1-3:16
- II. SOME GENERAL TEACHING ABOUT ATTITUDES TOWARD THE CHURCH AND HER MEMBERSHIP. 4:1-6:20.

1. The first letter written to Timothy was penned between Paul's first and second imprisonment at Rome, between A.D.64-67.
2. Theme: 3:14-15
3. Though this book is directed to the young preacher Timothy, it included things that the church needed to be taught. It is really up to date, in view of many problems existing today.

BODY

I. I TIM.1

- A. Some wanted to tell stories instead of preach God's word. I Tim.1:3-4
- B. Some in Timothy's day had a desire to be known as scholarly and deeply intellectual. 1:6-7
 1. Even teacher and preacher needs to remember there is simplicity in Christ. 2 Cor.11:3
 2. God wants us to present His word so that all may understand. I Cor.2:1-5
- C. Gospel preachers are to be soldiers of the cross. 1:18. This view is also expressed elsewhere. 2Tim.2-3
2 Tim.4:7. Let's remember the faithful giants of the past. They were not weaklings but strong servants and soldiers of God.
- D. Some brethren don't want to cross swords with anyone. They either have no convictions, are cowards, are ignorant of the truth of the Bible or they have a desire to be popular.

II. I TIM.2

- A. We learn from I Tim.that Christians should pray for rulers of nations and those in authority. 2:1-2. If a nation ever needed prayer ours surely does.
- B. But why should we pray for rulers? "That we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 2:2.
- C. God would have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. 2:4
- D. God's people will adorn themselves in modest apparel. 2:9-10
- E. Paul told Timothy that in the public assembly women should keep their place. 2:11-14. The woman is not to teach or preach in the public assembly. I Cor.14:34. She is also not to preside over men where such are gathered. 2:12.

III. I TIM.3

I TIMOTHY CON'T

- A. The qualification of elders are seen in 3:1-7. Becoming an elder or leader in the church does not work a miracle in one's being. None are perfect. Even the great prophets of old were not perfect. Jas.5:17. A church can function without elders, but it can't function efficiently without them. The responsibility of the elders are to oversee, watch, rule, take care, shepherd, superintend, lead, preside, govern, administer.
- B. The qualifications of deacons; 3:8-13 The deacons are to the church what the National guard is to our country. They are ready to do the work at hand when called.
- C. The man of God learns how to conduct himself from the Word of God. 3:14-15

IV. I TIM.4

- A. Paul warns of apostasy; 4:1-4 We must always be teaching the first principles of faith. Apostasy takes place when men do not know the scripture, when men have no respect for the Bible, when men lost faith in the inspired writings and when men cannot rightly divide the scriptures.

V. I TIM.5

- A. Christian people will properly respect each other. 5:1-2 We are living in a time of disrespect. We are also hearing a lot about youth churches. This teaching is foreign to the Bible. This is where youth and adults are separated for the worship. If we do this they why not divide the educated and non-educated, the rich and the poor. Both the young and old have something of offer to the church assembly that the other cannot give.

VI. I TIM.6

- A. Paul warned Timothy to beware of riches and their pull on the heart. A preacher may support himself if he desires, but many have completely left the pulpit to make money, earn a good living, so they can have a good retirement. Preachers often have to live in glass houses and many grow tired of it. Some have to quit preaching due to health or physical handicap.
- B. Paul gives a warning to those who have earthly riches as member of the church. 6:17-19. Riches too easily give people foolish independence. God does not bless us so we can hoard our riches. More money could be given and the gospel could be spread even farther.

5 BIG PROBLEMS ANSWERED IN I TIM.: Work of local preacher preach the word 1:7, study the word 4:13-16, soldiers 1:18 good example 4:12.

2. Sound doctrine, 3. worship 4. elders and deacons 5. Materialism. 6:9-10.

I TIMOTHY CON'T

Previous material *

*Malcolm L. Hill
Living Messages of
Books of the N.T.
pgs.218-229.

VERSES RELATING TO STUDY

- 1:2-4 teach babes in Christ
- 1:7 If teach-need to understand.
- 1:10 Any other things contrary to sound doctrine.
- 2:4 knowledge of the truty
- 3:1ff office of bishop.
- 4;4 Eat all with thanksgiving.
- 4:6 put brethren in remembrance; good minister.
- 4:14 neglect not gift; These miraculous.
- 5:1-2 many preacher in trouble right here. "With all purity."
- 5:6 Dead but living.
- 5:14 Young women marry-Note what do when married.
- 6:1 whatever your work;do to God's glory.
- 6:8 Key to happy life
- 6:9 Drowned with no water.
- 6:10 pierced with no arrows.

LESSONS FROM II TIMOTHY

INTRO. OUTLINE:

- I. HOLD TO IT. 1:13
- II. TEACH IT. 2:2,24
- III. ABIDE IN IT. 3:14
- IV. PREACH IT. 4:2

THEME: THE SOUND DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

1. At the time Paul wrote this letter he was facing certain death at the hands of the Romans, he knew the time of execution was near.
 2. He wanted to see his faithful child before his death. He really held Timothy dear to himself. Phil.2:19-22
 3. Another basic message is Paul's desire for the continuance of the gospel as he had preached it. His interest is 2-fold.
 - a. He wrote more of the N.T. than any other man.
 - b. He gave Timothy the exhortation to teach others the gospel as he had received it from Paul so they might teach others and continue for every generation. 2:2
 4. Paul was interested in the preservation of the purity of the gospel. 2 Tim.1:13, shun profane and vain babblings which eat as doth a gangrene. 2:16.
 5. Paul was interested in him preaching the word in view of time coming when men would not endure the sound doctrine and would turn away their ears from the truth and be turned unto fables. (myth, fiction) 4:2-4
 6. Paul also had a desire to keep Timothy and all other evangelists pure. Pure in life 2:19ff, pure in doctrine 2:26, 3:13-15.
- I. PRESENT DAY PROBLEMS IN II TIMOTHY ANSWERED.
- A. Pattern of Sound words. Doctrinal accuracy is obvious from a study of the N.T. The Bible stresses it and people today seem to play it down as not being really important. The importance of doctrine is seen in the fact that Paul uses the words didache and didaskalia 17 times in these 3 short epistles. (pastoral)
 1. The Spirit guided the writing of the Bible: Jno.16:13, I Cor.2:12-13, Eph.3:5, I Pet.1:12.
 2. The faith often spoken of in the N.T. is the gospel. Gal.3:23,25.
 3. There are those who would teach another doctrine I Tim.6:3.
 - B. Inspiration of the Scriptures.
 1. Zecha.7:12 "Lest they should hear the law, and the words which Jehovah of hosts had sent by his Spirit by the former prophets."
 2. I Pet.1:11; 2 Tim.3:16 I like the King James Version; "All scripture is given by inspiration of God...."
 - C. Concerning the Holy Spirit. 2 Tim.1:6 Paul made a list of 9 such gifts in I Cor.12:4-11. Those signs have ceased.

II TIMOTHY CON'T

- D. As a parting word; Paul assured Timothy and all who read him, of a reward for faithful service in spite of hardships. 4:6-8. Note Acts 20:24-27

Roy H. Lanier; pg. 230-242

Lessons from Books of N.T.

STUDY THE FOLLOWING VERSES

1:4 want to see before die. (Human nature about the same)

1:5 Faith moves one

1:12 I am persuaded

2:9 word not in bonds.

2:10 salvation is in Christ

2:15 study

2:25 How instruct the wayward.

3:1ff Sins in last days.

LESSONS FROM TITUS

OUTLINE: THE SANCTIFIED LIFE: CONDUCT OF THE CHURCH. 2:10

- I. PRECEPTS FOR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE. 1
- II. PRECEPTS FOR FAMILY AND INDIVIDUAL LIFE. 2
- III. PRECEPTS FOR SOCIAL (PUBLIC LIFE). 3

Hendriksen; Bible Survey, pg.424.

