

One Year through the Old Testament

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II Chronicles, con't

August 1: II Chronicles 30:1 – 31:22

- 1) What were the circumstances for the call to repentance by Hezekiah?
- 2) Who was invited to repent?
- 3) What does it mean to be stiff-necked?
- 4) How was the call received? □ Do you think that was unusual?
- 5) Why was it scorned?
- 6) What is the difference between the spirit of the law versus the letter of the law? □ Cf. 30:19-20
- 7) What were evidences of spiritual renewal?
- 8) Look at 31: 20. □ Wouldn't you like to have these words said about you?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord, forgive us for the times we have done the right thing for the wrong reason. May we always live to your glory alone. Amen.

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August 2: II Chronicles 32:1 – 33:13

- 1) Even though Hezekiah did what was right in the Lord's eyes, Sennacherib tried to invade the land of Judah. □What does that tell us about the life of the godly in this world?
- 2) Just how did Hezekiah motivate the people of Judah?
- 3) I think Luther said that when we pray we ought pray if everything depended on God and work as if everything depended on us. □How did Hezekiah do that?
- 4) How would you describe the letter that Sennacherib wrote to Hezekiah? □How was it so "human?"
- 5) What did the Babylonians want to do?
- 6) How do you explain Manasseh who overturned all the good that his father had done?
- 7) What were the despicable acts he had done?
- 8) Yet how did God show mercy on Manasseh?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O Lord, you promise that in all things you work for the good of those who love you. Help me see your loving hand in this time of trouble. Save me from doubt, relieve my anguish, and lead me through these dark days with the light of your presence, for Jesus sake. Amen.

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August 3: II Chronicles 33:14 – 34:33

- 1) Who is the king of Judah at this time?
- 2) How did he get to experience the grace of God in a huge way?
- 3) Why was it wrong to offer sacrifices to the Lord from the high places? See 33:17
- 4) Who was next in the line of kings?
- 5) Josiah became king at the age of eight years old. □ What does it mean that he began to seek the Lord in the eighth year of his reign?
- 6) Notice how long the Reformation went on. □ What does that say about the state of religion prior to that reformation?
- 7) The book of the Law was found. □ What were the people of Judah doing if they didn't have the book of the Law?
- 8) Why does God bless humility?
- 9) How was God's grace celebrated?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear Father, from whom all good gifts come, make the earth fruitful to fill our mouths with good things. Keep us grateful for the quality and the abundance of the food we enjoy. And where the pains of famine and hunger are felt, show yourself to be a gracious and merciful God. We pray especially for our Christian brothers and sisters who are in need. Do not let their daily bread fail, but relieve their distress for Jesus' sake. Amen.

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August 4: II Chronicles 35:1 – 36:23

- 1) The Passover was to be an annual festival, and a big one at that. □ What had happened to it?
- 2) How big was the feast?
- 3) Did Josiah do what was right when he attacked Neco?
- 4) Who is the primary prophet at this time?
- 5) Why did he write the 'Laments'?
- 6) The fall of Jerusalem and the Babylonian Captivity happen rather quickly?
- 7) How did Nebuchadnezzar do the Lord's work?
- 8) How long did the Babylonian Captivity last?
- 9) Who came after the Babylonians? □
- 10) How did they do the Lord's work?

Important thoughts from the reading:

My Father, protect us and our country from dangers we see as well as those we can only imagine. Sustain and restore those who have suffered pain and loss at the hands of their fellow men. And, Gracious Father, as you have freely forgiven us all in your Son, Jesus, inspire us to forgive those who hurt us. We're grateful for your daily care, but may we especially thank you for your eternal heavenly gift. May we eagerly use the earthly advantages you give us more widely to proclaim your saving grace in Christ Jesus even to those who hate us and seek to harm us? By your Spirit, through your Word, bring them to trust your Son, our Savior Jesus. All this we ask of you, Gracious Father, because of your love for us in your Son, Jesus. Amen. □

