

DECEMBER

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The studies are taken from the New Kings James Version. There are no right or wrong answers; just fill in the blanks from the Scripture used, write out an occasional verse and answer some very simple questions from the text.

- 1) 37:2 What did God cause Ezekiel to pass by and what was their condition?
- 2) 37:7 What took place as Ezekiel prophesied to the bones?
- 3) 37:11 These bones now in the flesh (the whole house of Israel) were dry. Why?
- 4) 38:16 That the nations may know what?
- 5) 38:23 Why had God chosen to tell all of this?
- 6) 39:7 God took it upon Himself to deal with Gog. For what reason?
- 7) 39:11 Why was Gog's burial place located to obstruct travelers?

Daily Thought

God used Gog to bring glory to Himself amongst His people. These evil men were sent upon Israel to accomplish one thing – “They will know that I Am God”. Gog's burial place was surely placed to show all including foreigners of God's authority and power. Our God can use even evil things for our good (Romans 8:28).

- 1) 40:1 When did God's hand come upon Ezekiel?
(This being about 573 B.C.)
- 2) 40:3 Who took all these measurements for Ezekiel?
- 3) 41:13-14 What was the length and width of the temple?
- 4) 42:15-20 How many rods did each wall measure? (A rod is about 10 ½.)
- 5) Why was Ezekiel visioning this temple and being shown all these measurements?

Daily Thought

Once again we see the thoroughness of God. All these measures in this in-depth vision of a perfect replacement temple. Israel was hauled to Babylon, their temple was defiled and destroyed. God has given this vision to Ezekiel saying, "I am going to come dwell with you once again."

- 1) 43:1-2 What did Ezekiel see coming?
- 2) 43:11 Why was Ezekiel to write down and place before Israel these ordinances, forms, and laws?
- 3) 44:3 Why was the east gate shut to all?
Who alone was allowed to sit before the gate and eat bread before the Lord?
- 4) 44:9 Who was not allowed to enter the temple?
- 5) 44:15 After the Levites ministered to other gods, God would no longer allow them to do so for Him.
Which group of Levites could still minister to God?
- 6) 45:4 What was this holy district for?
- 7) 45:17 When were the princes to give burnt offerings, grain offerings, and drink offerings?

Daily Thought

Question #4: “Who was not allowed to enter the temple?” No outsiders or foreigners nor the uncircumcised, nor any not of God could enter the temple. Why do you think this was so? In the previous verse we read the explanation for this. They cause people to stumble and sin with their false beliefs. Do you think this should be different today? We don’t see it as much but anyone who perverts the Word of God and causes confusion in this way should be subject to such. Of course this would be the place for the elders and their guidance.

Word of Growth

“Stick”

Ezekiel 37:16-17

As for you, son of man, take a stick for yourself and write on it: 'For Judah and for the children of Israel, his companions.' Then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and *for* all the house of Israel, his companions.'¹⁷ Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick, and they will become one in your hand.

God has told Ezekiel to take two sticks – two groups of people – and join them together as one. God's hand would merge these two groups together as one. How interesting. These two were once one and time had separated them. Ezekiel here is to intercede for these two nations to bring them back together as one – as God's children not Judah and God's children Ephraim, but one nation. These two descendants of Jacob (Israel). Once literally siblings, sons of Jacob (Israel). Once literally siblings, sons of Jacob and brothers to each other. Now through God and His servant Ezekiel these brothers can be reunited. How many separate groups do we have today? Are we not sons and daughters, descendants of Abraham, the descendants of Jacob by faith?

Galatians 3:26-29

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Scripture confirms it. Yet we are divided and I don't mean us directly but mankind as a whole. Jesus came to bring us together. All humans, not just a chosen group, but all mankind. We were meant to be one group with One Leader. (Don't get me wrong in what I'm saying. His word will cause division but the idea is for one set of believers not many groups.) Unless we begin to stick together we will never reach "responsible accountability" – our responsible service which is listed in Romans 12:1-2. Which is knowing God's will and what is good before Him. See 2 Peter 3:9 which tells us God will not hasten to condemn anyone. He wishes to give all the chance to repent. God wants us to be of one mind, of one body as a group of people, His people. One stick, fused together as a whole. Not a crazy looking tree.