1. Another possible key verse is 2:1
2. While Titus is not mentioned in the book of Acts, this able and devoted companion of Paul is referred to in other places.
3. Titus is noted as being prominent in the working with Paul. He is mentioned some 9 times in 2 Cor. and always with marked affection and appreciation.
4. Titus indeed has his work cut out for him in Crete. Their immorality of the cretans had reached such a low ebb that they were given over to greediness, licentiousness, lying, drunkenness and they were a people labeled as unsteady, insincere, and factious. 1:12
5. Must have been a difficult task to carry on the work that Paul had started. It was begun by appointing elders. It was also accomplished by instructing all classes in sound doctrine.

TEACHINGS OF TITUS

- I. SALUTATION: "SLAVE OF GOD" ONLY TIME THIS IS USED IN THE EPISTLES.
 - A. Titus, Paul's convert by "a common faith" Titus was a Gentile and Paul was a Jew. It was a faith common to all for all times. Rom.1:16-17
- II. REASONS WHY PAUL LEFT TITUS IN CRETE. 1:5-16
 - A. Titus was to complete what Paul had begun. We don't know how long Paul stayed in Crete.
 - B. There was a need to establish good leadership among the members. Select elders; Not all qualifications are given, but we see the basic type person that may be selected.
 - C. "When one reaches the degree of Christianity that is required of the elders he has reached the peak of usefulness in the congregation."
 - D. These elders were to be able to hold to sound doctrine; God's church is composed of his children and no man has a right to enter in and poison the minds with false teaching. The elders are to beware of these and feed the flock.
 - E. Paul points out the best way to stop mouths of false teachers. 2:7-8
 - F. Even some still wanted to cling to the O.T. 1:14-15. Thus some still believed certain things (meats) were impure. Paul points out that the people were impure, not the meats.

TITUS CON'T

- G. Word reprobate of vs.16 has reference to the testing of coins for genuineness. The false teachers have been found spurious. Their deeds have been examined and have been found worthless.
- III. SOUND DOCTRINE: ITS AIM AND PURPOSE. chap.2
- A. The expression "sound doctrine" is found only in Timothy and Titus.
 - B. The word sound is found several times in the N.T. which carries with it the idea of good physical health. Those who obey the word are healthy and happy.
 - C. Every Christian has the responsibility of reproducing the life of Christ in his own life. Gal.4:19. The development of character is a slow process.
 - D. To make this application of healthy life he begins with the family. It is the center of all civilization.
 - 1. aged men(not elders) a life of self-restraint.
 - 2. aged women give honor and glory to God.
 - 3. younger women; Husband lovers(their own), children lovers, sober minded, chaste, keepers at home, kind, in subjection to her husband. The home ought to be a happy place for husband and children to come to each day.
 - 4. young men; Be sensible.
 - E. In vs.7 and 8 Paul points out how a preacher's work can be most effective; TEACHING BY EXAMPLE.
- IV. MOTIVES FOR HOLY LIVING: vs.11-15
- A. The grace of God.
 - B. Christ will some day come and vindicate all our efforts to live for him.
- V. FINAL EXHORTATIONS. 3
- A. Subject to powers that be. Matt.22:21, Rom.13:4
 - B. vs.4-7 Paul shows that God is full of love and kindness. We did nothing to deserve this.
 - C. 2 kinds of work mentioned in the Bible. God's and ours.
 - 1. Paul speaks of our work that cannot save. Eph.2:8-9
 - 2. 2 Elements involved in salvation.
 - a. washing of regeneration
 - b. renewing of the Holy Spirit. Tit.3:5, Jno.3:5

#If you have read this far in the book
call me (Gary Puryear).

VERSE TO STUDY

1:2 Eternal life(no difference) Keep God's law have eternal life just like Adam and Eve could have had it.

1:11 mouths must be stopped.

2:8 make evil ashamed

3:1 obey law

3:8 careful to maintain good works.

William A. Wilder
Living Messages
of Books of N.T.
pgs.243-251

LESSONS FROM PHILEMON

INTRO.

1. Written by Paul about 60-62 A.D.
2. It was written from Rome where he was imprisoned. vs.1
3. It was written to Philemon, a wealthy member of the church in Colossae, Col.4:9, 4:17. compared with Phil.2..
4. The purpose is to reconcile Philemon and his runaway slave, Onesimus, whom Paul had converted.
5. The classic dealing with slavery;
 - a. The New Testament does not specifically advocate abolition of slavery. Rather the Christian love and respect for others, Matt.7:12 did destroy it.
 - b. All forms of work were considered improper for Roman citizens, proper only for slaves.
 - c. Some think there were 60,000,000 slaves in the Roman Empire with 600,000 in Rome alone.
 - d. The economy of the Empire was sustained on slavery.
 - e. The slaves had no rights, personal, civil or legal.
 - f. They could be beaten, mutilated, crucified or fed to wild beasts, at the whim of their owner.
 - g. They were referred to as "bodies" not regarded as having souls.
 - h. Compare Col.3:22-4:1, I Cor.7:20-24,
6. Background and Occasion for writing.
 - a. Philemon was converted by Paul. vs.19
 - b. The church met in his home. vs.2
 - c. Onesimus his slave had run away taking money or other things of value.
 - d. He traveled several hundred miles to Rome.
 - e. There he came in contact with Paul the prisoner.
 - f. He became a Christian. vs.10
 - g. He became Paul's personal helper. vs.13
 - h. He must return and make things right with his master.
 - i. Paul writes to intercede for him. Onesimus means "useful". Notice Paul's use of this meaning in vs.11.
7. Archippus is probably the minister for the church in Philemon's house. Philemon 2, Col.4:17.

OUTLINE:

- I. THE SALUTATION. 1:1-3
- II. THE FAITH AND LOVE OF PHILEMON 1:4-9 (Had been demonstrated.)
- III. THE LOVE OF PHILEMON TO BE PRACTICALLY APPLIED. 1:10-22
- IV. THE CLOSING GREETINGS. 1:23-25

THEME: PAUL'S REQUEST FOR THE KIND RECEPTION OF THE FUGITIVE SLAVE ONESIMUS.

1. We learn 2 real needed lessons in this book;
 - a. God is concerned about every individual. Psa.139 and Heb.4:13.
 - b. The true nature of the church; There are ^{no} inferior or superior members. No member is un-important. Even a slave is important.

PHILEMON CON'T

2. Paul is here dealing with a private, domestic matter yet we learn a really important principle. The religion of Jesus is to be devoted to changing men's lives and not seeking to change man's environment and thus try to change man.
3. NOTE PHILEMON.
 - a. He loved the Lord and the brethren. vs.7
 - b. He was Paul's spiritual son, for the Lord had used the preaching of Paul to change his heart. vs.19
 - c. The new life had also affected his whole family. It is likely that Apphia was his wife and Archippus was his son or minister. People who obeyed the Lord regularly met for worship in their homes. vs.2 Col.4:17.
4. NOTE ONESIMUS
 - a. His name means useful or beneficial. That name wasn't lived up to until he was converted. vs.11
 - b. He had run away and went as far as Rome. Note the phrases that Paul uses showing his love for Onesimus.
 1. "my child whom I have begotten in my bonds" vs.10
 2. "My very heart" vs.12 KJV says "mine own bowels."
 3. "A brother beloved...both in the flesh and in the Lord." vs.16
 4. "the faithful and beloved brother." Col.4:9

Points 3 and 4 from
Hendriksen, Bible
Survey, pgs.363-64.

