

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 27th – Genesis 11:1-4

This chapter will set us up for what we will study after Lent. It bridges the gap between Noah and Abraham. We begin with verse 1. What is a logical explanation for having one language coming off the Ark? As we move to verse 2 what happens? The land of Shinar is a valley near Babylon. It is also known as Chaldea, which will be important when we continue. What do they do when they get there (vs. 3)? They had no rocks in this area, so they made bricks. Bitumen is a tar-like substance that was used for mortar. That means they have the capabilities to build buildings that were structurally sound. And now that they have settled in on land they have chosen and have worked together to build buildings, what do they do next (vs. 4)? What does it mean to make a tower with its “tops in the heavens?” Who lives in the heavens? What are the two reasons for doing this? First it is to make a name for themselves. Think back to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. They wanted to be “just like God.” This do-over group that God saves through the flood still wants to be “just like God.” They will build a tower to the heavens where the gods live and will make a name for themselves. In other words, they will become like gods. The second reason is so that they will be together, because there is power in numbers. What does this reveal about God? What does this reveal about humanity? Where do you still try to be “just like God?”

Tuesday, Feb 28th – Genesis 11:5-7

Today we will continue where we left off yesterday. The people have moved, built buildings, started to build a tower to reach the heavens to make a name for themselves and not be dispersed. What happens next (vs. 5)? This is a narrative genre (storytelling) and so God is given human qualities. “The Lord came down to see.” Does that mean that God couldn’t see without coming down? Was God clueless up to this point? Of course not. God is not human, nor is he limited by human experience and understandings. We use these anthropomorphic descriptions to tell the story in a way that is understandable to humans. What does God say about the situation (vs. 6)? What seems to be the problem for God? How does this tie into the attitude of the humans we discussed yesterday? What is God’s fix for the situation (vs. 7)? Notice the language in the beginning of the verse. Who is the “us” in this sentence (refer back to Gen. 1:26)? How does this “Let us” relate to Genesis 11:3)? Why do you think confusing the language would be helpful in stopping humanity? Do you think the problem is that they could build towers or the reasons why they were building the tower? What does this reveal to you about God? What does this reveal to you about humans? What does this say about our relationship with God? Who’s really in charge? Spend some time in prayer today, asking God to show you where you are still trying to be a god. Ask for forgiveness and for the Holy Spirit to change you.

Wednesday, March 1st – Genesis 11:8-9 Ash Wednesday

Today we finish what is referred to as “The Beginnings” in some Bibles. It is the Bible’s early history account of the world. We left off with God deciding to confuse the language of humans, to stop them from

their most recent project – a tower. God confuses their language and what is the result (vs. 8a)? Have you ever considered how God might be helping to fulfill the command in 9:7, where they are told to re-populate the whole earth? What else was accomplished by confusing the language (vs. 8b)? It is very difficult to build a house when we speak the same language. Mixing up the language makes it impossible, so the project of tower building has been scrapped. Now read verse 9. What do you think the word Babel means? In the early languages, Babel (or Babylon) sounds like the word for “confusion.” What other point does verse 9 reiterate? Why do you think it is important for us to remember it was God who spread us out? How does this break down the idea that we are gods? What does this reveal about God? Is God acting in our best interest? Is God really afraid we will become like gods? What does this reveal about us and our relationship with God? Spend some time thinking about a time when God acted against your plans and it truly was a blessing, God’s way. Pray, thanking God for being God even when we may not like it at first!

Thursday, March 2nd – Genesis 11:10-26

We will finish this week with another genealogy. We will look only at Shem’s genealogy. That is because the trajectory from this point is going to be towards Jesus. In chapter 10, we see that Arphaxad or Arpachshad, depending on your translation (same guy, different spellings), is Shem’s third son. The lineage we read today comes from Arpachshad, who fathers Shelah, who fathers Eber. Now this is where the changes come. In Chapter 10, Eber fathers two boys, Joktan and Peleg. Joktan’s genealogy is covered in Chapter 10. In today’s text, we see Peleg’s lineage. This means that all the following names are the descendants of Shem through Peleg’s line. Now please go back and read Genesis 10:24. What happens at Peleg’s time? How does this tie in to what we have read this week? How does this help explain the writer giving us Peleg’s lineage here? Now jump to verse 26. What names do you recognize there? Abram is Abraham’s name given to him by his father, Terah. This genealogy gets us from Noah to Abraham, Arpachshad and through Peleg’s lineage. And it is important to remember that each name is considered a generation (as long as they are brothers). What does this reveal about God’s ways? What does this reveal about humanity? These two questions are not looking for deep complicated answers. Sometimes the simplest answer is the best answer, when it comes to genealogies. How has reading this genealogy helped you connect some dots about God, ourselves and our relationship with God’s reason and plan for saving humanity? Pray, thanking God for never giving up on us and saving us today.

Friday, March 3rd – Genesis 11:27-32

We wrap up this week by looking at the precursors to the Patriarchal Era. They are the bridge from the Beginning, the Genesis, to the Patriarchs. Verses 27-30 tell us who are involved. Who are the three sons of Terah (vs. 27)? Who is Lot in relationship to Terah? In relationship to Abram? What happens to Haran (vs. 28)? Who did Abram marry (vs. 29)? Who did Nahor marry (vs. 29)? What relationship did Nahor’s wives have with his deceased brother Haran (vs. 29)? What does verse 30 tell us about Sarai? One more thing before we move on... where did Haran die and Terah live (vs. 28)? How does this tie into everything we read this week? This is the area of Babylon. Now let’s continue. What does Terah do in verse 31? Notice who he takes with him. Notice who is left behind. To where are they headed? Who is the father of the Canaanites (see chapter 10)? Where did they end up? How does this end (vs. 32)? When we return after Lent, we will begin the Patriarchal Period. Congratulations! We have covered the Biblical beginnings of our faith. What a blessing it has been to see God reveal himself to us. Spend some time pondering all you have learned thus far and give thanks to God for showing Himself to you.

Saturday, March 4th – To prepare for tomorrow’s worship, please read Matthew 16:24-28.