- 1) 46:1 Which days should the east gate be opened?
- 2) 46:3 What was to take place at the east gate upon Sabbaths and New Moons?
- 3) 46:13 What kind of sacrifice was to be offered daily to the Lord?
See John 1:29. What had John the Baptist called Jesus?
- 4) 47:1 What came from the temple, and what kind was it?
- 5) 47:13 How many tribes of Israel?
- 6) 48:1-8 Names the seven tribes of Israel listed here.
- 7) 48:23-28 Name the five tribes of Israel named here.

Daily Thought

Genesis 29:31 through 30:24

When the LORD saw that Leah *was* unloved, He opened her womb; but Rachel *was* barren. So Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben; for she said, “The LORD has surely looked on my affliction. Now therefore, my husband will love me.” Then she conceived again and bore a son, and said, “Because the LORD has heard that I *am* unloved, He has therefore given me this *son* also.” And she called his name Simeon. She conceived again and bore a son, and said, “Now this time my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons.” Therefore his name was called Levi. And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, “Now I will praise the LORD.” Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she stopped bearing.

Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister, and said to Jacob, “Give me children, or else I die!” And Jacob’s anger was aroused against Rachel, and he said, “*Am* I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?” So she said, “Here is my maid Bilhah; go in to her, and she will bear *a child* on my knees, that I also may have children by her.” Then she gave him Bilhah her maid as wife, and Jacob went in to her. And Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son. Then Rachel said, “God has judged my case; and He has also heard my voice and given me a son.” Therefore she called his name Dan. And Rachel’s maid Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son. Then Rachel said, “With great wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister, *and* indeed I have prevailed.” So she called his name Naphtali.

When Leah saw that she had stopped bearing, she took Zilpah her maid and gave her to Jacob as wife. And Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a son. Then Leah said, "A troop comes!" So she called his name Gad. And Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a second son. Then Leah said, "I am happy, for the daughters will call me blessed." So she called his name Asher.

Now Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me *some* of your son's mandrakes." But she said to her, "*Is it* a small matter that you have taken away my husband? Would you take away my son's mandrakes also?" And Rachel said, "Therefore he will lie with you tonight for your son's mandrakes." When Jacob came out of the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, "You must come in to me, for I have surely hired you with my son's mandrakes." And he lay with her that night. And God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son. Leah said, "God has given me my wages, because I have given my maid to my husband." So she called his name Issachar. Then Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son. And Leah said, "God has endowed me *with* a good endowment; now my husband will dwell with me, because I have borne him six sons." So she called his name Zebulun. Afterward she bore a daughter, and called her name Dinah.

Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb. And she conceived and bore a son, and said, "God has taken away my reproach." So she called his name Joseph, and said, "The LORD shall add to me another son."

We can see these sons all the way though our Bibles.

Revelation 7:5-8

of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand *were* sealed;
of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand *were* sealed;
of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand *were* sealed;
of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand *were* sealed;
of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand *were* sealed;
of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand *were* sealed;
of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand *were* sealed;
of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand *were* sealed;
of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand *were* sealed;
of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand *were* sealed;
of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand *were* sealed;
of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand *were* sealed.

The 144,000 sealed, God's elect sons of Israel (Jacob).

- 1) 1:1 When did King Nebuchadnezzar go to Jerusalem ? (605 B.C.)
- 2) 1:6-7 Who was selected to serve in the king's palace?
And what names were given them?
- 3) 1:15 After ten days when the king's servants examined these four young men what was found?
- 4) 2:27-28 Daniel told the king who couldn't declare his dream list them.
But who could declare such?
- 5) 2:45b-47 Did Daniel interpret the king's dream and to whom did the king give glory?
- 6) 3:12 Who would not bow to the king's golden image?
- 7) 3:20 What was the consequence of not following the king's decree?
- 8) 3:27 Though cast in the furnace, what became of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?

Daily Thought

God said plain do not bow down to other images or gods (Exodus 20:1-4). These three men said "Well God said and that's final. We will not bow to your image. If you place us in the furnace well God will do what is right." Know where your faith is and hold to it no matter what. God is righteous. God is just in all He does no matter what.