BODY

- I. PAUL IS VERY PERSONAL AND COMPLIMENTARY. Christianity in the final analysis is directed to individuals. The great commission world-wide in scope must be personal in application. I Cor.12:27 "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." Paul identifies a number of people in the book thus showing the worth of the individual. 1:1,24
- II. PAUL COMMENDS THE FAITH AND LOVE OF PHILEMON. 1:4-9
 - A. These were so evident in the life of Philemon that Paul could thank God for these in his prayer.
 1. Faith may be shown. Jas.2:18
 2. Love may be demonstrated. I Jno.5:3
 - B. vs.6 "Communication of thy faith:" Def. Communication; communion, fellowship, sharing in common.
 - C. The love of Philemon was not shallow sentimentality, but a stable, serving, sacrificial spirit. Note I Jno.3:18.
 - D. Paul could have commanded his love for Onesimus but rather his appeal is his love for the brethren of whom Onesimus is now one. Therefore, he was a brother to Philemon.
- III. CONVERSION TO CHRIST INVOLVES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE RESTITUTION OF WRONG DONE TO MAN. 1:17-19
 - A. Paul does not ignore the past. Some think baptism does away with the past, it does as far as sin, but can't stay in a sinful relationship.

PHILEMON CON'T (3)

- B. Guy N. Woods said, "Christianity does not remove moral, financial and legal obligations, it sanctifies them and establishes additional reasons why they should be honored.
 - 1. The person wronged also has a responsibility of being forbearing and forgiving. 1:12
 - 2. Philemon could now show his love by receiving Onesimus and also by praying for Paul. 1:22
- IV. IDENTIFIES SOME OF HIS FELLOW LABORERS AND ESPECIALLY ONE EPAPHRAS A FELLOW PRISONER. WE HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION EPAPHRAS IN THE BOOK OF COLOCCIANIS.
- V. APPLICATION OF THE BOOK.
 - A. Deals with the naturalistic view of man so prevalent in our time. Man is often viewed as a non-rational animal subject to conditioning and his choices can't be helped because that is the way he is programmed. Thus if you can change man's environment you can change the individual. That simply is not the case.
 - B. The real way to cope with slavery was to convert all the masters and slaves.
 - 1. The evils of our society and any other will only be abolished when individuals in the society are changed to do good.
 - 2. Christianity changes men from within not without.
 - C. Another significant lesson is the nature of love.
 - 1. So called Love has become the play thing for situation ethics.
 - 2. The "honk if you love Jesus" bumper stickers is such a shallow view of love. Love is not just something that happens but must be cared for and nurtured that it may grow. It is a love of choice. Tit.2:4-5 teaches wives to love their husbands.
 - 3. Real love is a willingness of a person to seek the happiness of another at the sacrifice of one's own personal pleasure.

Living Messages of
books of the N.T.
Tom Holland, pg.252-
256.

LESSONS FROM HEBREWS

INTRO. OUTLINE

- I. THE SUPERIORITY OF CHRIST 1-4
 - A. To Angels
 - B. To Moses
 - C. To Joshua
- II. THE SUPERIOR PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST. 5-10:18
- III. THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION 10:19-12
- IV. SOCIAL, RELIGIOUS, AND PERSONAL MATTERS. 13

Tom Eddins-Living Messages
of the books of the N.T.
pg.258

- very common letter*
1. The book of Hebrews seems to have two major reasons for its inclusion in the Bible.
 - A. To encourage faltering Christians, who were on the very verge of apostasy. 5:12-14
 1. You can either be sitting in a class studying first principles, the ABC's of the matter, or you can be teaching the class. Be a milk drinker or a meat eater.
 2. 12:1ff He wants the Hebrews to consider Jesus before they throw in the towel or raise a white flag. You've never even shed any blood in defence of the gospel. Move in the right direction. Get a better knowledge and understanding of Scripture.
 - B. Show the absurdity of forsaking Christianity and turning to Judaism. There were those who desired to go back under the law. Gal.4:21. Heb.8:6-13, 9:13-14.
 2. There seems to be a key word "Better". It is used at least 13 times in the Book. 1:4, 6:9, 7:7, 7:19, 7:22, 8:6, 9:23, 10:34, 11:16, 11:35, 11:39-40, 12:24.

F.W. Gould-The
Word of Life.
Oct. 1975

BODY

- I. HEB. 3:4 "For every house is builded by some man: but he that built all things is God." Here is one way we can argue for the existence of God: Houses don't just happen; They have a builder.
- II. FINALITY OF FAITH. Christianity was not born in a religious vacuum. It came into a world filled with religious ideas. All of that today was to be set aside for "the faith". So it is today, it is the final and complete message.
- III. THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE COVENANTS.
 - A. Note 8:6-7 also 7:12.
 - B. Difference in the 2 covenants; One old, the other new. The old was national, the new is universal. The law of old was written on stone and those of the new in the minds of people. Some didn't know the Lord under the old, all can know him in the new.
 - C. Let us never speak disparagingly of the O.T. for it was right for the purpose God had intended.

HEBREWS CON'T

IV. THE NEED FOR PERSEVERENCE.

- A. Certainly the book is a complete answer to the false doctrine of unconditional security of the saints.
- B. In any age there is the danger in having one's initial devotion overcome.
- C. Note exhortations. 5:12, 3:13, 10:25, 12:1

V. VALUE OF FAITH.

- A. Most famous chapter in N.T. Heb.11. They all acted in faith.
- B. This chapter teaches:
 - 1. Basic meaning of faith is trust.
 - 2. It is used to indicate something produced by God's word or message. Rom.10:17 The heroes of faith placed their trust in God's word.

CONCL.

Christians are better equipped to handle life. Though things seem bleak or certain physical things are disheartening, we can be assured of ultimate victory.

Tom Eddins; Living Mess-
age of books of the N.T.
pgs.258-263

VERSE TO STUDY

- 2:2-3 Not escape if disobey.
- 2:14-15 Deliver from bondage by death.
- 4:12 Description of the word.
- 6:10 work and labour of love.
- 6:12 sluggish Christians
- 7:26ff Description of Jesus
- 9:24 Abode of Christ (Heaven)
- 10:28-29 Destroy Law
- 10:32ff How suffer.

LESSONS FROM JAMES

OUTLINE:

- I. SALUTATION. 1:1
- II. LIVING ONE'S FAITH AMIDST TRIALS. 1:2-18
- III. LIVING ONE'S FAITH IN RELATION TO THE WORD OF GOD. 1:19-27
- IV. LIVING ONE'S FAITH IN RELATION TO HIS FELLOWMEN. 2:1-13
- V. LIVING ONE'S FAITH: A STUDY OF FAITH AND WORKS. 2:14-26
- VI. LIVING ONE'S FAITH IN RELATION TO HIS TONGUE. 3:1-18
- VII. LIVING ONE'S FAITH IN RELATION TO THE WORLD. 4:1-5:12
- VIII. LIVING ONE'S FAITH IN PRAYER AND COMPASSION. 5:13-20

INTRO.

- 1. Key verse; Jas. 1:27
- 2. Takes less than 15 minutes to read.
- 3. One of the earliest books to be written.
- 4. It was written by a half-brother of our Lord. 1:1, Matt. 13:55 Gal. 1:19
- 5. It appears that James did not believe his brother's claim about himself during his public ministry. Jno. 7:3-5
- 6. A different picture emerges of James in Acts and epistles.
- 7. Evidence that he was numbered with the disciples awaiting the coming of the kingdom. Acts 1:14
- 8. Soon established as a guiding figure in the Jerusalem congregation.
 - a. Peter sent news of miraculous release from prison. Acts 12:17
 - b. Made definitive speech on occasion of the gathering at Jerusalem over the relation of Gentiles to Law of Moses Acts 15:13ff.
 - c. He was listed along with apostles Peter and John as a "pillar" in Jerusalem church. Gal. 2:9
- 9. James no doubt had a change of character due to his having seen Jesus after resurrection. 1 Cor. 15:7
- 10. Non-biblical tradition tells us he was known as "The Just" because of his many virtues and he spent so much time in prayer on his knees that they "grew worn and hard, like those of a camel."
- 11. Letter directed to those of dispersion.
 - a. Dispersion of Jewish Christians had come from persecution by unbelieving Jews. Acts 8 and 12
 - b. While in Jerusalem James had been a source of teaching.
 - c. Even after scattered he felt a real need to continue to help.
 - d. Written to help the scattered saint live their religion under even trying times.

