

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God, we should commit to reading Scripture every day. These are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.

Monday, Feb 13th – Genesis 6:11-13,18

Last week we learned that God had had enough of the people he created, and that he intended to wipe them all out. All except for Noah. Genesis 6:8-9 tells us that Noah found favor in God's eyes, that he was a righteous man, blameless in his generation, and that he walked with God. The passages above show God sharing his plans with Noah to wipe out all life, but that he intends to spare Noah and his family. Verse 18 contains the promise that God will establish a covenant. He doesn't say much about the covenant at this point, but indicates that it will come. Have you found favor in God's eyes? Are you righteous and blameless like Noah? Do you walk with God? The accounts of Noah and his dealings with God do not tell us that Noah was sinless. The key here seems to be that he walked with God. Perhaps if we all consciously tried to spend more time with the Lord in our day-to-day lives, trying to include him in our decisions, thoughts and conversations, we could begin to have more of a relationship like Noah did. And remember that we have one thing Noah did not—Jesus! That really gives us an advantage, wouldn't you say? Pray today and ask Jesus to keep reminding you to share more and more with him through the Holy Spirit.

Tuesday, Feb 14th – Genesis 6:19-20; 7:2-3, 8-9, 15-16; 2 Peter 1:19-21

We talked a little yesterday about the "Documentary Hypothesis," which basically says that different people looked at written and oral materials about God and his people, and wrote, revised or added to them at different times in history. These different "Sources" of Scripture are known by four letters: J (Yahwist), E (Elohist), D (Deuteronomist), and P (Priestly). It is said that the Yahwists came first, around the time of Solomon, then Elohist in the Northern Kingdom about a hundred years later, then the Deuteronomists, who were trying to get people to start obeying the Law again, and finally the Priests, during and after the Exile. Some of our apparent contradictions in Scripture, such as we can see in the two Creation Stories, or in the passages above that sometimes indicate one pair of animals and at other times seven pairs of animals on the ark, may be explained by this Hypothesis. Other scholars today are beginning to look at literary structures and other explanations. What do you think? All the books we have in the Old Testament today were around in Jesus's time, and he didn't seem to have any problem with them at all! What do you think? Is the Bible written word-for-word as a sort of dictation from God? Or is it the Holy Spirit inspiring different writers at different times using their own minds and God speaking to them in their hearts and minds? How do you read 2 Peter 1:19-21 above? John Wesley told us he was "a man of one book," and that we should read the Scriptures using the "analogy of faith," reading, praying and applying the truths we see to our lives in an immediate and practical fashion. How about you?

Wednesday, Feb 15th – Genesis 8:1-12; 1 Peter 3:20-22

This passage has God “remembering” Noah and all the animals. “Remembering” is code language for remembering the covenant, that God initiated and cares for Noah, and for all the animals, too. So God makes a wind to blow which will eventually dry out the flood so that normal life may again resume. The wind blowing on the waters reminds some writers of Genesis 1, and gives us a picture of a new Adam, starting over again in a new world freshly washed from sin. Such a picture can be seen in the 1 Peter passage, where Noah and his family are “saved” by the waters of the flood (in the ark). To Peter, this seems to prefigure baptism and salvation in Jesus. What do you think? Do you remember your covenant with God? Take some time to remember your baptism and renew your commitment to God.

Thursday, Feb 16th – Genesis 8:20-22; 9:1-11

These passages are the beginning of the covenant that God makes with Noah and with all living creatures. The passage in Chapter 8 promises no more total flooding to destroy all life on the earth. It also promises a natural cycle of days and seasons for growth and harvesting, so that life may go on and prosper. The passage in Chapter 9 will be discussed in greater detail next week, but note for now how humankind is now allowed to eat meat and under what conditions, as well as an emphasis for humans to not kill one another. We are told in particular in verse 7 to increase and multiply and to fill the earth. Have you ever stopped to consider what a blessing the earth is to us in its natural laws, rhythms and seasons? We have such a great gift in agriculture and in all the riches and blessings that nature and the animals give us. Spend some time today being thankful about all these gifts from God. Tell him about it!

Friday, Feb 17th – Hebrews 11:7; 2 Peter 2:5

Noah is mentioned in various passages throughout the Old and New Testaments. These two passages reflect Noah’s obedience and character. In Hebrews, Noah obeys God and constructs an ark in “reverent fear.” In this fashion he condemns the world, who probably thought he was insane, and became through his reverence an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. In 2 Peter, Noah is mentioned in a longer passage about how God rescues the godly from trials. He is called here “a herald of righteousness.” Noah in his conduct and perhaps even in sharing and even preaching to his neighbors, proclaimed God’s will in daily life. Do we do this our daily lives and behaviors? Does anyone even know you are trying? A saying from a few years back asks if there would be enough evidence to convict you in court of being a Christian. Is there? None of us is perfect, but all of us should be on the path to perfection that can only happen in Jesus Christ. Be blessed, thankful, and newly committed to your life of discipleship today.

Saturday, Feb 18th – *To prepare for tomorrow’s worship, please read Genesis 9:12-17.*