- 1) 4:4-5 Why had Nebuchadnezzar called upon the wise men of Babylon again?
- 2) 4:8 When these wise men again could not answer who did the king turn to?
- 3) 4:24 What was Daniel's interpretation and why was this to pass?
- 4) 5:3-4 Where had the vessels which King Belshazzar and his guest drank wine from and used to worship other gods come from?
- 5) 5:5-6 What took place that scared the king to the point of his knees knocking?
- 6) 5:25-28 What was written on the wall and what did it mean?
- 7) 6:3-4 What was planned against Daniel (verse 4) and why (verse 3)?
- 8) 6:16 When Daniel still prayed before God how was he treated by men?
- 9) 6:28 Through obedience how did Daniel fare?

Daily Thought

Daniel 6:21-22a

Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him;

God is righteous and provides for His obedient children.

- 1) 7:1 What are we reading of here in Chapter 7?
- 2) 7:3 How many beasts were in Daniel's vision?
- 3) 7:13 Who do you believe "One like the Son of Man" and "The Ancient of Days" are?
- 4) 8:1 What are we reading of in this chapter?
- 5) 8:15-16 Who explains Daniel's vision to him?
- 6) 8:20-21 What were the ram and goat of Daniel's dream?
- 7) 9:3-4 What had Daniel taken upon himself to do once he realized what was to happen to Jerusalem?
- 8) 9:20-21 Who came to Daniel while he was in prayer?

Daily Thought

Chapter 9 speaks of Daniel's understanding.

Daniel 9:2b

that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

Daniel had found in the books (scripture) understanding to Jerusalem's future. Much can be found in God's word, even the truths of our future. Study and gain understanding.

Word of Growth

"Ox":

In Chapter 4 Daniel once again was called to explain a dream to king Nebuchadnezzar had. In this dream the king saw a very tall tree reaching to the heavens which ends up cut down. This was symbolic of Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom. This version was a warning to the king "Your greatness is coming to an end."

In verse 27 Nebuchadnezzar is warned to break off from his sins. In verse 28 we find the king had twelve months to change from his ways. Instead we read as the king walked about his palace, “The king spoke, saying ‘Is not this great Babylon, that I have built as a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?’”

James 4:6b

“God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.”

God does not like pride, He will break the proud.

Daniel 4:31

While the word *was still* in the king’s mouth, a voice fell from heaven: “King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you!

God answered instantly to Nebuchadnezzar’s prideful questioning. “Nebuchadnezzar, I know how to humble you!” That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven away and ate grass like oxen. His body was wet with the dew of heaven until his hair had grown like eagles’ feathers and his nails like birds’ claws (verse 33). Act as a stubborn beast and, well, have it as you please, Ox!

Matthew 21:44

And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.

- 1) 10:2-3 How long was Daniel mourning and what was not in his diet?
- 2) 10:4 Where was Daniel when he saw this man?
- 3) 10:7 Why was Daniel the only one to see this man?
What happened with his company?
- 4) 10:12 Though God took so long to respond to Daniel, when was Daniel's words heard?
- 5) 11:28 Are these verses speaking of just one set of kings or many kings over a period?
- 6) 11:45 Where will these tents be located? (Between the Dead Sea and Mt. Zion.)
- 7) 12:1 Who will be delivered from these great troubles in the end times?
- 8) 12:10, 13 Read these two verses again. Many will be cleaned of their ways and for us who receive Jesus what are we to do for now (verse 13)?

Daily Thought

Daniels' three weeks of mourning in Chapter 10 would have been the Passover. God had come to him because of his understanding to God's commands. Not so much because of Daniels' words but because of his obedience. God loves and receives those who love Him.

- 1) 1:2 What type of wife was Hosea to take for himself and why?
- 2) 1:3 – 4; 6 Name Hosea’s wife as well as his son and daughter.
- 3) 1:8 Name Hosea and Gomer’s youngest son.
What does his name mean?
- 4) 2:7 What was the final decision of the adulterer?
- 5) 2:23b Who will God call His people (see Romans 9:24-25)?
- 6) 3:1 What did God tell Hosea to do again?
- 7) 3:2 Hosea bought Gomer again for himself (an unfaithful bride bought back). See Galatians 3:13 and 1 Corinthians 6:20.

Daily Thought

In Hosea 2:7 we read Gomer chose to go back to her first husband realizing the first was better than the last. How often have I done this very thing in life? We may never see the value of our belongings or those around us until we are missing them in the past. Life is tricky. Make the right decisions. One can never go back (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

- 1) 4:7 The more they increase the more of what happens?
- 2) 4:9 How does God punish or reward His children?
- 3) 5:5 What did Israel's pride cause?
- 4) 5:6 Think on this verse "He's withdrawn where they will not find Him."
- 5) 5:15 Why will God now return to His people?
- 6) 6:4 Describe the faith of Judah and Ephraim.
- 7) 6:6 What is God's desire?