BODY

- I. LIVING ONE'S FAITH AMIDST TRIALS. 1:2-18
 - A. One feels at times that life is a series of troubles. There is always some crises to be faced-Everyone has his own special problem or problems.
 - B. Will they ever go away? Must these things happen to Christians?

JAMES CON'T (3)

- C. Bible teaches us not to think of these negatively. 1:2,12
- D. Don't whine and fret when you have a difficult problem- Rejoice; Not over the problem but rejoice because we have a loving Savior who is with us and will make stepping stones out of problems. Rejoice over the fact we don't have to be overcome by our problems.

II. TWO TYPES OF TEMPTATIONS. The word can have 2 different meanings and does in this chapter. It can refer to outward trials and inner temptations to do wrong. The R.S.V. uses the word "trial"(outward) and "temptation" (inner).

A. Outward trials(sickness, pain, sorrow, hardship)vs.2,3,12

1. Consider trials of those James is addressing: Forced to leave home and live in a new place. Had to form a new life. Here is test of faithfulness. Would they be faithful to Christ or decide too much for them and give up?
2. Such trials have always come upon Christians. Life as it is has difficulty.
3. Every man is regarded as unproved before God and these various trials come to put him to a test.
4. These trials are not evil and God is not blameworthy for allowing them.
5. High winds and rain are not evil, yet some houses fall. Common trials are not evil but some fall under them. They don't build on the solid rock and live faithful lives every day. Matt.7:24-27

(WHY NOT STOP RIGHT HERE AND PRAY THANKING GOD THAT HE HAS BEEN WITH YOU IN YOUR TRIALS?)

B. Inward Trials-Temptations designed to lead men into sin. Not same as everyday stress.

1. Definitely intended to harm. vs.13
2. While it is true God proves real character it is not true that he seduces men to evil.
3. Let no man blame his sin on God. Ex. Adam and Eve; "Woman thou gavest me..."
4. Contrary to God's nature to tempt us with evil- Cease to be God if He did.
5. What is source of inner temptation? vs.14 We like to blame fate, society, etc. for our immoral and criminal acts. Not so!

**We have our everyday trials simply because we live on earth. They are designed to discipline and improve our characters.

III. PROFESSION AND PRACTICES. 2:14-17

A. Profession is meaningless without performance.

1. It is not enough to assert our faith?
2. There must be evidence to prove by our works. Illust. One see his brother who is destitute and hungry and says "Good luck to you" how much good has he done?
3. James is showing that Christianity must be practical to be real.

JAMES CON'T (3)

- B. The Bible makes a clear distinction between a dead faith and a living faith.
1. Dead faith understands, gives assent to facts, but does not act on the basis of the information received. That kind of faith is worthless.
Illust. Go to a doctor that you trust with a serious illness, knowing that he is an excellent physician and believe that he is able to prescribe treatment which will restore health, yet refuse to take the medication. Now really what kind of faith does he have in the physician?
 2. Living faith is one that trusts enough to follow instructions whenever and wherever they are given.
 3. Saying Lord, Lord will not suffice for doing his will. Matt.7:21
- C. A possible objection to this teaching.
1. Someone says "But different men demonstrate their religion in different ways-one by faith another by works."
 2. James challenges anyone to show his faith apart from the fruit it produces in his life. 2:18-20
 3. If one claims to have faith in God and His work and yet lives as a liar, thief, drunkard, etc. he proves that his faith is not real. Even the demons believe in the one true God, but they are lost and doomed forever because they did not, in the previous existence keep God's commands. 2 Pet.2:4.
- D. Two familiar and clear examples of the kind of faith that saves.
1. Abraham 2:21-24 The Jews were familiar with this character. Abraham was not justified before God until he obeyed the requirement to give Isaac as sacrifice. The statement "Abraham believed God" was not fulfilled until after he had obeyed the Lord in this regard. Gen.22:1-19, Heb.11:17-19. If it was obedient faith that justified Abraham will anything less justify us?
 2. Rahab; 2:25 She acts by hiding these men she believes to be from God. When city of Jericho was destroyed she and her family were spared because of her faith. Josh.2:1-24 Her faith saved her because her faith worked. It was not "scarlet thread salvation" but faith acting.
- E. One is saved by faith when that faith leads him to do what God has directed. Faith that refuses to obey is not a saving faith. 2:26.
- IV. THE RIGHT USE OF THE TONGUE. chap.3
- A. Chapter open with a warning to Christian teachers.

JAMES CON'T (4)

1. This statement was not intended to discourage teachers or to cause Christians to waste their opportunities. It was intended to exhort teachers to do their work out of a pure motive and with careful restraint over their tongues.
 2. The role of the teacher in the early church was vital and highly respected. Some were tempted to become teachers out of love for pre-eminence.
 3. Potential harm a teacher could do with tongue.
 - a. Cause men to be condemned by teaching them falsehoods. 2 Thess. 2:10-12
 - b. Could be tempted to win personal loyalties to himself by flattery and guile. Rom. 16:18.
 - c. Guilty of distracting from Christ by a display of worldly wisdom in his teaching. 1 Cor. 2:1
- B. Beginning with 3:2-5a there is some general warning to all Christians about need for controlling the tongue.
1. Note the boldness of the passage: If control tongue then control entire body.
 2. The absolute necessity of having control of tongue is seen when we become aware of the harm it can cause when out of control.
 - a. Fire 3:5b-6
 - b. restless evil and full of deadly poison. 7-8
 - c. Nothing more inconsistent than to sing praise to God on Sunday and curse someone on Monday. 3:9-12.
 3. One of specific sins of uncontrolled tongue is unjust and evil judgment of someone else. 4:11-12
Please do not misunderstand this passage: Not forbid all kind of judging.
 - a. Oppose false teacher. 1 Jno. 4:1
 - b. Judge in midst of congregation and take action against sin. 1 Cor. 5:3, 12
- *The correct interpretation of this matter of judging is given by Christ himself. Jno. 7:24 "Judge not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment."
4. Obviously it is wrong to tell a lie about another person. It is from the devil. Jno. 8:44 It is not even enough to say, "But I know this to be truth about John Doe and what he did." The Rotary International has an excellent 4-way test. a. Is it the truth? b. Is it fair to all concerned? 3. Will it bring good will and better friendship? 4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned.
- V. CONCERN FOR ERRING BROTHER. 5:19
- A. How can we err from the truth? To err means to wander from, go away from.
 1. Accept a false doctrine instead of holding to truth.
 2. To refuse to live by the demands of truth and thus be guilty of some sinful act.

JAMES CON'T (5)

- B. We usually think of conversion as the initial act of one's obedience to gospel but the word basically means "turn" and can also be properly applied to the winning back of a Christian who has falled away.
- C. Note donction of one fallen.
 - 1. A soul in death. Heb.10:26-27
 - 2. Has a multitude of sins. This is true of those who have falled as we all for those who have neglected to do their duty. Jas.4:17
- D. What should be our approach toward the erring?
 - 1. We are obligated by love to be observant to the needs of our brethren. Phil.2:4 In the world men are selfish looking out for self;that is not to be true of the church. Look for signs of weakness.
 - 2. We must pray for the person; Not be saved as they are but that they may be spared further temptation.
 - 3. Actually go to backslider and appeal to him to come back to the Lord.
- E. Let every Christian here resolve not to be among those who err from the truth.
Heb.10:39 "But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the woul."

