

The history of the kings of Judah, since the time of Solomon, is a history of contrasts between the kings who were faithful to the LORD God and those who were faithless and worshipped the idols around them. Ahaz, the father of Hezekiah was one those faithless kings who led the people in detestable ways in following after foreign gods. It is even reported that he sacrificed one of his sons in the fire to one of these gods. It was during his reign that the King of Assyria came down from the north and took captive the northern Kingdom of Israel and then proceeded to raid the cities of Judah.

It was in the midst of this evil idolatry and wickedness of his own father and people and surrounded by the terror and violence from the northern aggressor that Hezekiah became king at the age of 25. The contrast between Hezekiah and his father Ahaz is amazing:

He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done. He removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles...Hezekiah

trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. He held fast to the LORD and did not cease to follow him; he kept the commands the LORD had given Moses. And the LORD was with him; he was successful in whatever he undertook. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him. 2 Kings 18:3-7

Not only did Hezekiah throw over the worship of idols but also in the very first month of his reign he opened the doors of God's Temple in Jerusalem and reinstated worship there. He brought back the Levites to serve there and offer the sacrifices that had been ordained by the Law of Moses. But he went even further than that, he reinstated the celebration of the Passover and invited not only the people of Judah but also Israelites who remained in the northern kingdom. Some of those he invited to the Passover ridiculed him but many came. And there was great rejoicing:

The entire assembly of

Judah rejoiced, along with the priests and Levites and all who had assembled from Israel, including the aliens who had come from Israel and those who lived in Judah. There was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the days of Solomon son of David king of Israel there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem. The priests and the Levites stood to bless the people, and God heard them, for their prayer reached heaven, his holy dwelling place. 2 Chronicles 30:25-27

The real test of faith for Hezekiah came a few years later. Sennacherib, King of Assyria, came with an army of almost 200,000 men to lay siege to Jerusalem. All the cities and nations around Judah had already been conquered. Even some of the cities of Judah were under siege. So Sennacherib denounced Hezekiah's God and his faith. He challenged the people with his success against all the other nations and their gods:

Sennacherib's officers spoke  
(Continued on page 2)

***PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO SUMMER BREAK, ALL EVENING BIBLE CLASSES AND SEMINARS WILL NOT BE HELD DURING JULY. BIBLE CLUB MEETINGS WILL NOT BE HELD JULY 13, 20, AND 27. PLEASE JOIN US AGAIN IN AUGUST***

## ***Portrait of a Saint***

*(Continued from page 1)*

further against the LORD God and against his servant Hezekiah. The king also wrote letters insulting the LORD, the God of Israel, and saying this against him: "Just as the gods of the peoples of the other lands did not rescue their people from my hand, so the god of Hezekiah will not rescue his people from my hand." Then they called out in Hebrew to the people of Jerusalem who were on the wall, to terrify them and make them afraid in order to capture the city. They spoke about the God of Jerusalem as they did about the gods of the other peoples of the world—the work of men's hands. 2 Chronicles 32:16-19

Even in the face of this horrendous challenge to his faith and trust in God, Hezekiah did not waiver. He cried out to the LORD:

"O LORD Almighty, God of

Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Give ear, O LORD, and hear; open your eyes, O LORD, and see; listen to all the words Sennacherib has sent to insult the living God. "It is true, O LORD, that the Assyrian kings have laid waste all these peoples and their lands. They have thrown their gods into the fire and destroyed them, for they were not gods but only wood and stone, fashioned by human hands. Now, O LORD our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all kingdoms on earth may know that you alone, O LORD, are God." Isaiah 37:15-20

And God answered Hezekiah's faith with decisive and powerful action:

Then the angel of the LORD went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian

camp. When the people got up the next morning — there were all the dead bodies! So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He returned to Nineveh and stayed there. Isaiah 37:36-37

The amazing faith of Hezekiah stands out in stark contrast to his father's faithlessness. His faith may not have moved mountains, but it destroyed a huge army. Throughout his life his faith was evident by his actions. And the Chronicler writes:

Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah, and he did what was good and right and true before the LORD his God. And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, in the law and in the commandment, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart. So he prospered. 2 Chronicles 31:20-21

## *Bible Principles*

### **My Purpose Will Stand**

In the times of turmoil and upheaval before and during King Hezekiah's reign, God sent Isaiah the prophet to his people in Judah and Jerusalem. Isaiah brought warnings of punishment for disobedience, prophecies full of hope of a time to come, and declarations of God's sovereignty and might. In the 45th chapter of Isaiah God declares to his people nine times that: "I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God." The people needed to learn that only the LORD is God and they also needed to understand who He is

and what he is doing. In Isaiah 45:18 the LORD declares the following:

For this is what the LORD says — he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited — he says: "I am the LORD, and there is no other.

From the beginning God has had a purpose for his creation. When all the creation was completed, God spoke to the man and woman whom he had created in his image

and told them: "Be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth and subdue it." The earth was to be filled with people who bore the image of God, giving glory to him as they worked the land and cared for the animals. We, of course, know what happened. Rebellion to God's law brought the consequences of death and decay. The earth was cursed on account of mankind. Hard labor, pain, and death would rule.

Is this the end to God's purpose for the earth and his creation?

*(Continued on page 3)*

***Bible Principles—My Purpose Will Stand*** (Continued from page 2)

The LORD our God is a God of purpose and promise. He is faithful to his promises and will bring about his purpose. Isaiah again states it so clearly:

Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.'  
Isaiah 46:9:10

God, with great power and signs and wonders led Israel out of Egyptian slavery. While he led them through the desert wilderness for 40 years there is testimony that his glory appeared to them several times:

While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud.  
Exodus 16:10 NIV

When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from within the cloud. To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.  
Exodus 24:15-18 NIV

Further on in the history of Israel,

at the dedication of the temple built by Solomon, the glory of the LORD again appeared to the people and filled the temple:

When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. The priests could not enter the temple of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled it. When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the LORD above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, "He is good; his love endures forever."  
2 Chronicles 7:1-3 NIV

It is hard to imagine what it would be like to see this glory and splendor of the Almighty God. How amazing and wonderful and frightening and awe-inspiring it would be. Now think on this: The promise and purpose of God is to fill the entire earth with his glory:

But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.  
Num. 14:21 KJV

For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.  
Hab 2:14 KJV

His name shall endure forever. His name shall continue as long as the sun. And men shall be blessed in Him; All nations shall call Him blessed. Blessed be the LORD God, the God of

Israel, Who only does wondrous things! And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.  
Psalm 72:17-20

And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.  
Zechariah 14:9

Yes the promise and purpose of God is to fill the earth with his glory forever. He is bringing about that work and has declared it to his servants, the prophets. He is calling out a people for his name that will see and know his glory and worship him in his splendor. The prophecies of Isaiah are full of visions of that time to come:

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you."

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will be-

(Continued on page 4)

*Bible Principles—My Purpose Will Stand* (Continued from page 3)  
come a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.  
And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holi-

ness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and the ran-

somed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. Isaiah 35

## **Bible Principles—Genesis to Revelation**

(Continued from page 5)

- Promises and Covenants - The first promise having being made in the garden, it was followed by many other promises and covenants all designed to bring about from sinful beings a people that would believe and be faithful to the things God promised. His desire to fill the earth with His glory would not be set aside because of wickedness and sin.
- A Chosen People - He would begin with a single individual, make promises to him and extend these promises to his family. This covenant would above all require belief and obedience. Years later that extended family would be led into slavery in Egypt only to miraculously emerge and make their way to the land which had been promised to their forefathers.
- Jesus the Messiah - Once, and for all time, all people would have the opportunity to find forgiveness for their sins, become a part of the chosen people by believing and being baptized into Christ and by so doing becoming part of the body of believers who will inherit the kingdom promised to Abraham and his heirs.
- From Eden to Eden - The Kingdom Established - When the Messiah returns to this earth as promised in the scripture, this kingdom will be established and that overriding theme and purpose throughout the Bible will come to pass, a time when God's glory will fill the earth, sin and death will be done away with and all mankind will live in peace and harmony with nature and each other.

