

2014

Session 5

The Summer Reading Challenge



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Tonight's Outline

- Welcome Activities
- Reading Discussion (30 min)
- Video (20 min)
- Video Discussion
- This Coming Week's Reading
- Closing Prayer

Welcome Activities

- Opening Prayer
- Story about the Pilots

Reading Discussion

- In your reading last week, did you get the feeling that many of the "pilots" (aka kings) were blind?
- Why do you think God allowed them to be "pilots"?

Reading Discussion (cont.)



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- Have you seen this bumper sticker?

**IF GOD IS YOUR CO-PILOT
SWAP SEATS!**

- What might happen if our political leaders took this advice? (don't name names or point fingers ;-)

Reading Discussion (cont.)

- 1 Sam. 28 thru 2 Kings 25
- How does the LORD use Nathan in 2 Sam 12?
- Does David immediately realize the significance of Nathan's story?
- What does David's response in 2 Sam 12:13 say about his relationship with God?

Reading Discussion (cont.)

- What were the consequences of David's sins?
- What patterns did you see with the kings of Judah and Israel?
- We all are sinners and fall short. It's reassuring to see God's grace when we fail.
- At this point in your reading, do you see a God of grace or a God of consequences?

Reading Discussion (cont.)

- How might you use this to guide future decisions?
- Is there an "aha" from your reading that you can apply today?
- Do you know of any modern-day Mephibosheth stories? (2 Sam 9)
- What were David's shortcomings as a father? (2 Samuel 12-19)

Reading Discussion (cont.)

- If you could have asked God for anything, what would have been your request? (1 Kings 3:5-15)
- Have you ever listened to the advice of your peers and been steered wrong? What happened? (1 Kings 12:1-15)
- Why do you think God speaks in a whisper? (1 Kings 19:11-13)

Reading Discussion (cont.)

- Many of Elisha's actions foreshadow Christ. List as many as you can. (2 Kings 3-7)
- Hezekiah stands out as the king who removed the high places. What qualities characterized his reign? (2 Kings 18, 20)

Things That Make You Go Hmmm....

- If you have difficulty with some of the OT readings, try using the following aids:
- A Concordance – helps with different word meanings
- A Book of Biblical customs – helps with how life was way back when.
- Read up on ancient history – who were some of the peoples, kings, etc.
- Maps – modern and ancient

Video

- Our video teacher is
Dr. John Walton



- Professor of Old Testament at
Wheaton College in Wheaton,
Illinois

Video Discussion

- Thoughts?
- Questions?
- Observations?
- Comments?

This Coming Week's Reading



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- 1 Chronicles 1 thru
Nehemiah 12
- Quick explanation of the Kings.

This Coming Week's Reading (cont.)

- Intro to 1 Chronicles
- Covers similar ground as 2 Samuel
- Written after Judah returns from exile in Babylon
- Intended as encouragement
- Emphasis is on the positive aspects of the reigns covered

This Coming Week's Reading (cont.)

- Intro to 2 Chronicles
- Covers the same ground as 1 Kings and 2 Kings
- Also written after the return from exile
- Also intended as encouragement to the returnees

This Coming Week's Reading (cont.)

- Intro to Ezra
- Cyrus (aka Artaxerxes I), king of Persia, frees the Jews to return to Jerusalem
- Trivia – Cyrus was the son of Xerxes the Great, the Persian king who attacked the Spartans at Thermopylae
- Ezra, a teacher/lawyer, returns decades later to find Judah has been intermarrying with her neighbors

This Coming Week's Reading (cont.)

- Intro to Nehemiah
- In contrast to Ezra (teacher/lawyer), Nehemiah is a leader
- Celebrates the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls – against significant odds
- Note the behavior of Jerusalem's residents when Nehemiah is present and when he is not – echoes the book of Judges.



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Closing Prayer