Living Messages of books
 of the N.T. Rubel Shelley
 pgs.264-275.

LESSONS FROM I PETER

OUTLINE

- I. F RAISE TO THE FATHER FOR THE LIVING HOPE. 2:1-12
- II. E XHORTATION UNTO A CONDUCT IN HARMONY WITH THIS HOPE.
: 1:13-2:10
- III. T HIS HOLY CONDUCT SHOULD BE COME MANIFEST IN EVERY SPHERE.
2:11-3:22.
- IV. E XAMPLE OF CHRIST (THROUGH SUFFERING TO GLORY) 4
- V. R ULES FOR PARTICULAR GROUPS. 5

Bible Survey Hendriksen, pg.374

THEME: REDEEMED UNDER FIRE.

- 1. Key verse; I Pet.1:6 and 4:10.
- 2. Notice the word "manifold" used in both verses. The word means "Many colored." The trials that they were facing were of various kinds.
- 3. Suffering was involved in each trial. They faced many colored trials.
- 4. Note: There is manifold grace for every manifold trial.
- 5. Note: The joy with which Peter closes the letter. 5:10-11
- 6. The word "suffering" or it's equivalent is found 14 times in the book, but words such as "joy, grace and glory" are mentioned 26 times.
- 7. Challenge of faith; Who was any better equipped to encourage those whose faith was being tried than Peter. He was writing from experience as well as inspiration. His faith was tested when he denied Christ Mk.14:66-72. He learned the lesson of listening to exhortation about danger that faith may face.

BODY

- I. FAITH CHALLENGES MODERNIST ON INSPIRATION.
 - A. In spiration of the Bible is being questioned even more in our day. Note 1:10-11
 - B. Note carefully following words used by Peter; Prophet, prophecy, the spirit of Christ which was in them, testified beforehand, revealed, by the Holy Spirit sent down from heaven.
 - 1. No surer test of inspiration than prophecy. More than 300 prophecies concerning Christ in the O.T. No experience in the past could have led these men to believe these would happen except for inspiration.
 - 2. There is also the lapse of time and fulfillment.
 - 3. No one can foretell what he does not foreknow. There has to be some knowledge higher than man Isa.7:14. There was no experience in the past like this.
- II. FAITH CHALLENGES MODERNISTS ON MIRACLES.
 - A. 1:3 Modernists assume the impossibility of miracles and then on this assumption reject the miracles of Bible.
 - B. Christians have a living hope because of the resurrection of Christ.

I PETER CON'T

- C. God used miracles to confirm his word. Had men come with no proof who would have believed.
- D. Even today in the denominational world, the imposters recognize that miracles are necessary in order for the human mind to receive a religion as divine. Ex. Ellen White, Mary Baker Eddy and Joseph Smith.

III. FAITH CHALLENGES DENOMINATIONALISM.

- A. What faith were the sojourners of the dispersion 1:1? The letter was intended for Christian 4:16. But of what faith? One faith 2 Pet.1:1
- B. Faith must challenge denominational division and in challenging denominational division, faith must challenge denominational doctrines.
- C. Faith must challenge denominations on work of the Holy Spirit.
- D. Faith must challenge denominations claim for receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- E. Faith must challenge denominational worship.

IV. FAITH MUST CHALLENGE DENOMINATIONAL TEACHING ON BAPTISM.

- A. I Pet.3:21
- B. Someone says water will not save anyone. That is true, but to say that water will not save anyone is not to disprove I Pet.3:21, that is, that baptism saves. The statement is that baptism saves and water is the element used in baptism.
- C. Even if baptized in some way, if it was not according to God's plan must do it again. Acts 19:1-5. If God would not accept a baptism that had once been in force, I know he won't accept someone's baptism that has never been accepted.

V. FAITH CHALLENGES PSEUDO SCIENCE.

- A. I Pet.3:20 Flood. Many deny the universal flood. Science has had a hayday on gullable people. It is supposed to solve all the problems of our world.
- B. Science has not discovered a single fact that contradicts Gen.1 and 2. They have a lot of theories.
- C. We are allowing our tax money to be spent in schools that pay teachers to tell our children the theory of evolution.
- D. Scientists even admit that after the 4th day it was a 24-hour day.

CONCL

3:1ff Work of womanhood

3:21 removes the mysticism of baptism. Water strengthens.

Water is a sign that sins are remitted.

4:11 oracles of God

5:5 Weakness and frailties-be humble

5:6-7 cast your care on him.

LESSONS FROM II PETER

OUTLINE:

- I. EXHORTATION FOR DILIGENCE IN KNOWLEDGE, FAITH AND CHRISTIAN GRACES.
 - A. The keynote-knowledge.
 - B. The precious faith "the faith"
 - C. Spiritual mathematics of addition to faith; virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, Godliness, brotherly kindness, love.
- II. SOLEMN WARNING AGAINST FALSE TEACHERS.
 - A. False doctrines, influence and doom.
 - B. Examples.
 - C. character and manner of operation-like Balaam.
 - D. The ultimate apostasy-worse than the first.
- III. THE CERTAINTY OF THE WORD OF THE THE LORD AND UNCERTAINTY OF THE TIME OF CHRIST'S SECOND COMING.
 - A. Error of false predictions by false prophets vs holy prophets and apostles.

INTRO.

1. Key note Word; Knowledge used 7 times.
2. It is a book that tells us we need to look like, act like, and be like Christ.
3. Written 64-65 A.D. Peter soon to die it seems.1:13-14
4. It served as a source of strength and fortitude to the saints then and now.

BODY

- I. WITH KNOWLEDGE AS A KEY NOTE VS.12,13, and 15. The word remembrance brings to our attention how important it is to remember that it was through the goodness and mercy of God and one's knowledge of and obedience to the truth, that we escaped the pollutions of this world and became partners with Christ.
 - A. The source of the "like precious faith" vs.1, was a knowledge and obedience of the word of God.
 - B. A full knowledge of Christ and his word is a safeguard against spiritual dangers, which is really more serious than the physical danger they faced.
- II. KNOWLEDGE GROWS AS WE GROW IN CHRISTIAN GRACES: OR MAYBE SHOULD SAY CHRISTIAN GRACES GROW AS KNOWLEDGE GROWS.
 - A. The apostle James note the necessity of Faith+ 2:14-16
 - B. The apostle reminds Christians that they have a part to play in the matter of salvation. 1:10
 - C. Faith plus
 1. Virtue; Courage and manliness
 2. Knowledge: The courageous person will seek knowledge to do as Paul admonished. Rom.12:9 "Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good."
 3. Temperance(self-control). It would be unthinkable that God could control our life if we have no self-control.
 4. Patience; Endurance is absolutely necessary to attain goal of Christian life.

II PETER CON'T

- 5. godliness; Devotion and reverence to God.
- 6. Brotherly kindness.
- 7. Love; Brotherly kindness and love are twins.

III. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION-IF, IF

- A. 1:8
- B. If fail then blind, forgotten purged from old sins.

IV. FALSE TEACHERS: CHAP.2

- A. Had been false prophets in the past and would be some in the future.
- B. Influence and effect of false teachers is evident in the lives of many individuals and congregations.
- C. But someone says "Just preach Christ and let others alone." Can't do that if teach error.
- D. Motive of false teachers; 2 Pet.2:3
- E. Description of false teachers; 2 Pet.2:10-15

V. THE ULTIMATE: WORSE THAN FIRST: FALL FROM GRACE.

- A. 2 Pet.2:20
- B. Examples of punishment; World before flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, Balaam.