By President Karl Gurgel

One Year through the Old Testament

Ezra

August 5: Ezra 1:1 – 2:70

- 1) Who was Cyrus?
- 2) What was happening to the Jews at this time?
- 3) How did Cyrus serve the Lord?
- 4) Why do you think a record of all that was in the temple was kept?
- 5) If you add all the numbers, what do you conclude?
- 6) What happened to the people whose records were lost?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Merciful and gracious Savior, Satan is at work in the lives of so many, and our friend is crying out for help from his ability to raise doubts that lead to despair. Lead her, dear Jesus, to the foot of your cross and to the glory of your heaven by your wonderful gospel message. Take away her doubts. Show her that when she trusts in you, the devil cannot harm her, cannot condemn her, and cannot have her. Warm her heart with the promise of forgiveness of all her sins and the sure hope of eternal life. Fill her with praise to God. Be with her for your name's sake. Amen.

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August 6: Ezra 3:1 – 4:24

- 1) The Israelites were coming back from captivity to settle again in the land of Israel. □
What was one of the great obstacles that they would need to overcome? □ Cf. 3:3

- 2) What did they build first? □

- 3) As the people were laying the foundation, there was weeping and exalting. □ Why the weeping?

- 4) The enemies of Judah made it difficult for the returning exiles. □ What complaint did they lodge with the King of Persia?

- 5) How did Jerusalem's history work against them?

Important thoughts from the reading:

God our Father, your Son welcomed all who came to him, even the outcasts and despised. Give me a faith that dares to come to you, trusting only in your love. Give me a love that accepts others, as I have been accepted by you through your Son. Amen.

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August 7: Ezra 5:1 – 6:22

- 1) Who are some of the leaders of the Jerusalem?
- 2) What made them good leaders?
- 3) Who was Tattenai? What was he trying to do?
- 4) The reply of the elders of Israel is found in 5: 11ff. What did they say was the cause of their exile?
- 5) What was Darius asked to do?
- 6) What was good about the recording keeping system they had?
- 7) How did Tattenai get put down?
- 8) Another dedication was held. How did it compare to Solomon's dedication?

Important thoughts from the reading:

God, our refuge and strength, our ever-present help in trouble, where else can we look for strength and courage? Jesus, precious Savior, the great conqueror of sin, death, and hell, let your Word of truth and love speak courage now to our troubled hearts. We are yours. What can man do to us? Even as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we need fear no evil, for you are with us. You are the Lord of heaven and earth. Help us to be still and know that you are God, to trust that these times, too, are in your hands. Empower and embolden us to face whatever lies ahead of us with a calm and steady faith that we may continue to be beacons of hope and inner peace in this dark and dangerous world. Amen.

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August 8: Ezra 7:1 – 8:20

- 1) What was going on at this time?
- 2) Who is Ezra?
- 3) Why was he in a position to help the returning exiles?
- 4) How would you characterize the Persian king Artaxerxes?
- 5) What are parts of the decree that benefited Judah?
- 6) What must have disappointed the Lord as implied in chapter eight?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Your Word, O God, is truth and leads us to holiness in Christ, by the Spirit. Teach us, Lord, always to revere, love, and treasure your Word and its blessings. Work in us the desire to read and study our Bibles in order to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. By the Holy Spirit, keep us ever faithful to your Word. Amen.

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August 9: Ezra 8:21 – 9:15

- 1) What dilemma did Ezra find himself in, as they were about to begin the journey back to Jerusalem?□
- 2) What was the gold and silver that had been collected to be used for?
- 3) Why was accounting for all the valuable items so important?
- 4) How is that still true?
- 5) Why were the sacrifices offered?
- 6) When Ezra got to Jerusalem what discouraging report was received?
- 7) Why was that bad?
- 8) What did Ezra do?
- 9) How was history about to repeat itself?
- 10) What is unity really based on?□
- 11) What is unionism?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Heavenly Father, thank you for sleep. It's a great blessing to clear our minds with you, praise you for the blessings of the day, ask for forgiveness, and bask in the glow of your power and saving grace. Thank you for the time for our bodies and minds to rest, heal, and grow. Thank you for the love you show us in Jesus, who humbled Himself to be born as a frail human--someone who needed to sleep just as we do. Jesus, you died a bitter, painful, lonely death for us. Help us remember this limitless love you lavished on us. Help us grow up in our faith and our understanding of your will for us as Christians. Send the Holy Spirit to remind us of everything you have commanded us, and show us how to best apply your principles to our lives as Christians in a hostile, unchristian world. We ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