In these simple elements and principles are found the profoundest teachings of the Bible. Consider them carefully and make them yours.

*A New Learn to Read the Bible Effectively Seminar*

### *The Acts of the Apostles*

- Learn how important the Old Testament was to the apostles
- Gain a greater appreciation for what the apostles endured as they preached the gospel in new territory
- Obtain a greater understanding of how the Christian church was first a sect within Judaism and later became a separate community
- See what the book of Acts says to the individual believer

*Thursdays Starting August 9th through September 13th 7:00 to 8:30*

Hampton Inn and Suites at 12251 Jefferson Ave in Newport News

There are lots of reading plans available to the Bible student who wants to read the bible in a consistent and organized manner every day. The DailyBibleReader plan is designed to cover the New Testament and the Psalms in one reading and the Old Testament in a second reading each day, with the reader covering the entire Bible in the course of a year. While this is a very worthy accomplishment, it is very easy to get lost in the details and "not see the forest for the trees."

The recent Learn to Read the Bible Effectively seminar, Bible Principles from Genesis to Revelation, presented by the Christadelphians at the Hampton Inn and Suites was designed to accomplish the objective of demonstrating that there are some basic principles that reflect a unified purpose and theme throughout the entire Bible.

As Paul wrote to the scattered and fledgling churches that were growing out of the Jewish synagogues, he was constantly quoting from or referring to the Old Testament or the "scriptures" as he called them. He did this not only because they were familiar with these writings but because he was demonstrating the importance of the principles taught there to the overall theme of the Bible, God's establishment of a righteous kingdom here on earth.

A few people, who through persistent reading and study have come to see this on their own, without the aid of any help along the way. Most people, however, have to go through a careful study of Bible principles themselves and undergo a rigorous comparison with the myriad of belief systems the world offers before this over-riding purpose and theme of the Bible shines through like a lighthouse in a harbor beckoning a weary sailor to calm and safety.

The recent seminar, Bible Principles from Genesis to Revelation gave those who attended an opportunity to look a little deeper at seven principles covered in the course of seven weeks. We present these seven principles for your consideration and invite you to write for further information on any of the principles presented below. There are a lot of sub-themes behind every one of these seven principles but in essence they present in a very capsular form what the Bible is all about.

- God Reveals Himself in Glory - God spoke and the world came into being. It was His world and it was designed to reveal His glory. It was to be a place where all of creation would recognize the attributes of the creator and reflect these attributes of oneness and love to each other and to the earth itself such that one day, all the earth would be filled with the glory of God.
- And Man Became a Living Being - God brought man into being and gave him a suitable companion so that together they might be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth with people who would return the love that he showed to them with obedience and faithfulness.
- Sin is crouching at the door - The first couple were given a simple test and they failed miserably. As a result of this failure the earth was cursed and sin became a part of their very being and was passed on to all their progeny. This would have been the end with nothing further if God in his mercy had not provided a covering and a way of redemption.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## **"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints in..."**

In the readings for the third quarter are the letters written by Paul to the new churches in the areas of Asia and Macedonia. The believers in these churches would include people of all walks of life and cultural backgrounds including Jew and Gentile, slave and free. The letters written by Paul reflect the various challenges that would face all of the believers. Here is a little background on each and a focus verse from the letter:

**Galatians:** Galatia is an area in Asia that includes the cities of Lystra, Derbe, Iconium, and Antioch of Pisidia. Acts 13 and 14 tell us that a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed Paul's message.