VI. FALSE TEACHERS AND SECOND COMING.

- A. 2 Pet.3:3-4 Mk.13:32
- B. Be prepared for his coming. 2 Pet. 3:10ff

Living Messages of the Books
of the N.T. V.E. Howard pg.
287-297

LESSONS FROM I JOHN

OUTLINE:

- I. GOD IS LIGHT AND SHEDS LIGHT ON OUR PATH. 1:2-2:29
- II. GOD IS LIFE AND IMPARTS LIFE TO US. 3:1-4:6. Note. 3:1,2,9
- III. GOD IS LOVE AND HAS MANIFESTED HIS LOVE TO US. 4:7-5:21

Bible Survey,
Hendriksen, pg.443-444

KEY WORDS: FELLOWSHIP All in first chapter; 1,3,6,7. LOVE
Some form of word found 42 times in book; Out of 105 verse in the entire book.

INTRO.

1. The book promotes holiness.
2. The book was written by an inspired apostle about 90-95A.D. The book was written to Christians, many of whom no doubt were second-generation Christians. The Christian to whom John wrote were beset by problems of lack of brotherly love, spiritual laxity, internal problems, lessening of steadfastness in fellowship, seductions of the world and Gnosticism. (Doctrine that salvation is to be obtained through knowledge rather than through faith and obedience to the gospel.)
3. Must have been an abundant supply of false teachers present. They were called liars, seducers, false prophets, deceivers, and antichrists.
4. John gave the following reasons for writing;
 - a. That their joy may be full. I Jno.1:4
 - b. That they may not sin. I Jno.2:1
 - c. That they may be warned against error. 2:26
 - d. That they may know they have eternal life. 5:13.
5. The purpose of the Bible as stated is "The glory of God and the salvation of man, through Jesus Christ our Lord."
I Jno.5:11 teaches that "life is in his Son."

BODY

I. FALSE VIEWS OF CHRIST.

- A. Discuss Gnostics and Jews belief: They both denied the Lord. Rather than rely on Scripture, the Gnostics, relied on partial acceptance of some of N.T. and O.T. tradition, writings by other noted persons, heathen poets and philosophers.
 1. Against to that is the definition of "true knowledge" I Jno.5:20
- B. There were those who denied the Lord having lived in a fleshly body. John offered testimony involving three of his sense. I Jno.1:1-3
 1. If all matter is evil as Gnostics believed then how can this be reconciled with the incarnation? Some tried to solve it by saying that Christ only seemed to have a body. Some also alleged that the Christ descended upon the Jesus at His baptism and left Him on the cross. Verse denying these false ideas.
 2. I Jno.1:7 His Son (Christ not mere man when shed blood.) 2:22, 4:2-3, 5:6

I JOHN CONT

II. FALSE VIEWS OF SIN. Another problem with Gnosticism; If matter is evil, as the Gnostics claimed and thus of no positive value, what effect does it have on one's moral conduct? Since only the spiritual is important one could be morally free and indulge all one's desire.

A. I Jno.3:7-8; 3:4; 3:9-10

B. No N.T. writer makes stronger statements condemning a so called religion which fails to issue moral action.

C. Two marks which characterize genuine Christianity are love of brethren and obedience to the revealed will of God. 2:3-5, 5:2

D. Religion is not loveless intellectualism: Not a dry head knowledge which leaves heart and life untouched by real love for God and fellow-man. 3:10-18

III. FALSE VIEWS OF THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS.

A. I Jno. present Jesus Christ 1. He was from the beginning, the Son of God, the Christ, the one who came in flesh, who was seen, touched, and handled, he who was without sin, the Savior of the world, our Advocate and the "Propitiation" 2:2; 4:10

B. Propitiate means to conciliate, appease, satisfy. His sacrifice restored that broken relationship with God and man.

C. It is said that the death of Christ is mentioned directly in the N.T. more than 175 times; His death must be very important.

1. It is vicarious; Suffering endured by one person on the stead of another. I Pet.2:22

2. It is Satisfaction. 2 Cor.5:18

3. It is a Ransom; A payment of a price in order to set another held in bondage free. Mk.10:45. "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

IV. FELLOWSHIP.

A. In order for people to be united in fellowship they must

1. Continue in the apostle's doctrine. Acts-2:42

2. Continue to walk in the light 1:5-7

3. Abide in the doctrine of Christ. 2 Jno.9

4. Follow the words of faith and the good doctrine. 2 Tim.3:10

5. Hold fast the pattern of sound words. 2 Tim.1:13

6. Perfected together in the same mind. I Cor.1:10

Living Messages of the
Books of the N.T.

J. Noel Meredith

pgs.298-307

LESSONS FROM II JOHN

INTRO.

Seems easier to summarize contents of 2 Jno. by comparing it to 3 John.

2 Jno. DO NOT SHOW HOSPITALITY TO THOSE WHO REJECT THE TRUTH.

3 Jno. SHOW HOSPITALITY TO THOSE WHO PROCLAIM THE TRUTH.

Bible Survey

Hendriksen.pg.445.

1. John wrote to the elect lady and her children, expressing appreciation for her loyalty to truth as manifest by faithfulness of her children.
2. Encourage her to remain faithful.
3. Warns of deceivers.
4. There has been considerable question as to the identity of the recipient of this book, and exp. as to whether it is directed to an individual or a church. It seems from the greeting in vs.1,4,5,10,13 that it all adds to the view that John is addressing an individual Christian and members of her family.
5. Key word: Truth; used 4 times in first 4 verses.
6. "To walk in truth is to love one another, and to walk after his commandments, involved strict adherence to the teaching of Christ. Whoever goes onward, or progresses too far, have not God. John concludes this line of thought by warning that we give not support to the teaching of that which is not true."

BODY

I. BOOK OF SECOND JOHN AND CURRENT ISSUES.

A. Liberalism: Def. generally; a loose and lax attitude toward the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures.

1. The liberals usually present themselves as progressive thinkers who are in step with the times... Usually downgrade the church.

2. Interestingly John dealt with the same kind in the 1st century. vs.9 "Whosoever goeth onward." The expression means to go further than is right or proper.

3. The Gnostics may have thought we need to make the word more in line with a cultured Gentile civilization and get it out of it's Palestinian mold.

B. Unity Movement.

1. Unity is desirable, but not at any price.

2. 2 Jno.9 is a road block to effort for unity.

It has been argued by some that the expression 'teaching of Christ or doctrine of Christ' refers only to the 'teaching about Christ' i.e. his deity, so many religions can agree on that.

3. Thus many have tried to soften the effect of what the apostle said. We are to abide in the doctrine which Christ taught both directly and through inspired men. I Jno.2:6, Jno.18:19ff.

II JOHN CON'T

C. Plurality in the Godhead.

1. Some teach that there is only one, that is God and when Jesus on earth only one, none in heaven. Some also teach that we must be baptized in water in the name of Jesus only.
2. 2 Jno.9 Father and the Son. The word both here is just as easy to understand as "both Philip and the eunuch" Acts 8:38. There are 2 beings present.

CONCL.

The book of 2 John is a small epistle, but is significant for its emphasis upon the doctrine of Christ. As a practical consideration it seems the study of 2 John should bring a renewed desire for what is sometimes called "doctrinal preaching."

Living Messages of books
of the N.T. Alan Highers
pgs.308-313

LESSONS FROM III JOHN

OUTLINE

- I. PRAYER FOR GAIUS'S PROSPERITY AND HEALTH, AND THANKSGIVING FOR HIS FAITHFULNESS AND THAT OF JOHN'S DISCIPLES. 2-4
- II. INSTRUCTIONS FOR GAIUS: SERVICE TO MISSIONARIES. 5-8
- III. REFERENCE TO A PREVIOUS LETTER TO THE CHURCH. 9a
- IV. DIOTREPHES TYRANNICAL BEHAVIOR AND JOHN'S PLANS FOR CHASTISING HIM. 9b-10
- V. ADMONITION OF GAIUS TO BOLD LIVING. 11
- VI. ENDORSEMENT OF DEMETRIUS. 12
- VII. CONCLUSION. 13-14

INTRO.