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August 10: Ezra 10:1 – 10:44

- 1) Why was Ezra weeping and praying?
- 2) The Israelites who had returned previously from exile had taken foreign wives and compromised their faith again. □What makes people apt to repeat past mistakes and not learn from them? □
- 3) What does this say about the seriousness with which God treats sin?
- 4) What does this section teach us about the seriousness with which we ought to deal with our sins?
- 5) Can you think of examples of attempting to correct a violation of a commandment leads to what seems another violation of a commandment?
- 6) What does the long list tell us?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Give me a caring heart, O my Savior, to love and seek the lost. Overcome my fear, and grant me courage to share my hope of salvation with those who have no hope. Make me faithful in my daily life so that all I say and do may glorify you. Amen.

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Nehemiah

August 11: Nehemiah 1:1 – 3:14

- 1) Who was Nehemiah and what position did he hold?
- 2) The time frame on this is around the twentieth year of Artaxerxes. □ That puts us at @ 445 BC. □ Ezra had returned in the seventh year, which was 458 BC. □ How long had the people returned from exile? □
- 3) What had not happened yet?
- 4) Nehemiah is a great example of a godly leader. □ What made him that good and godly leader?
- 5) How does godly living and letting the light shine influence those around you, as did Nehemiah with Artaxerxes? □
- 6) Nehemiah was going back to Jerusalem. □ What was the big obstacle that he would encounter?
- 7) As he inspected the wall, he saw a huge task that needed to be done. □ How would it get accomplished?
- 8) How did God bless the task?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Heavenly Father, we praise you for providing the men and women who enforce the laws of our land. Through them, you have blessed us with peace, order, and favorable conditions for the preaching of your Word. We realize that the work you have given these law enforcement officials is difficult and often dangerous. Especially now, the challenges your servants face may at times seem overwhelming. We therefore ask that you would protect these public servants from harm as they carry out their duties. Make them vigilant to see any threats that arise, and give them the necessary wisdom and calm to respond properly.

*Fill us all with such respect for them that their service to us may bring them joy and satisfaction. We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

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August 12: Nehemiah 3:15 – 5:13

- 1) Why were repairs on the walls of Jerusalem so necessary?
- 2) It is obvious that God gave the people the necessary talents and skills for all this to get done. How do you see that also true of the church of the New Testament?
- 3) Who were Sanballat and Tobiah?
- 4) Why were they opposed to the walls of Jerusalem being built?
- 5) How did the exiles who had returned put into practice the phrase, “Pray as if everything depended on God but work as if everything depended on you?”
- 6) What internal problems were the residents of Jerusalem having? Isn't it something that sin shows itself in one form or another all the time?
- 7) What is usury?
- 8) How did Nehemiah show good leadership?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Heavenly Father, thank you for my home and family for love and gentleness, for laughter enjoyed and sorrows shared. For daily bread. For the gift of your Son. Help me to be mindful of all your gifts and to rejoice in your goodness. May your peace be with us and your presence protect us. Amen.

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August 13: Nehemiah 5:14 – 7:60

- 1) Nehemiah was appointed the governor of Judah. While many would have gotten power hungry and proud, how did Nehemiah act toward his people?
- 2) Look at 5:19. How do you explain that request in the light of grace?
- 3) How did Sanballat and his company try to undermine the work God had given to Nehemiah?
- 4) How do the enemies of God do the same thing today?
- 5) What was remarkable about the building of the wall?
- 6) What did the city of Jerusalem look like when the walls were built?
- 7) Again if you add up the numbers who returned to Israel what is the conclusion one comes to?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O God, from whom we receive good things, we have friends in Christ who need work badly but can't find it. Help our friends in this time of distress. Keep them focused on you and your grace and content to make way as you show the way. As you will, provide a job soon. Meanwhile, keep our friends and their families in your loving care and ever mindful of the eternal and heavenly benefits that you guarantee in Christ, our Savior. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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August 14: Nehemiah 7:61 – 9:21

