



OHBC MEMORY VERSE – WEEK #18

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE: JOB 1:21

"[Job] said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

Why Job 1:21?

Because Job is one of the most incredible men in the entire Bible! In fact, he was of such impeccable character that God Himself used the sacrifice, service and surrender of Job to get in Satan's

face in Job chapter one. As God and Satan dialogued concerning him, Satan basically told God that the only reason Job did the things he did was because of all the good things God had done for him. In other words, that God had "bought" Job's affection. "But," Satan said, "take all of your blessing away, and see how worthy Job thinks You are of his fellowship and service."

God told Satan, "Go for it! Do your thing. Go ahead and take it all away." And that he did. In one day, Job gets word that all of his oxen and donkeys had been killed, along with all of his servants who kept them; that fire had fallen from the sky and burned up all of his sheep, along with those who tended them; and that all of his camels had been stolen, and his servants who kept them had been murdered. His entire fortune had been lost in only a few hours time! But then to make the news of all of those dreadful things seem rather trivial and somewhat insignificant, he gets word that all of his sons and daughters had been at the eldest brother's house for a family gathering when a tornado hit the house, killing every last one of them!

What would your response to God be at this point? Would God still be God to you? Would He still be good? Would He be worthy of your fellowship? Would you, or could you praise Him?

Job 1:21 gives us great insight into why God had been so impressed with Job. Note Job's response to all of his tremendous calamity: "[Job] said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

May Job's incredible example serve to challenge all of us as we continue to live our lives in pursuit of God through His Word.

DAY 86

TODAY'S READING: II KINGS 17-20

OVERVIEW:

Israel carried away; Reign of Hezekiah

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

The judgment of Jeroboam's sin in Israel comes today. God has warned through his prophets; God has disciplined through other nations. Now judgment comes. Twenty kings through 200 years have had opportunities to repent and obey the word of the Lord. Psalm 86:5 reminds us: "For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee." The Lord sent prophets and was ready to forgive, but II Kings 17:14 gives the heart of the matter: "They would not hear." The next few verses say that they rejected his statutes and his commandments. Judgment comes because of our will. Proverbs 29:1 says: "He, that being often reprov'd, hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."

Chapters 18 through 20 reveal the life of a king unlike any others in the land of Judah because "he trusted in the Lord God." Hezekiah accomplished great things in Judah: he destroyed the idolatry; conquered the Philistines; resisted the Assyrians; fortified his city and built great water works. But his real legacy is in chapter 18: he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord; he trusted in the Lord God; he departed not from following the Lord; the Lord was with him and he prospered wherever he went.

Hezekiah's life was not without troubles though. His faith and dependence on the Lord was tested severely. His trust in the Lord was specifically challenged and ridiculed publicly by the messengers from Assyria. The messengers spoke scornfully in detail of his religious reforms. Hezekiah's immediate response to trouble was prayer and seeking God's word. The answer returns: "Be not afraid. . . I will cause him to fall" in II Kings 19:6, 7. When a threatening letter came from the king of Assyria, Hezekiah again was immediately in prayer to the Lord. God's answer was: "I have heard your prayer. . . the king of Assyria, he shall not come into this city." The Lord miraculously delivers Hezekiah and the land of Judah.

In chapter 20, Hezekiah's faith is tested through his health. Verse 6 reveals that this time of trial comes during the conflicts with the king of Assyria. The public challenges were compounded with private health issues. Hezekiah's response is consistent; he prayed!

Through the trials and life of Hezekiah we learn about "trusting the Lord." Some of the Psalms that could have encouraged Hezekiah are:

Psalm 18:3 – As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.

Psalm 20:7 – Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

Psalm 25:2 – O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me.

Psalm 32:10 – Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about.

Psalm 33:21 – For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.

Psalm 44:6 – For I will not trust in my bow, neither shall my sword save me.

Psalm 56:11 – In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

Psalm 118:8 – It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

Psalm 143:8 – Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

As TEACHER – II Kings 17:27 (Mark 4:1; John 3:2)

As CLEANSER OF THE TEMPLE – II Kings 18:4 (Matthew 21:12; Mark 11:15; John 2:15) As A MAN OF PRAYER – II Kings 19:15 (John 17; Matthew 26:39; Luke 5:16; 22:32)

DAY 87

TODAY'S READING: II KINGS 21-25

OVERVIEW:

Wicked Manasseh and Amon; Last good King Josiah; Four evil kings; Babylonian captivity

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

The righteous leadership of Hezekiah was quickly replaced by the overwhelming evil of his son Manasseh. Though we read of his later repentance in II Chronicles 33, Jeremiah 15:4 says that the kingdom will be removed because of the deeds of Manasseh in Jerusalem. The deeds of a leader (husband, father, teacher, pastor) have a far reaching effect for good or bad.

Josiah, the last good king, did that which was right in the sight of the Lord. He had chosen to do right and restore the temple before the book of the law was found. The knowledge from the Word of God would not have been uncovered, if Josiah had not already chosen to do right! II Peter 1: 4-7 shows us that virtue (choosing to do right) is added to our life before knowledge. If we have not decided to follow what the Lord says, what need is there to accumulate any more knowledge?