Daily Thought

Why was it God would not be found by His people (5:6)? Then later He was there (5:15). At First the people were seeking God but not with a whole heart. They were only running the motions. God will not go for an outer display only. You're all in or not at all (Revelation 3:15-16).

Word of Growth

Hosea 3 Love:

"Go again, love a woman who is loved by a lover and is committing adultery. . ."

Hosea 3:1-2

Then the LORD said to me, "Go again, love a woman *who is* loved by a lover and is committing adultery, just like the love of the LORD for the children of Israel, who look to other gods and love *the* raisin cakes *of the pagans*." So I bought her for myself for fifteen *shekels* of silver, and one and one-half homers of barley.

This "love" is a hard love to grasp. Why would I grant you another chance to hurt me? Why would I pay in advance for this treatment? What kind of crazy love is this? Godly love! This is the "love" God has shown us. God has spoken to our forefathers. God has been speaking forever. And they've cheated on Him since the beginning! Imagine "Why do you treat Me this way? I created you, I've loved from before your birth, I've told you I Am your God, I Am your Father. Yet you defile yourselves with other loves . . ."

God has bought you. He paid an amazing price (John 3:16). He bought you with the blood of His only Son. God has so loved us that we too may possess such love. Work on having a Hosea 3 love. Be as your Father. Love is a costly thing. With all God has poured out upon me I can afford to love a great deal.

- 1) 7:1 Right when God would have healed Israel what happened?
- 2) 7:8-11 Ephraim was as what before God?
- 3) 7:13 Though God had redeemed (bought them back) what did they do?
- 4) 8:1-6 What was being done?
- 5) 8:13a, 14a Why had God remembered Israel's sin?
- 6) 9:10 How had God seen His people? Though He thought so highly of them what did they do?
- 7) 9:17 What one thing was needed?
Why did God cast these away?

Daily Thought

Though Israel was dead in sin and not at all concerned of God they were eating people! They had forgotten their Maker. God is a just God. He will charge those still in sin. Though those looking to Him with a pure heart He forgives.

- 1) 10:3 Why did Israel not have a king?
- 2) 10:5 Fear because of what?
- 3) 10:12 Sow _____
Reap _____
Break _____
Seek _____
- 4) 11:1 God loved Israel when?
- 5) 11:3 He taught Ephraim what?
How?
- 6) 12:2-3 Jacob did what to his brother (Genesis 25:26)?
And what had he done with God (Genesis 32:24-28)?

Daily Thought

Hosea 11:1

When Israel *was* a child, I loved him,
And out of Egypt I called My son.

I taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by their arms (11:3). I drew them with gentle cords, with bands of love (11:4). How can I give you up . . . How can I hand you over? My heart churns within Me; My sympathy is stirred (11:8). The words of a concerned Father.”

- 1) 13:6 Why was God forgotten?
- 2) 13:10-11 Who did Israel look to for a king?
 Who gave and took their king?
- 3) 14:4 If Israel would've turned from their sin what would've God done?
- 4) 14:9 How are the ways of God?
 Who will not stumble?
- 5) 1:1 Who passed on the words which he received from God?
- 6) 1:3 How were these words to be passed on?
- 7) 1:20 How severe was God's wrath?

Daily Thought

Man looks upon man in times of trouble. Israel looked to their judges when they were in need of guidance to provide a king. Man can do nothing apart from God. Israel did not understand God granted them a king. He later took their king. Whatever in life we do God is that final authority. If you have, He's approved. If you don't, well, He's chosen that too. Look to Him in all you do.

God bless you.

- 1) 2:1 Sound the alarm – why?
- 2) 2:2-11 Describe in brief this troop.
- 3) 2:13 Rend (tear) your what? See Psalm 51:17.
- 4) 3:4 God said if you retaliate (or try to repay Me) He would do what?
- 5) 3:17 Where will God be?
- 6) 1:1 The words of who and what was his profession?
- 7) 1:2-15 The Lord roars from Zion, why do the shepherds mourn?