- 1) What was the problem with some families?
- 2) How would the Urim and Thummim settle the matter?□
- 3) What was Ezra going to do with the people at this time?
- 4) As he was reading the Book of the Law, what was needed since not all people knew Hebrew?□Cf. 8:8
- 5) Why did the people want to grieve?
- 6) Why didn't Ezra allow them to?
- 7) As they read the Law, what needed to be done for the first time in a long time?
- 8) In general what was the prayer of the Levites all about?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord God give me strength and willingness to say with your Son, "Not my will but your will be done." Make me cheerful and trusting to bear whatever you let happen to me. From your hand I am willing to take the good and the bad, the joy and the sorrow. Keep me from sin, gracious Father, and comfort me with your kind Word. Amen.

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August 15: Nehemiah 9:22 – 10:39

- 1) This is a continuation of Ezra's prayer after the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt. He is remembering the goodness of God in the history of Israel. □ It is chronological in form. □ What things are striking to you?
- 2) Yet, what was Israel's reply?
- 3) How were the trials blessing from God?
- 4) Do you find yourself in a cycle as far as your relationship with God is concerned? □ How do you break it?
- 5) How patient is God?
- 6) The people of Judah made a covenant with the God. □ Take a look at the people who signed it. □ Do you see people you know?
- 7) What are areas where they made promises?
 - a) Vs 30
 - b) Vs 31
 - c) Vs 32-33
 - d) Vs 34
 - e) Vs 35
 - f) Vs 36
 - g) Vs. 37-39
- 8) What can we learn from this?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O God, our Father, you have blessed us and our country. You have provided armies for our protection and safety. In your providence, the men and women in those armies have placed their lives at risk, and many have died for our peace. Let us not take such a wonderful and costly blessing for granted, but move us to remember those fallen troops with thanks. Help us to live worthy of the peace that they fought to preserve. Make us brave to defend that peace into the future. O Lord, keep us mindful also of the unspeakable price that you paid for our eternal peace through your Son, and keep us in that peace now and forever. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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August 16: Nehemiah 11:1 – 12: 26

- 1) The walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt but what was the problem?
- 2) Why was it important that the people of Judah inhabit the city?
- 3) What was the list provided in chapter eleven?
- 4) What was the list of chapter twelve?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Compassionate Savior, too often I forget how many in our world are homeless, poor, and hungry. In your mercy relieve their suffering and pain. Remind me that when I help a person in need I am serving you. Amen.

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August 17: Nehemiah 12:27 – 13:31

- 1) What were the people of Jerusalem about to do?
- 2) Why was that such a momentous occasion?
- 3) What was a great part of the celebration?□Why do you think that was true?
- 4) Where was the music secured?□
- 5) The book of□Moses was read, the Torah.□What portions were read?
- 6) How were the leaders of the worship rewarded?
- 7) Where was Nehemiah when all this was taking place?
- 8) When Nehemiah returned, what displeased him?□Why was that such a big deal?
- 9) What else displeased Nehemiah?

Important thoughts from the reading:

How did Nehemiah show he was a man after God's heart? Merciful God, as you have said, "let the one who has my word speak it faithfully," so lead all of our pastors, teachers, and professors to speak your Word faithfully in their ministries. Furthermore, lead all of our members to hear your Word regularly, to believe it wholeheartedly, to cling to it steadfastly, and to live by it daily. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

