

One Year Bible – Week 34

Summary: 1 Corinthians Reading

Paul addresses the Lord's Supper and Spiritual gifts. In the context of spiritual gifts he discusses the unity of believers and the supremacy of love.

Summary: Nehemiah / Esther Reading

The book of Nehemiah closes with a great celebration for the dedication of the wall in Jerusalem and then a list of challenges Nehemiah faces in restoring the Israelites to faithful living.

Esther is a story of Jews exiled in Persia. Esther is a Jew who becomes Queen of Persia at a time when a top official, Haman, is determined to eradicate all Jews from the vast Persian Empire.

The book of Job begins with an introduction of Job and a unique interaction between YHWH and Satan. Then a dialogue begins between Job and others for the remainder of the book about the calamity that befalls him.

Things to Look For and Questions to Ponder as You Read:

- *OT* – It is difficult to imagine the tragedy that happens to Job. All Job's livestock were stolen or died, almost all his servants killed, and all his children died, all within a matter of minutes. Then he was afflicted with sores all over his body. Job lost everything and there is much to learn from his words in the aftermath of devastation.
- *OT* – Noticeably, God is not mentioned in the book of Esther. There is some speculation why this is so. Some would suggest that Esther is told of the secularized Jews who lived in Persia and did not choose to return to Jerusalem in the first wave of exiles with Ezra. One thing is clear from the book of Esther – God will care for his people.

Small Group Questions:

- 1) *NT* – Read 1Co 10:31. What is Paul saying in this verse? How often are our actions motivated by the glory of God? Why? What could we change so that we thought of God's glory in our actions more than we do? – *Aug 16*
- 2) *OT* – Nehemiah asks God several times in the last chapter of his book to "remember." (Ne 13:14, 22b, 29, 31b) What is Nehemiah asking God by these words, is he questioning God's memory or is there

something more? Why do you think Nehemiah repeats this type of request? What would you ask God to remember about you? – *Aug 17*

- 3) *OT* – Upon hearing of Haman's plot to annihilate all the Jews from the Persian Empire, Mordecai urges Esther to approach the King on behalf of the Jews. (Est 4:8-17) Do you think it was an easy decision for Esther to approach the king? Why or why not? Why do you think Esther ultimately decided to risk her life? In his appeal to Esther to approach the King, Mordecai says these words, "And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" How easy or difficult is it for you when faced with difficult situations in life to have a perspective of divine purpose such as this? – *Aug 19*
- 4) *NT* – Read 1 Co 12:12-31. How does living as one body affect the way we interact with other believers? Are there difficulties to this? What are they? Why do you think this chapter is in the Bible? – *Aug 19-20*
- 5) *OT* – What do the first two chapters of Job reveal about Satan? About God? How would you describe Job's reaction to the sudden intrusion of tragic news in Job 1:20-22 (see also 2:9-10)? How do you think you would have reacted? Why do you think Job reacted in this way? – *Aug 21*

Journal the Psalms this week:

"YHWH is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (Ps 34:18) Have you ever been brokenhearted? Have you ever been able to relate to the description "crushed in spirit?" Maybe you or someone you know does right now. This verse in the Psalms is a highly personal statement. Journal about how you receive this promise. What can be encouraging from this verse? What does this verse say about difficulty in life? Journal about your feelings of YHWH being "close." – *Aug 16*

Reading Schedule:

Ne = Nehemiah / Est = Esther / 1Co = 1 Corinthians / Ps = Psalms /
Pr = Proverbs



Aug 16 – Ne 11:1-12:26 / 1Co 10:14-11:2 / Ps 34:11-22 / Pr 21:14-16
Aug 17 – Ne 12:27-13:31 / 1Co 11:3-16 / Ps 35:1-16 / Pr 21:17-18
Aug 18 – Est 1:1-3:15 / 1Co 11:17-34 / Ps 35:17-28 / Pr 21:19-20
Aug 19 – Est 4:1-7:10 / 1Co 12:1-26 / Ps 36:1-12 / Pr 21:21-22
Aug 20 – Est 8:1-10:3 / 1Co 12:27-13:13 / Ps 37:1-11 / Pr 21:23-24
Aug 21 – Job 1:1-3:26 / 1Co 14:1-17 / Ps 37:12-29 / Pr 21:25-26
Aug 22 – Job 4:1-7:21 / 1Co 14:18-40 / Ps 37:30-40 / Pr 21:27