Daily Thought

What an army. What a great troop we read of in

Joel 2:7

They run like mighty men,
They climb the wall like men of war;
Every one marches in formation,
And they do not break ranks.

In every way perfect; I do not wish to meet this force. God's troop will be beyond our understanding.

Word of Growth

Rend your Heart:

Joel 2:13

So rend your heart, and not your garments;
Return to the LORD your God,
For He *is* gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger, and of great kindness;
And He relents from doing harm.

Tearing your clothes, wearing sack cloth and covering yourself in ashes would've been the standards. These would have been a form of fasting or mourning. God said "That won't work now. We are beyond that. I want more than an outside show. I want a whole-hearted repentance. You tear your hearts." God doesn't care so much of your outside appearance - "what your sad face may look like." We're beyond this. He wants your love. And if we love Him it will be more than a sad face we give Him when we sin against Him. A sin is a form of failure; God gives us a way past this (Jesus). Though when we fail a loved one, well, that would cause me a hurt which runs all the way through me.

Psalm 51:17

The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit,
A broken and a contrite heart—
These, O God, You will not despise.

In these times, times of failure a torn heart could be expected.

- 1) 2:4 What led Judah astray?
- 2) 2:8 “They lie down by every altar.”
What do you think this means?
- 3) 2:16 The most courageous men, men of might, will do what before the Day of the Lord?
- 4) 3:7-8 God won’t move until He has sent word through His servants and prophets.
Says Amos _____ !
Who will not fear? _____ !
Who can but prophesy?
- 5) 4:1 What were the women of Samaria called and why?
- 6) 4:6,8,9,10 What was God awaiting?

Daily Thought

You lie down at every altar. They worshipped anything which was put before them. They enjoyed giving sacrifice and burning incense for the show. They were overtaken with showing off. “Look what I am doing. Look what I offered.” With no concern of what their offering was for. “I made a contribution. I’m not sure what it was for but I did it.” How silly would that be?

- 1) 5:1 Hear this word which I take up again you, a _____, O house of Israel.
- 2) What does the word “lamentation” mean?
- 3) 5:4b, 6a What was needed of Israel to change this judgment?
- 4) 6:8, 11 Why will God’s wrath come upon His people (read verse 11 then verse 8)?
- 5) 7:7-9 What was God placing in the midst of His people?
- 6) 7:14 What did Amos say to Amaziah?

Daily Thought

I was not a prophet . . . nor had my father been a prophet. We don’t plan our place in life, we choose our paths, we may take a long, crazy path on our journey to responsibility, but once we reach this point. Well, we will be as our Father has instructed. And each will have a separate responsibility as chosen for us. Each responsibility reaching the same goal.

- 1) 8:1 What did God show Amos before He declared the end of Israel?
- 2) 8:11 What will be lacking (not food or water)?
- 3) 9:2 Will there be any escaping God (Psalm 139:8)?
- 4) 9:10 What will befall the sinner?
- 5) 9:11 What does God tell us will happen after the sinful ones are dealt with?
- 6) 1:1 The vision of who, concerning whom?
- 7) 1:3 What deceives?
- 8) 1:10 Violence against whom? (Edom was Jacob's brother, Esau's line and descendants.)

Daily Thought

God showed Amos a basket of summer fruit before declaring Israel's end. Some think God is returning in this season or that season (when the fig tree bears fruit). I believe God will be coming in our peak times. We will be so caught in life when He arrives. Hence the warning to be ready, "He comes as a thief in the night."

Word of Growth

Plumb Line:

Amos 7:7

Thus He showed me: Behold, the Lord stood on a wall *made* with a plumb line, with a plumb line in His hand.

A plumb line is a tool to measure the uprightness of an object. For instance I want to see if a wall is straight up and down or I want to see if an object is directly above another (the opening in the top of a grain bin). A plumb line is a string with a weight

on its end. If you tie it on the ceiling the weight will hang just off the floor to show the exact point under which you've tied the line.

God has told Amos He was measuring His people. I will no longer pass by My people. I will check their uprightness from now on. I'll be here on this wall measuring you and you'd better add up! Things will shape up around her. God has seen enough. You'll straighten up. God is as He was then tired of nonsense. Fortunately God has sent us a Helper. His Son helps to hold us upright. He lifts us up in our shortcomings. He brings us back to right living. Through Him that plumb line always reads such a plumbness, such perfection, which could never be questioned. Praise be to Him.