Esther

August 18: Esther 1:1 – 3:15

- 1) What country did Xerxes rule?
- 2) It was party time and the royalty had their own men/women parties. While the wine flowed freely, what did Xerxes want his wife to do? This will probably be your second answer.
- 3) How did the men think that they had won the battle of the sexes?
- 4) What was the “law of the Medes and Persians?”
- 5) What needed to be done to Vashti?
- 6) What was the purpose of the spa treatment?
- 7) Who is Esther? Who is Mordecai?
- 8) What heroic deed did Mordecai do?
- 9) What foolish thing did Mordecai do.... or was it foolish?
- 10) Who was Haman?
- 11) Why did Haman have it in for the Jews?
- 12) How did Haman get Xerxes' ear?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord God, you created our world and society to be orderly and to have authority figures. You created our world and society in this way to bring your blessings to us. We give you thanks for the order and the authority that our parents brought to our growing up, for those blessings have served us well. Bless our parents during these times of their lives and give us a respect and love that lasts beyond the years of childhood. Teach us to imitate the love your Son felt for his mother even when that love was inconvenient. Bless our loving, just as the love of our parents blessed our living. For Jesus' sake we pray. Amen.

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August 19: Esther 4:1 – 7:10

- 1) How was the Devil really in his glory at the decree that was issued about the extinction of the Jews?
- 2) It is interesting the Book of Esther does not mention God anywhere. □ How did God use Esther?
- 3) Who kept Xerxes up that night?
- 4) Haman was a big baby. □ What are lessons from him?
- 5) What do you want to emulate from Mordecai? □ What don't you want to emulate?
- 6) Esther was a calm and cool lady. □ What do you want to imitate from her?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Heavenly Father, we have friends who face many troubles, including ill health. Heal them in keeping with your love and compassion, guide them to firm financial footing, and restore things to normal in their lives. Turn their hearts always to you and guide them in your ways. Forgive them for the sins that also cloud their lives and warm them in the sunshine of your grace. Let them know the peace and contentment that comes alone through Christ and his saving Word. Amen.

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August 20: Esther 8:1 – 10:3

- 1) With Haman gone what was still hanging over the heads of the Jews?
- 2) What was the second decree that the king made that was favorable to the Jews?
- 3) The day of vengeance came. □What did the Jews do to prove how godly they were even though much blood was shed in defending themselves? □
- 4) What can we learn from this?
- 5) What is the celebration of Purim?
- 6) How did Mordecai show himself to be a trusted and capable leader?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O Lord, it grieves me that anger, strife, and bitterness have become a part of my life. Forgive my sins and renew my spirit so that I will pardon others, correct the mistakes I have made, and be more cheerful toward those around me. Remind me through your Word that your Son's peace provides the needed hope and reason for healing and change. Amen.

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Job

August 21: Job 1:1 – 3:26

- 1) We have trouble pinpointing when Job lived. □ Obviously he was a rich man. □ What are the temptations to fail to stay faithful to God if one is well provided for?
- 2) 1:6,7 present an interesting picture of the spiritual realm. □ What is it?
- 3) Of what did Satan accuse God?
- 4) How badly was Job hurt?
- 5) What do you think of Job's reaction to it all in 1:21?
- 6) What was to be the nail in the coffin as far as the Devil was concerned?
- 7) Job's wife wanted her husband to curse God. □ There were three friends who will now converse with Job and try to comfort him. □ At first they didn't say a word. □ What do you think of that? □ Hint: perhaps this was best especially when they started to talk.
- 8) What did Job think about the day of his birth? □
- 9) What makes much of what Job says very ungodly?
- 10) What do you think of what he says in 3:20?
- 11) In 3:25 he says that all that he thought about and worried about came true. □ Do you do the same? □

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August 22: Job 4:1 – 7:21

- 1) What is the conclusion that Eliphaz comes to regarding the reason for Job's problems?
- 2) How does he substantiate that he is right in his conclusion?
- 3) For the most part Eliphaz doesn't comfort much. □ What does he say that should be done at the beginning of chapter five?
- 4) How does 5:17 square with Hebrews 12:4-8?
- 5) What is Job's reaction to Eliphaz's statements?
- 6) In chapter 7 Job turns his attention toward God. □ How can the following verses be summarized?