With the new knowledge from the books of the Law, Josiah humbles himself before the Lord, makes a covenant to the Lord in presence of all the people and begins to cleanse the temple and the land. He removes the idols and the high places of worship in Jerusalem. Interestingly, he carries the items of sin across the brook Kidron, destroys them and scatters the ashes on old graves. The Lord Jesus Christ crossed the very same brook Kidron (Cedron) on the way to the cross and the grave (John 18:1).

Josiah continues the cleansing and goes to Bethel to destroy the golden calf set up by Jeroboam. The idol worship that plagued the children of Israel throughout the entire time of the kingdom is finally

destroyed by the one who was prophesied by name. II Kings 18:25 tells us that there was no king like Josiah that turned to the Lord with all of his heart. Not until Josiah, did any king go up and destroy that one idol.

None of the final four kings follow in the footsteps of Josiah; all are weak evil kings, controlled by other foreign kings. Because of the evil of Manasseh, the Lord will not spare Judah. The leaders, the people and the treasures that should have been dedicated to the Lord, are carried away to serve in captivity.

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

As PROCLAIMER OF THE WORD – II Kings 26:2 (Luke 4:16)

As ONE PROMISED BY NAME – I Kings 13:2 & II Kings 22:1 (Matthew 1:21-23; Luke 2:21) As THE PASSOVER – II Kings 23:21 (I Corinthians 5:7; John 1:29; I Peter 1:19) As INNOCENT BLOOD OF JERUSALEM – II Kings 24:4 (Matthew 27:4; Acts 13:28)

DAY 88

TODAY'S READING: I CHRONICLES 1-3

OVERVIEW:

Jesus' lineage through Adam, Noah, Abraham, Israel (Jacob), Judah, and David.

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

At first glance, it appears that the Book of I Chronicles is simply a repeat of I and II Samuel, and that II Chronicles is a repeat of I and II Kings, but there are some significant differences.

Whereas Samuel and Kings emphasize the HISTORICAL side of things, Chronicles emphasizes the SPIRITUAL. Whereas Samuel and Kings are seen from the HUMAN standpoint, Chronicles is seen from the DIVINE standpoint. Whereas Samuel and Kings are presented from the viewpoint of the PROPHETS, Chronicles is presented from the viewpoint of the PRIESTS. Whereas Samuel and Kings show MAN RULING, Chronicles shows GOD OVERRULING.

Chronicles primarily concentrates on the reign of David and his successors, and on the temple and its worship. It includes information not previously covered concerning the priests, the Levites, the musicians, singers, and doorkeepers. It goes into detail concerning transporting the Ark to Jerusalem, and the preparation for the building of the Temple. The northern kingdom is of little significance in Chronicles. In fact, the northern tribes are only mentioned in their dealings with David's reign.

I Chronicles opens with the longest genealogical history in the entire Bible. It continues on for nine solid chapters. Needless to say, the next several days' readings will not qualify for "The Most Heart-Warming and Life-Changing Devotional Passage of the 365 Days of Pursuit"! However, always remember Proverbs 30:5, "Every word of God is pure," and every word is there for a reason! These chapters are in our Bible to provide us the historical basis of our faith. As Bruce Wilkinson said, "The opening chapters of I Chronicles form the skeletal framework of the entire Old Testament. They bind the Old Testament together into a unified whole, showing that it is in fact history and not merely legend or myth. From Adam to Abraham, Boaz to Benjamin, the generations are all there in their proper order to show the outworking of God's plan and purposes through the years and in the lives of men and women of faith." What these chapters teach us, if nothing else, is that God has a plan: A plan for the earth, the universe, Israel, and your life!

A very basic overview of the first nine chapters of I Chronicles is as follows:

- The genealogy from Adam to Abraham (1:1-27)
- The genealogy from Abraham to Israel (1:28-54)
- The genealogy of the Descendants of Israel (Chpt. 2-8)
 - * Judah (2:1-4:23)
 - * Simeon (4:24-43)
 - * Reuben, Gad, half the tribe of Manasseh East of Jordan (Chpt. 5)
 - * Levi (Chpt. 6)
 - * Issachar (7:1-5)
 - * Benjamin (7:6-12)
 - * Naphtali (7:13)

- * Half tribe of Manasseh West of Jordan (7:14-19)
- * Ephraim (7:20-29)
- * Asher (7:30-40)
- * Benjamin (Chpt. 8)
- Those Who Returned From Captivity (9:1-34)
- The Genealogy of Saul (9:35-44)

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

In the FIRST ADAM – I Chron. 1:1 (Christ is the LAST or SECOND ADAM. We have eternal life because the last Adam was a quickening – i.e. “life-giving” spirit – I Cor. 15:45,47). Through the genealogy of DAVID – I Chron. 3:1-24 (Christ, the Son of God was also called the Son of David – Matt. 1:1; Luke 3:23-38; Rom. 1:3)

DAY 89

TODAY’S READING: I CHRONICLES 4-6

OVERVIEW:

The descendants of Solomon, Judah, Simeon, Reuben, Gad, Manasseh and Levi; Temple singers and keepers appointed; the descendants of Aaron; the cities of the Levites.

