

One Year Bible – Week 26

Summary: Acts Reading

Starting with chapter 13, the book of Acts switches from Peter to tell of Paul's journey. The church has its first church council in Jerusalem. Paul gives his famous "Mars Hill" speech in Athens.

Summary: 2 Kings Reading

The books of First and Second Kings were originally one book (along with First and Second Samuel) and likely broken up for convenience to fit on one scroll. Thus, beginning Second Kings is simply the continuation of First Kings.

Second Kings begins with the prophet Elijah's final days and leads into his successor, Elisha. The prophet Elisha is involved with numerous wonders. As with First Kings, the book of Second Kings bounces back and forth between the kings of Israel in the north and the kings of Judah in the south.

Things to Look For and Questions to Ponder as You Read:

- *OT* – In 2 Kings we see the activity of God's prophets (Elijah and Elisha) and various kings of both Israel and Judah. What major themes do you notice among these accounts? What do you see God doing through the lives of these people of influence? How would you rate the faithfulness of God's people through these times? Pick one or two stories from the reading this week that have stuck with you and write down why. Make sure to identify how you see God acting in these episodes.
- *NT* – As Paul travels to numerous places he preaches wherever he goes about the "good news." Notice throughout his travels how Paul describes or presents this good news. Are there statements that you find helpful in describing God and his work? Are there any words or phrases that Paul uses which stick in your mind and grab your heart? Consider how Paul presents the "good news" of the Kingdom of God and ask yourself, how would I present the good news of Jesus Christ when given opportunities?

Small Group Questions:

- 1) *OT* – Read Psalm 139 together. Describe in your own words the extent to which God knows us. What observations do you make about God from verses 5-12? How does this Psalm relate to current issues of life

(ex. abortion, euthanasia, etc.)? Why does the Psalmist end this Psalm with a request for God to search him though he begins the Psalm by acknowledging that God has searched him and knows him? – *June 21*

- 2) *OT* – Read 2Ki 6:8-17. How do you think the servant of Elisha felt before his eyes were "opened?" How would you describe Elisha's demeanor in this story? What can we learn about God and his kingdom from this episode? How does this story affect the way we relate to God – the level of faith we exercise? – *June 24*
- 3) *NT* – Read Paul's Mars Hill speech in Acts 17:16-34. What observations do you make of Paul's approach to his listeners – How does he gain a listening ear? What does Paul emphasize in his speech? Why do you think Paul said and emphasized what he did in this speech? How does Paul's example here help to inform the ways we might share about Jesus to others? – *June 26*

Journal the Psalms this week:

Spiritual maturity is not simply "cleaning up" on the outside. We attempt to "be better" Christians by trying to avoid activities and habits that are destructive. However, the Psalmist gives us a deeper path to tread. Read Psalm 141:4. The Psalmist here speaks of where his heart is drawn. He asks God to protect his heart from being drawn to what is evil. Spiritual maturity is the posturing and guarding of one's heart as much as, if not more than, the cleaning up of one's actions. Journal a prayer for God to protect your heart from being drawn to what is evil, and confess to him your desires that need changing. – *June 23*

Reading Schedule:

2Ki = 2 Kings / Acts / Ps = Psalms / Pr = Proverbs



June 21 – 2Ki 1:1-2:25 / Acts 13:42-14:7 / Ps 139:1-24 / Pr 17:19-21
June 22 – 2Ki 3:1-4:17 / Acts 14:8-28 / Ps 140:1-13 / Pr 17:22
June 23 – 2Ki 4:18-5:27 / Acts 15:1-35 / Ps 141:1-10 / Pr 17:23
June 24 – 2Ki 6:1-7:20 / Acts 15:36-16:15 / Ps 142:1-7 / Pr 17:24-25
June 25 – 2Ki 8:1-9:13 / Acts 16:16-40 / Ps 143:1-12 / Pr 17:26
June 26 – 2Ki 9:14-10:31 / Acts 17:1-34 / Ps 144:1-15 / Pr 17:27-28
June 27 – 2Ki 10:32-12:21 / Acts 18:1-22 / Ps 145:1-21 / Pr 18:1