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August 23: Job 8:1 – 11:20

- 1) Eliphaz, in his opening statement, was relatively gentle. Bildad was not. Why does he say Job is going through this pain and trial?
- 2) Look at 8:4. How was that like putting salt in an open wound?
- 3) In the opening words of chapter 9, Job agrees with Bildad about the justice of God. Where does he say comes the stumbling block?
- 4) In 9:13 Rahab is a legendary monster of chaos. Job makes the point that God can destroy anything and everyone. What kind of God is Job saying he is in 9:16-19?
- 5) In the latter verses of chapter nine Job despises his life. Why?
- 6) What does he want in 9:32ff?
- 7) As chapter ten begins, what does Job want to say to God if he had an audience with him?
 - a. Verse 2
 - b. Verses 4,5
 - c. Verse 18ff
- 8) Zophar begins his first speech in chapter 11. Of what does Zophar accuse Job? Cf. 11:6
- 9) What does he say that Job should do? 11:13,14

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August 24: Job 12:1 – 15:35

- 1) This is Job's answer to Zophar who was rather cruel to him. How does he react to their criticism?
- 2) What does Job have a tough time handling about God? Cf. 12:5,6
- 3) In chapter twelve it seems that Job is saying that if God wants to do anything he wants to do, no one stands a chance against him. Is he correct in his assessment?
- 4) In chapter thirteen Job wants his "friends" to keep quiet. In 13:15 he says something rather profound. What is it?
- 5) In chapter thirteen he asks a question of God. What is it?
- 6) 14:1,2 are rather famous words from Job. Are they an accurate assessment of man?
- 7) What kind of God does Job picture for us?
- 8) Look at 14:13-17. What does Job ask God to do?
- 9) In Chapter 15 Eliphaz answers for a second time. In essence what does he call Job?
- 10) In 15:8-10 there is a battle of egos going on here. Over what?
- 11) Prior to this Bildad claimed he had a special in with God and God explained all things to him. What does Eliphaz claim? Cf. 15:17,18
- 12) What does he say will happen to the one who defies God? What is he implying?

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August 25: Job 16:1 – 19:25

- 1) What was Job longing for?
- 2) Job complains that people are picking on him and taunting him. □ Who and why would that be?
- 3) What kind of complaints does he register about God?
- 4) Who is he talking about in 16:19-21?
- 5) How do others react to Job? □ What can we take from that?
- 6) How does he seem to speak of his hopelessness?
- 7) Bildad answers in chapter 18. What is the picture he paints of those who reject his advice?
- 8) Needless to say, this has all become rather personal between Job and his friends. □ Has that happened to you in your lives with people who are undergoing trials? □ How can it be prevented?
- 9) What does he even say to God? Cf. 19:4-6
- 10) How does he say he feels in verses 13-16?
- 11) While at the lowest depths, what gives him hope? □ Cf. 19:23-27
- 12) How can we use that hope for ourselves?

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August 26: Job 20:1 – 22:30

- 1) Zophar replies. □ This is his last time. □ As we can see the dialog is becoming in many respects monotonous. □ That is preparing us for the time when God speaks... still some chapters ahead. □ Zophar really parrots what Bildad said. □ What is their picture of God?
- 2) What are they obviously saying about Job?
- 3) How would you answer the question he asks in 21:4?
- 4) Job asks the age-old question in 21:7ff. □ What is it?
- 5) How does that fly in the face of all that Zophar had just said?
- 6) Eliphaz now speaks for the last time. □ He continues on the same line of thought that God punishes sin and that is the reason Job is suffering so. □ Look at 22:5-9. □ What did Eliphaz do?
- 7) What does Eliphaz say the solution of Job's problem is?

Important thoughts from the reading:

One Year through the Old Testament

August 27: Job 23:1 – 27:23

- 1) How does Job think that his case will be settled?
- 2) Does Job think that he is sinless?
- 3) At the end of chapter 23, what does he think of God?
- 4) In chapter 24 with what does he seem to charge God?
- 5) You will notice that Bildad speaks very little. □ His arguments have run out. What does he say in the short verses with which he speaks? This is the last time he speaks.
- 6) Job speaks for the final but rather long time also. □ He points out the God is a powerful God whose power is overwhelming. □ What is the problem man has with that?
- 7) In chapter 27 especially from verse seven onward, whom does he seem to sound like?