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

As you read through what seems to be an unending genealogy today, rejoice in the underlying message: God doesn’t view mankind as simply a mass of humanity; He is interested in each individual, and knows us all by name! God takes the time in these chapters to make sure that the name of every single priest and Levite, along with the family and tribe to which he belonged, was specifically registered.

Of particular note in chapter 4 is this man Jabez. Jabez has been popularized in the 21st century through the book, “The Prayer of Jabez,” and deservedly so! Verse nine of chapter four says that he “was more honorable than his brethren,” and one of the reasons is, no doubt, not only the fact THAT he prayed, but HOW he prayed. He had a beautiful fourfold request recorded in verse 10:

1. “Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed,”
2. “and enlarge my coast,”
3. “and that thine hand might be with me,”
4. “and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me!”

Verse 10 concludes with, “And God granted him that which he requested.” Verse 10 is not held up as a model for prayer, but its content is well worth praying about! It is obvious that Jabez was a man who lived in pursuit of God, and he was rewarded. May God strengthen us to follow his example as we continue the 365 Days of Pursuit.

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

In the CITIES OF REFUGE – I Chron. 6:57, 67, 69 (To find protection from the avenger of blood, a person had to flee to a city of refuge. Likewise, God provided His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ as our Refuge from His judgment against sin – John 3:14-18; 10:24-30; Gal. 2:16; 3:1-14; Heb. 10:1-18; I John 2:2; Rev. 1:5; Heb. 6:18)

DAY 90

TODAY’S READING: I CHRONICLES 7-9

OVERVIEW:

A continuation of Israel’s descendants: Issachar, Benjamin, Naphtali, half-tribe of Manasseh west of the Jordan, Ephraim, Asher, Benjamin; those who returned from captivity; the genealogy of Saul.

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

The genealogy continues today, bringing us through the remainder of the descendants of Israel: Issachar (7:1-5), Benjamin (7:6-12), Naphtali (7:13), the half-tribe of Manasseh west of the Jordan (7:14-19), Ephraim (7:20-29), Asher (7:30-40), Benjamin (Chapt. 8). Chapter 9 then gives us the record of those who returned from captivity (9:1-34), and then, the descendants of Saul (9:35-44).

A particular phrase that is mentioned twice in chapter 7 is well worth noting: Chapter 7 and verse 11 talks about the number of the "... soldiers FIT to go out FOR WAR AND BATTLE;" and chapter 7 and verse 40 talks about the number of the "mighty men of valour... that were APT to the WAR AND TO BATTLE." The New Testament is very specific in letting us know that as believers in Jesus Christ, we are soldiers (II Tim. 2:3) who are engaged in an incredible war (II Tim. 2:4; II Cor. 10:3).

If God were making a list today of the number of New Testament soldiers and mighty men and women of valour who are "fit" and "apt to the war and to battle," would the number include your name? Ephesians 6:10-17 lets us know that the number includes only those who "STAND" in the victory Christ has already won, having on "THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD". Are you "FIT" and "APT" for the "WAR" we call the Christian life?

Chapter 9 and verse 2 says, "Now the first inhabitants that dwelt in their possessions in their cities were, the Israelites, the priests, Levites, and the Nethinims." The "Nethinims" were very simply the "Temple servants." Their job was to do whatever needed to be done. Because of their love for the Lord, they didn't need the limelight; they were willing to work behind the scenes so that the work of the Lord could go forward. Verse 28 says of the Levites, "and certain of them had the charge of the ministering vessels, that they should bring them in and out by tale (or, count)." Again, from an earthly standpoint, it doesn't seem like any big thing. Others, according to verse 29 and 30 "were appointed to oversee the vessels and all the instruments of the sanctuary, and the fine flour, and the wine, and the oil, and the frankincense, and the spices. And some of the sons of the priests made the ointment of the spices." Again, from the mind of a natural man, these responsibilities are hardly worth mentioning. But to God, each individual fulfilling their role and completing their personal assignment was well worth mentioning, because God knew that every individual was key for what He intended for the service of the Tabernacle.

The New Testament teaches us that all of us have been given a different SHAPE (an acronym for Spiritual gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality and Experiences) by God, so that we can fulfill our MINISTRY in the CHURCH, and our MISSION in the WORLD. Regardless of how insignificant we may think our value to His Kingdom may be, He views our responsibility as a sacred trust, and vital to His will and work in and through the Body of Christ! Play your position! Fulfill your role! Be faithful! You are as vital to the Body of Christ in our local church, as any member of your body is to you!

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

In JERUSALEM (which means, "Foundation of peace") – I Chron. 9:3 – (Christ is the only foundation of peace upon which man can stand before God – I Cor. 3:11; John 14:27; II Cor. 5:18; Eph. 2:14)