

Fleet Methodist Church

365

Bible Reading Challenge

WHAT IS IN THE BIBLE READINGS THIS MONTH?

PSALMS

The Psalms were written over a long period of time, perhaps 600 years. A large number of them were written and collected by King David (hence the name "Psalms of David") but many were added to the collection after his day. The Israelites used Psalms in their public worship and they were also used privately for personal devotion. Almost every possible emotion or situation is covered in them. As you read the book of Psalms you will hear believers crying out to God from the depths of despair and you will hear them singing to Him in the heights of celebration. But whether the Psalm writers are despairing or rejoicing, you will always hear them sharing honest feelings with their God. Because of the honesty expressed by these writers, men and women throughout history have come, again and again to the book of Psalms for comfort during times of struggle and distress. Through the Psalms they have risen from depths of despair to new heights of joy and praise as they have discovered the power of God's everlasting love and forgiveness. God is all powerful, He is in control of the universe. Although it may appear at times that things are out of hand this is not so. God is beyond our knowing, but we are not beyond His power. He acts at the right moment, in the right way. Our job is to learn how to trust him.

The Learning and Growing Team

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GENESIS

Have you ever wondered how the world came to be? The book of Genesis offers an explanation - God created the universe and everything in it. He made human beings like himself. Genesis reveals the plan within God's heart to have a people of his very own - the people of Israel - set apart to worship him.

Genesis explores the nature of God as Creator and Redeemer, the value of human life, created in God's image and for his purpose, the terrible consequences of disobedience and sin - separating man from God and the wonderful promise of salvation and forgiveness through the coming Messiah.

Outline

Creation: Genesis 1 v 1 - 2 v 3

Adam & Eve's Story: Genesis 2 v 4 - 5 v 32

Noah's Story: Genesis 6 v 1 - 11 v 32

Abraham's Story: Genesis 12 v 1 - 25 v 18

Isaac's Story: Genesis 25 v 19 - 28 v 9

Jacob's Story: Genesis 28 v 10 - 36 v 43

Joseph's Story: Genesis 37 v 1 - 50 v 26



MATTHEW

The Gospel of Matthew was written for a Jewish audience to prove that Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah, the King of all the earth, and to explain about the Kingdom of God. It acts as the joining link between the Old and New Testament, focusing on the fulfilment of God's promise of a Messiah. It begins by accounting the genealogy of Jesus, then His birth, baptism and public ministry. The miracles recorded in Matthew reveal Jesus' true identity. The "Sermon on the Mount" with the beautiful beatitudes is found in Chapter Five.

Some key verses:

Matthew 4 v 4

Jesus answered "It is written: "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." (NIV)

Matthew 5 v 17

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them, but to fulfil them, (NIV).

Matthew 10 v 39

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it, (NIV)

Outline

The Birth of the King and Preparing to Receive Him - Matthew 1 v 1 - 4 v 11

The Message and Ministry of the King - Matthew 4 v 12 - 25 v 46

The Death and Resurrection of the King - Matthew 26 v 1 - 28 v 20

PROVERBS

The Book of Proverbs is an interesting book, although it has chapters and verses it is a collection of sayings that can be 'dipped into' rather than read from beginning to end. It is thought to have been written by Solomon and reflects Israel's views about how we should live our lives in the presence of God. It embodies the collective wisdom of Israel. Proverbs covers every aspect of life - relationships with parents, growing up, serving God, resisting temptation, practical advice, seeking the truth, the folly of riches, situations to avoid, the knowledge of God, Life is filled with mysteries, but God understands them all and invites us to turn to him for guidance, it is through Him that we can be redeemed, serving Him makes sense and leads to a full and satisfying life.

Proverbs sets out two roads that are open before us, the way of life and the way of death. The wise person chooses life, the foolish person chooses death. The way we go ultimately depends on us.