Important thoughts from the reading:

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." The start of another school year reminds us of this exhortation from you, Lord. Help us to realize the importance of the education and the training of children. We ask you to bless all those who labor in the schools around our nation. We ask you to bless both our Christian schools and the public schools. Prosper also the educational efforts of parents and congregations and grant that the rising generation may not only grow in secular wisdom but also grow in knowledge of you, the only true God, and your Son Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

August 28: Job 28:1 – 30:31

- 1) Finding wisdom is like trying to find gold and silver. In 28:15 he says that it can't even be bought. Where is it found?
- 2) What Scripture does 28:28 remind you of?
- 3) What is Job wanting a return of in chapter 29?
- 4) When do we wish for the same?
- 5) What would you say is the theme of chapter 30?
- 6) Can you blame Job for how he feels or is it better to say we can understand how he feels?
- 7) Look at 30:30 where he tells us what he is enduring.

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord Jesus, you commanded us to go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Bless our every effort to proclaim the message salvation to the multitudes of people who have never heard of Jesus, the Savior of nations. Help us to send out more missionaries to tell more people the good news of deliverance from sin, death, and Satan--of forgiveness, peace, and salvation through you. We pray this in your name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

August 29: Job 31:1 – 33:33

- 1) Why did Job make a covenant before the Lord?
- 2) Do you think that Job thought he was sinless?
- 3) What areas of his life did Job feel he was blameless?
 - a) Verse 1ff
 - b) Verse 13ff
 - c) Verse 16ff
 - d) Verse 20ff
 - e) Verse 24 -
 - f) Verse 26,26
 - g) Verse 32 –
 - h) Verse 33
 - i) Verse 34
- 4) In chapter 32, to who are we introduced?
- 5) Why was he angry?
- 6) Even though Elihu was younger than the other four, when does age not matter?
- 7) Should Elihu be listened to as you read chapter 32?
- 8) Where does he say he is getting the words he says? Do you remember which of Job's three friends claimed the same?
- 9) Why does he say Job was being foolish? Cf. Verse 12ff
- 10) He explains how God speaks. What are those ways?
- 11) What does he say is God's purpose?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Heavenly Father, thank you for my home and family for love and gentleness, for laughter enjoyed and sorrows shared. For daily bread. For the gift of your Son. Help me to be mindful of all your gifts and to rejoice in your goodness. May your peace be with us and your presence protect us. Amen

One Year through the Old Testament

August 30: Job 34:1 – 36:33

- 1) What does Elihu say to Job that he should not even bother to do?
- 2) How would you say that Elihu describes God?
 - a. Verse 12
 - b. Verse 14, 15
 - c. Verse 18
- 3) What is the proper answer to those who say that bad people prosper and God is not fair?
- 4) Of what does Elihu accuse Job? (34:35-37)
- 5) Elihu (although wrongly) takes the question of conduct and its effect upon others. What are his complaints? (35: 9-11)
- 6) In verse 13 he explains why God does not answer. What is it?
- 7) In chapter 36 what does he say the purpose of suffering really is? (See verses 8-10, 15-16)
- 8) The rest of the chapter exalts God for his wisdom. In what ways does he do that?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Gracious heavenly Father, as the United States pauses to contemplate the freedom to work and the employment opportunities that are available to us, may we never lose sight of the fact that it is only because of your grace and favor that we are able to work. Thank you Lord, for the blessings of employment and work that I have had in the past and at present. May all that I do at work give glory to you and your precious name. I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whom I love and serve. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

August 31: Job 37:1 – 39:30

- 1) Chapter 37 is a continuation of the thoughts of the previous chapter. How is Elihu explaining what our attitude ought to be in suffering?
- 2) What should always be the attitude of man? (37:24)
- 3) In chapter 38 God answers. His questions seem like a machine gun. What is the purpose behind all the questions he asks?
- 4) What aspects of God's creation does chapter 38 address?
- 5) What aspects does chapter 39 address?
- 6) How does that all fit in regard to the whole question of suffering?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O Lord, support us all the day long, till the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then in your mercy, for Jesus' sake, grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last. Amen.