1. A brief personal letter to a disciple named Gaius, a faithful member of an unnamed congregation which had benefited previously from John's apostleship. This church had entertained missionaries whom John had sent out, and it contained many faithful brethren,
2. At the time of writing it was being troubled by a tyrant.
3. BASIC MESSAGE: A congregation is to support faithful missionaries in their proclamation of the gospel, and that anyone who prevents such support and who otherwise disrupts the orderly and faithful conduct of the congregation's work should be rebuked and corrected. This Message certainly related to the theme of the Bible: Salvation of men thru Christ.
4. We will look at 4 crucial issues relating to our day from the book.

BODY

- I. ATTITUDE OF LOVE AND CONCERN WHICH CHRISTIANS SHOULD HAVE FOR EACH OTHER.
 - A. John open in first verse by greeting Gaius with the endearment "beloved" and assures his disciple that he truly loves him.
 - B. Though we often close in our letter, what about them off that way. John remembered the words of our Lord. Jno.13:34-35.
 - C. Vs.2 Prays for Gaius' financial, physical and spiritual prosperity. You will note that John uses Gaius' spiritual welfare as the standard for gauging his earthly welfare. (Many of us would be mighty poor.) Gaius welfare was vital to further the missionary activity which John was anticipating.
 - D. We see John's love thru the letter; vs.4 "Children"
 - E. Mentions Gaius' love that was reported to church. vs.5-6a
 - F. Gaius had thereby demonstrated the love and hospitality enjoined on Christians. Rom.12:13
 - G. John closes his letter with a desire to see Gaius "face to face" vs.14. John also asks Gaius to "salute the friends by name." It is so sad today that this is so lacking. We do not emulate Christ example of "saluting friends by name: because we do not even know our brethren by name.

III JOHN CONT

II. THE IMPORTANCE OF WALKING IN TRUTH. vs.3-4

- A. Truth is the teaching of Christ, the absolute, clearly defined body of his will for man. Rom.2:8
 - 1. The truth is the same as doctrine. Acts 5:28
 - 2. The truth is same as "the faith" Acts 6:7
 - 3. The truth is the same as "the word". Jno.17:17
- B. Some have concluded we can't know if another is in error. These learned the truth and lived by the truth.
- C. The truth can be seen and detected, distinguished from error, can and must be defended against error.
- D. These brethren did not live faithfully only when it was convenient to do so.

III. 5-8 JOHN INSTRUCTS GAIUS TO SUPPORT MISSIONARIES.

- A. He graciously received those who were strangers to him. Do we show the same courtesy tho those who come today that we do not know. John tells us to refuse aid to false teachers, but aid faithful brethren.
- B. Gaius was told that faithful brethren were to be set forward on their journey worthily of God. vs.6
- C. The commandment is the same today; But we don't have enough going or sending. Missionaries ought to be supported(moral support, prayers, money and equipment needed for the task.)
- D. Should not have to take from those to whom the missionary speaks. vs.7
- E. When we support the missionaries we become fellow-workers for the truth vs.8. Both may expect commendation from the Lord. Paul gave such commendation to the Philippians. Phil.1:3-5 and Thessalonians I Thess. 1:3.

IV. THE PROBLEM OF A CHURCH TYRANT. DIOTREPHES.

- A. Rejected John's authority, John's missionaries, and had cast out of congregation those brethren who had received the missionaries. 9-10 Don't know what position he had, but he didn't deserve any!
- B. When one tyrannizes the congregation it hurts the church. Any love to have the Pre-eminence. This word used 2 times in the N.T. One time for Christ and other is here.
 - 1. Just missed the lesson of humility and service of Christ Matt.23:11-12 and the other apostles. Rom.12:30 Phil.2:3
- C. John also shows us that a tyrant must be dealt with and surely is not to be endured.
- D. In contrast Gaius is told to imitate that which is good. Note the contrast between good and evil. They do not allow for "gray areas."

LESSONS FROM JUDE

OUTLINE:

- I. SALUTATION vs.1-2
- II. OCCASION FOR WRITING. 3-4
- III. EX. OF CONDEMNATION 5-7
- IV. WICKED AND GOOD CONTRASTED. 8-10
- V. CONDEMNATION OF EVILDOERS. 11-13
- VI. PROPHECY OF ENOCH. vs.14-16
- VII. EXHORTATION TO FAITHFULNESS 17-23
- VIII. CLOSING 24-25

INTRO.

- 1. Purpose of book; Warn Christians of possibility of apostasy and to exhort them to contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered to the saints. vs.3
- 2. About the author: Name Jude (renowned). At least 9 people in the N.T. with this common name. Brother of "James" and thus believed to be the fleshly brother of Christ. Humility possibly kept him from mentioning this fact.

BODY

- I. OCCASION OF WRITING. 3-4 He had been contemplating for some time the writing of a treatise to them. The theme he had proposed was "the common salvation." While meditating on it he received information that those to whom he proposed to write were being threatened by special danger.
 - A. His desire was to stir up his readers to immediate resistance; to implore them to reject these false teachers and their teaching and defend with all their might the faith.
 - B. Lesson 1; There is a common salvation: Common to Jews Gentiles, bond or free.
 - C. Lesson 2: There is "the faith:." It is synonymous with "the gospel" Acts 6:7, Eph.4:5. This truth is not based on the flimsy testimony of man, but on the testimony of inspired men, confirmed by the Holy Spirit with miracles. Mk.16:17-20
 *No modern revelations: Once for all delivered.
 - D. Lesson 3; Not unchristian to engage in religious controversy. "To contend earnestly" literally "to wrestle."
 - 1. Contend: to strive in combat, in debate, competition.
 - 2. Earnestly: serious and intense, zealous, not joking, important.
 *We are to intensely and zealously debate or argue for the faith. Some say that's not Christian, but this is what the Bible teaches.
 - 3. Ex. Christ and apostles and evangelists prove this point. Matt.22:46, Gal.2:5, Phil.1:16, Acts 6:9-10.
- II. Certain men vs.4 slipped in-Be careful. Some workers of Satan are very quiet about their work. Peter speaks of some like this. 2 Pet.2:1-2.

JUDE CON'G

1. Men described: ungodly men. Lasciviousness-These were boldly blasphemous of anything religious. They interpreted the gospel as actually allowing or supporting the practice of lasciviousness.
2 Pet.2:18-19.

II. EXAMPLES OF CONDEMNATION.

- A. Jews I Cor.10:1-11 Israel a mighty nation, perhaps some 2,000,000 strong came out of Egypt, and majority of them died because of sin of unbelief. Just as these died who disobeyed so will these to whom Jude speaks.
- B. Angels: Punishment of wicked is inevitable. Wicked angels will suffer punishment along with evil men.
- C. Sodom, Gomorrah-cities about them (Admah and Zeboim)
Gen.19:22
 1. Vs.7 "set forth" def. to lie exposed as a corpse, laid out for burial.
 2. Here we have then divine punishment to be inflicted on Jews, Gentiles and Angels.

III. WICKED AND GOOD CONTRASTED. Provoke God to deal with those of his day like he did those of foregoing examples.

- A. vs.8 Sodom and Gomorrah given to flesh. Rom.1:18-32.
- B. Michael; chief or captain of angels. Even the highest being in the angelic world restrained himself from the use of evil speaking when he dealt with Satan. These false teachers rail at dignities.