"You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:26-29

**Ephesians:** According to Acts 19, there was a riot in the city of Ephesus when Paul preached the gospel there. The temple of Diana (Artemis) was there and the crafters of the idols were afraid of losing their trade. Many of the believers came out of pagan idola-

trous beliefs. They had to learn about the one true God. The Jewish believers had to learn to love their Gentile brothers.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:17-19

**Philippians:** Acts 16 tells us that in the Macedonian city of Philippi, Paul and Silas were thrown in prison. When God sent an earthquake to free them from jail, the jailer and his household became believers. They joined Lydia, a merchant woman, and her household who also became believers.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:8-9

**Colossians:** The city of Colosse in Asia Minor is not mentioned in the book of Acts. We learn from Acts 19 that Paul spent 2 years preaching in Ephesus which is in Asia and that all the Jews and Greeks of Asia heard the gospel message during that time.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:12-14

**Thessalonians 1 & 2:** Paul wrote two letters to the Macedonian church of Thessalonica. According to Acts 17 Paul preached in the Jewish synagogue there for several weeks and some Jews and many God-fearing Gentiles were persuaded.

Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 1 Thessalonians 4:13

All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. 2 Thessalonians 1:5-7

## *Bible Readers' Club*

### **Give me understanding...**

Since the beginning of the year the Bible Readers' Club has been meeting on Friday mornings. Each week we discuss the daily Bible readings from the reading schedule for the week. In reading and studying together we have come to a greater appreciation of the wisdom and power in God's word. Reading some of the passages aloud, especially the Psalms has helped to bring them alive and more meaningful. Some of the people of the Bible that we learned more about include:

**Gideon:** We're introduced to Gideon in Judges 6. He's hiding in a wine press because he doesn't want the Midianite army to find him threshing wheat. The angel of the LORD finds him, though, and addresses him as "mighty warrior". The LORD called Gideon to lead Israel in conquering the Midianites who had invaded the land. Gideon was hardly ready to be a "mighty warrior" but God leads him through training and faith-stretching assignments so that he finally becomes that "mighty warrior". His entire story is found in Judges chapters 6 through 8.

**Job:** Job is known for his patience in suffering but in reading the book of Job we found that suffering brought a new humility to this man who was once the "greatest of all the people of the east". In that new humility he finally "saw" God. After his repentance and his prayer for his friends, all things were restored to Job twice over.

**David:** The story of David's early life reads like an action-packed movie thriller. In fact, for more than 20 years of his life he was chased and hunted down by King Saul. He hid in caves, feigned insanity, lied to the High Priest, and lived in the land of the enemy all in an effort to escape Saul's jealous and murderous intent. Psalm 57 was written during this time and through all this David would write:

My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music.

Awake, my soul! Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn.

I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples.

For great is your love, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

(Psalm 57:7-10)

We all know the great benefits of the discipline of spending time each day with God's word. Meeting together and discussing with others the things that we have read during week bring even far greater blessings.

### ***Join us for the Bible Readers' Club***

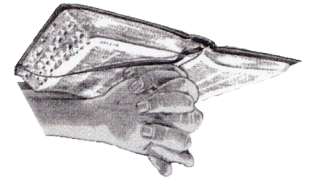
The Bible Readers' Club meets every Friday Morning at  
11 am in the meeting room of the Hampton Inn and Suites  
at 12251 Jefferson Ave in Newport News.

Discussion is based on the DailyBibleReader schedule

*Everyone is welcome so please join us each week.*

***Please note: All meetings are cancelled July 11 through August 1.***

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*Your DailyBibleReader Quarterly Newsletter*

