

One Year Bible – Week 28

Summary: Acts Reading

From being arrested in Jerusalem, the Roman commander sends Paul to the governor in Caesarea. Paul stays imprisoned for two years there, ultimately speaking to numerous officials before being sent to Rome to stand before Caesar. While enroute, Paul was shipwrecked. Upon arriving in Rome, Paul was given freedom to live under house arrest for at least a couple years.

Summary: 1 Chronicles Reading

In some ways the book of Chronicles is a repeat of what was talked about in the books of Samuel and Kings. However, Chronicles is not *merely* a redundancy. The books of Chronicles were written after the Jews exile to Babylon. When you read Chronicles, ask yourself why each section is included in the book? What help might this information be to a Jew returning from exile? What does God want to communicate in each section and how do they fit together?

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

- *NT* – Paul's appeal to Ceasar is an interesting twist in his story. We discover that had Paul not appealed to Ceasar, he would likely have been set free (Acts 26:32). Yet we know that his journey is intended to lead to Rome as God had told Paul previously (Acts 23:11). God uses difficult and even unfair circumstances for his purposes. Paul was imprisoned unfairly and gave his life to testify about God in the midst of that unfairness. What if God calls you to a path of unfairness, or discomfirt, or inconvenience... Would you be willing to be used in such circumstances? Some people in other parts of the world are imprisoned and abused for identifying faith with Christ. Some are restricted from obtaining jobs. Some are struck with debilitating or even terminal illness. What if you involuntarily became one of these people? Would you respond like Paul?
- *NT* – Paul is imprisoned for the entirety of this week's reading. Notice Paul's attitude, the things he does and the things he says. He does not appeal to his own circumstances near as much as he does preach the message of the Gospel. Is this how you might act if you were held in prison for no particular reason? If not, how do you think you would respond in a similar setting? Why do you think Paul is able to act and speak the way he does in his situation?

Small Group Questions:

- 1) *NT* – Read the various testimonies that Paul gives (Acts 23:6; 24:21; 26:6-7). Summarize in your own words what Paul sees as the reason for being on trial? Why was this an issue for the Jews who were persecuting Paul? What difference does Jesus' resurrection from the dead make to you? – *July 5, 6, 8*
- 2) *OT* – What do you think it would be like to serve a god that took pleasure in evil? Can you think of any examples in history or modern day of a people who serve(d) a god who delights in evil? Read Psalm 5:4-8. What observations do you make about God from these verses? How is worshipping the God of the Bible different than following a god who takes pleasure in evil? Is there anything from these verses conceptually that could help you in sharing your faith with nonbelievers? – *July 7*
- 3) *OT* – Read 1Ch 10:13-14. These verses talk of Saul's death. What value do you think is brought to the reader in these verses? What can we learn from Saul and following God from these verses? – *July 10*

Journal the Psalms this week:

"Who can show us any good?" (Ps 4:6) Maybe not in these words, but this is one of those fundamental questions of life: Who or what makes any sense of this broken world? The psalmist in Ps 4:6b-8 has a response to this age old question. Have you experienced evil or wickedness in life? What about meaninglessness or hopelessness? Journal your reflections from these questions and the verses mentioned above. – *July 6*

Reading Schedule:

1Ch = 1 Chronicles / Acts / Ps = Psalms / Pr = Proverbs



July 5 – 1Ch 1:1-2:17 / Acts 23:11-35 / Ps 3:1-8 / Pr 18:14-15
July 6 – 1Ch 2:18-4:4 / Acts 24:1-27 / Ps 4:1-8 / Pr 18:16-18
July 7 – 1Ch 4:5-5:17 / Acts 25:1-27 / Ps 5:1-12 / Pr 18:19
July 8 – 1Ch 5:18-6:81 / Acts 26:1-32 / Ps 6:1-10 / Pr 18:20-21
July 9 – 1Ch 7:1-8:40 / Acts 27:1-20 / Ps 7:1-17 / Pr 18:22
July 10 – 1Ch 9:1-10:14 / Acts 27:21-44 / Ps 8:1-9 / Pr 18:23-24
July 11 – 1Ch 11:1-12:18 / Acts 28:1-31 / Ps 9:1-12 / Pr 19:1-3