IV. CONDEMNATION OF EVIL DOERS.

- A. Cain-defied simplest and most obvious of God's law (Murder) and followed own will in determining the nature of his offering.
- B. Balaam-Degraded the prophetic office for sordid gain.
- C. Korah; Rebelled against divine authority. #By citing these example Jude demonstrated the false teachers were Guilty of murder, covetousness, rebelling, and pride.
- D. Hidden rocks vs.12 Like sunken reefs which could not be seen on the surface of water and thus sink may a ship, so these men gave no warning to the threat they posed. The "love feasts" were fellowship meals. May have started by Christian who had more sharing with those who were poor.. Not to be misunderstood for the Lord's Supper.
- E. Tries to be shepherds; fed self.
- F. Clouds not have any water. 2 Pet.2:17 Offer promising, rain. To those of Palestine this was discouraging.
- G. Autumn trees; No fruit-Tree twice plucked up. No chance for fruit.
- H. Sea, foaming out it's shame; wash refuse upon the shore. Words of men great swelling words, but like start go off into blackness.
- I. vs.16 Murmurers, complainers. These rebelled at their own lot in life and argued that providence was unkind, Deliberately they had chosen the lower life.

JUDE CON'T

- V. EXHORTATION TO FAITHFULNESS. vs. 17-23
- A. Build up self in most holy faith by prayer.
 - B. vs. 21 Key-Keep self in love of God.
 - C. vs. 22 Those in doubt-have mercy. Help them, be tender and patient.
 - D. vs. 23 Ones more advance in error: snatch them out.
- VI. CLOSING: 24-25
- A. Guard-Indicates protection which Lord extends to keep us in his love. Only those who avail themselves to God's protection will never stumble or fall.
- I Cor. 10:12-13

"Peter, John, Jude"

Guy N. Woods, pg. 381-408
and

Living Messages of books
of the N.T. Kenneth L.
Jones pgs. 322-332

LESSONS FROM REVELATION

BRIEF OUTLINE:

- Rev.1:19 "Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter."
 I. "THE THINGS WHICH THOU SAWEST" Chap.1-5
 II. "THE THINGS WHICH ARE" 6-18
 III. "THE THINGS WHICH SHALL COME TO PASS." 19-22

INTRO.

1. Can't miss the message of Rev.1:1-3
2. Every book in the Bible is great because it is from God.
3. Revelation is no exception. It unites the O.T. and N.T. in that their teachings find fulfillment in it. It presents Paradise regained in the evening of time which was lost in the Garden of Eden in the morning of time.
4. It is the last message of God to man. It presents the fulfillment of the purposes of God.
5. It is the most neglected book in the entire Bible. People are afraid to study it.
6. Barriers to study of Revelation.
 - a. Many read it today with preconceived ideas trying to prove their beliefs. This can be removed by study of Revelation through 1st Century glasses.
 - b. The strange figures of speech and references to conditions which are unknown to the average Bible student.
 - c. Lack of knowledge of the nature of the book of Rev.
 1. It is a revelation: "A revealing, an uncovering, unveiling of the eternal realities.
 2. The book is prophetic 1:3, 22:7, 18, 19. Addressed to present conditions and future events. of church.
 3. Book is directed to each of seven churches in Asia; It is addressed to them as other letters are in N.T.

BODY

- I. PRINCIPAL THRUST OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION IS THE TRIUMPH OF KINGDOM OF GOD.
 - A. As recorded in Dan.2:44 "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." Note fulfillment in Rev.11:15. Key Verse.
 1. This truth is stated in various places through book. Rev.1:8, 4:8b, 19:6, 5:13b.
 2. Rev.19:16 "And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." Triumph of Jesus over all opposition.
- II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF FOREGOING SCRIPTURAL STATEMENTS AFFIRMING THE TRIUMPH OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.
 - A. A great conflict is mirrored in Rev. Conflict between God and Devil; Christ and Caesars; church and Roman empire; monotheism and polytheism; truth and error, and in general between things Christian and Roman.

REVELATION CONT)

- B. 2 Great empires: Empire of list and one of Rome went forth to conquer hearts and lives of men and women during 1st 2½ centuries of Christian era. It was a life and death struggle with the church victorious.
- C. We must go back to Roman world to latter half of the 1st century and learn some conditions under which the book of Rev. was written. It is A.D. 95 and Rome has greatest empire known to man is mistress of the world. As John expressed it in Rev. 17:1 "She sits upon many waters" and these waters are Rev. 17:15 as peoples and multitudes, nations and tongues. Under her rule the one great need was to unite this immensely large Roman Empire. A number of attempts were made but none satisfactory. Though different in background and religion the Roman authorities felt all should feel allegiance to Empire. Decision was made by the powers to deify the Roman Emperor and to make him the symbol and soul of the empire. With this deification came the requirement that he be worshipped and recognized as Lord and God throughout the world (Roman).

Emperor began in a mild and ineffective way with Augustus Caesar but grew across the years until it became mandatory with reign of Titus Flavius Domitianus who rules supreme from A.D. 81-96 as emperor over vast Roman world. His mandates read "Lord God Tius Flavius Domitianus decrees..." such and such.

With the exception of the Jews who were exempt from non-Jewish, the Roman population was required to worship the reigning emperor with consequence of persecution or death, or both, if they did not comply with demands. To many of the kingdom this presented no problem because they already served gods and it only meant adding one more to the list. It did present a serious problem to the Christians. They could have no other gods.

I Cor. 8:5-6 Christian would not worship the emperor.

- D. Refusal of Christian to Worship the Roman Emperor and its results are reflected in the N.T. esp. Rev. Rev. 6:9-11 Here John sees the Christian martyrs who had not worshipped the Roman emperors. Reve. 13:15 those who would not worship the beast were to be killed and in the same chapter vs. 17 declared that those who did not worship him can neither buy nor sell essential commodities. Understand why Peter wrote as he did in I Pet. 4:12-16 about the fiery trials. Extra-Biblical material point out to just merely be a Christian was cause to be persecuted. The Christian was ostracized socially, criticized shamelessly, and killed mercilessly. A favorite device was to clothe the Christian in skin of an animal and allow a pack of

REVELATION CONT (3)

hounds hunt them down. Literally burned at stake, beaten to death. This lasted 3 long centuries. Then come to Rev. 14:7 "hour of judgment is come." Rome will now be punished and it will lead to her fall. Read 14:8-10. Here the battle is to be won 'Triumph of God, Christ and the church.

III. FURTHER TEACHINGS OF BOOK OF REVELATION.

- A. Glorification of God 4:10-11 Here God is seen far superior to the emperors of Rome.
- B. Salvation of Man through Jesus Christ; The Roman people at large believe salvation to be Empire of Rome. All roads lead to Rome and away from Rome. But Jesus is the way. 1:5b, 5:9

IV. BOOK OF REVELATION HAS ANSWER TO BASIC ISSUES FACING MAN.

- A. Doctrinal soundness 2:2 Only 2 churches (Smyrna and Philadelphia) were exempt from unsound doctrine.
- B. No addition or subtraction from teaching. 22:18ff
- C. Only one church or kingdom recognized by God. 11:15
- D. Rev. describes for us events of last things. Judgment 20:11-15.
 - 1. Hell is described as a place of unimaginable suffering and heaven as place of inexpressible beauty and happiness. 20:12a.
 - 2. His servants will serve Him. 22:3 1 Cor. 2:9

Living Messages from
books of N.T. W.B. West,
Jr. pag. 33-342

VERBS TO STUDY

- 1:5 Plan of Redemption
- 1:9 John our brother and companion.
- 1:10 John "in the Spirit"
- 1:18 Keys of hell and death
- 2:5 Repent and do first works.
- 2:13 No excuse for not having a congregation in every place.
- 2:21 Give sinner space to repent.
- 3:2 works can gradually die
- 3:4 not lost or saved in a lump sum
- 4:9 Scope of saving blood of Christ
- 4:12 exaltation of Christ
- 6:14ff judgment day
- 16:7 Lord God, True and righteous are thy judgments
- 16:15 watch and keep garments.
- 20:13 However die-Live again