## Daily Bible Readings for July, August and September

### *Read the Entire Bible in One Year*

JULY			AUGUST			SEPTEMBER		
DAY	Old Test	NewTest/Psa	DAY	Old Test	NewTest/Psa	DAY	Old Test	NewTest/Psa
1	II Sam 15, 16	II Corinth 13	1	Isaiah 49, 50	John 1	1	II King 14, 15	Psalm 97
2	II Sam 17, 18	Psalm 74	2	Isaiah 51, 52	John 2	2	II King 16, 17	I Thess 1
3	II Sam 19, 20	Galatians 1	3	Isaiah 53, 54	John 3	3	II King 18, 19	I Thess 2
4	II Sam 21, 22	Galatians 2	4	Isaiah 55, 56	John 4	4	II King 20, 21	I Thess 3
5	II Sam 23, 24	Galatians 3	5	Isaiah 57, 58	Psalm 85	5	II King 22, 23	I Thess 4
6	Song Sol 1-3	Galatians 4	6	Isaiah 59, 60	Psalm 86	6	II King 24, 25	I Thess 5
7	Song Sal 4-6	Galatians 5	7	Isaiah 61, 62	John 5	7	Jonah 1-4	Psalm 98
8	Song Sol 7, 8	Galatians 6	8	Isaiah 63, 64	John 6	8	Micah 1-3	Psalm 99
9	Isaiah 1, 2	Psalm 75	9	Isaiah 65, 66	John 7	9	Micah 4, 5	Psalm 100, 101
10	Isaiah 3, 4	Psalm 76	10	I King 1, 2	Psalm 87, 88	10	Micah 6, 7	II Thess 1
11	Isaiah 5, 6	Ephesians 1	11	I King 3, 4	John 8	11	Nahum 1-3	II Thess 2
12	Isaiah 7, 8	Ephesians 2	12	I King 5, 6	John 9	12	I Chron 1, 2	II Thess 3
13	Isaiah 9, 10	Ephesians 3	13	I King 7, 8	Psalm 89	13	I Chron 3, 4	Psalm 102
14	Isaiah 11, 12	Ephesians 4	14	I King 9, 10	John 10	14	I Chron 5, 6	Psalm 103
15	Isaiah 13, 14	Ephesians 5	15	I King 11, 12	John 11	15	I Chron 7, 8	Psalm 104
16	Isaiah 15-17	Ephesians 6	16	I King 13, 14	John 12	16	I Chron 9, 10	I Timothy 1
17	Isaiah 18-20	Psalm 77	17	I King 15, 16	Psalm 90	17	I Chron 11, 12	I Timothy 2
18	Isaiah 21, 22	Psalm 78	18	I King 17, 18	John 13	18	I Chron 13, 14	I Timothy 3
19	Isaiah 23, 24	Psalm 79	19	I King 19, 20	John 14	19	I Chron 15, 16	I Timothy 4
20	Isaiah 25, 26	Philippians 1	20	I King 21, 22	Psalm 91	20	I Chron 17, 18	I Timothy 5
21	Isaiah 27, 28	Philippians 2	21	Joel 1, 2, 3	John 15	21	I Chron 19, 20	I Timothy 6
22	Isaiah 29, 30	Philippians 3	22	Amos 1-3	John 16	22	I Chron 21, 22	Psalm 105
23	Isaiah 31, 32	Philippians 4	23	Amos 4-6	John 17	23	I Chron 23, 24	Psalm 106
24	Isaiah 33, 34	Psalm 80	24	Amos 7-9	Psalm 92	24	I Chron 25, 26	Psalm 107
25	Isaiah 35, 36	Colossians 1	25	Obad, II King 1	John 18	25	I Chron 27, 28	II Timothy 1
26	Isaiah 37, 38	Colossians 2	26	I King 2, 3	John 19	26	I Chron 29 Hos I	II Timothy 2
27	Isaiah 39, 40	Colossians 3	27	II King 4, 5	Psalm 93, 94	27	Hosea 2-4	II Timothy 3
28	Isaiah 41, 42	Colossians 4	28	II King 6, 7	John 20	28	Hosea 5, 6	II Timothy 4
29	Isaiah 43, 44	Psalm 81	29	II King 8, 9	John 21	29	Hosea 7, 8	Psalm 108
30	Isaiah 45, 46	Psalm 82, 83	30	II King 10, 11	Psalm 95	30	Hosea 9, 10	Psalm 109
31	Isaiah 47, 48	Psalm 84	31	II King 12, 13	Psalm 96	31		

See page 6 for some thoughts on the daily readings.  
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