- 1) 1:1-3 God's word came to who?
What did God tell him?
And what did he do instead?
- 2) 1:17 What had God prepared to deliver Jonah?
- 3) 2:1-9 What had Jonah done the whole time he was in the fish?
- 4) 2:10 "Vomited Jonah out on dry land." Imagine, where do you think this fish spat Jonah? (Right where God had planned him to be I'm sure.)
- 5) 3:3 Did Jonah follow God's instruction this time?
- 6) 3:5 Did the people of Nineveh listen to Jonah?
- 7) 3:10 Did God receive Nineveh back after their repentance?

Daily Thought

Out-run God:

The word of God came to Jonah telling him to go to Nineveh. Jonah went straight to Joppa, a shipping city, climbed on a ship and headed for Tarshish. Jonah went roughly 2500 miles west of where God had told him to go (tried to). In his time this was the same as heading to the other side of the world! Well, one cannot out-run God. Jonah learned this the hard way.

- 1) 4:1 Was Jonah pleased of the repentance of Nineveh?
- 2) 4:6 When God sent Jonah a plant for shade how did Jonah feel?
- 3) 4:8 And when this plant died how did Jonah feel? (Read and think on verses 10 – 11.)
- 4) 1:1 The word sent through whom, concerning who?
- 5) 1:16 For whose sake were these to enlarge their baldness (mourning)?
- 6) 2:1 Why were they practicing evil?
- 7) 2 How were God's people treating each other?

Daily Thought

Are evil doers still God's people? How do you call them so? In these books we read over and over of evil doers and God's wrath. Is God's wrath not a form of correction to those who have transgressed Him? Even an evil doer can be corrected at the mercy of our Lord.

God loves the sinner though He hates the sin.

- 1) 3:2 Rulers of the house of Israel – is it not for you to know justice?
(verse 1): You who hate what?
- 2) 3:2b-3 Do you think they were really eating each other, or do you think this was figurative of the way they were treating each other?
- 3) 3:11 Were these officials acting in godly righteousness?
- 4) 4:3 When all head to the mountain of the Lord and in God’s will, what will be found (end of this verse)?
- 5) 4:5 What will people do, and what will we do?
- 6) 5:2 What of Bethlehem and the small tribe of Judah (see Matthew 2:1-6)?
- 7) 5:6-15 What will become of the enemies of God’s people?

Daily Thought

5:5a “And the One shall be peace.”

The Prince of Peace. I’ve heard people question this peace. Jesus said he came to divide even the family not to bring peace (Luke 12:51). This can be right, can it? Peace will come in the end of this world, for the believer. Heaven will be here if following our Lord we can expect trouble (John 16:33). But in our own kingdom with our King. Well, that will be a great rest.

- 1) 6:8 Does God want sacrifice or burnt offerings (are these what He wants?)
What does God want?
- 2) 6:14-15 Will those in sin find enjoyment in their doings?
- 3) 7:2 What were men doing (worrying of self only)?
- 4) 7:18 “Memory Verse”
- 5) 1:1 Vision of whom, concerning whom?
- 6) 1:15 What was Judah told to do? What had they been doing (verse 14)?
- 7) 1:3 Is God’s anger fast.
Does He react in hast?

Daily Thought

He has shown:

Micah 6:8

He has shown you, O man, what *is* good;
And what does the LORD require of you
But to do justly,
To love mercy,
And to walk humbly with your God?

God requires, not optional but required, He requires His servants to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Him. Questionable would be the person who does not possess these.

Word of Growth

Jonah Syndrome:

Jonah 4:10-11

But the LORD said, “You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night.¹¹ And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left—and much livestock?”

Jonah had a serious condition. One many today share. What about I forget about you, diseases? Jonah didn't care about the people of Nineveh. He wanted them to pay for their sins. They were doing everything that was unlawful for them to do. They were breaking God's laws. Jonah told God he'd rather die and jumped ship to Tarshish. Jonah came to another realization in the belly of that great fish. “Okay, okay, I'll go to Nineveh.” Once Jonah had spoken God's word to Nineveh he was again enraged when they repented. He went out of the city and sat miserably in the heat of the sun. God sent him a plant for shade. Jonah was pleased. God sent a worm to eat the plant. Jonah was not so pleased. How was it Jonah was so concerned of a thing with so little value but not the thousands in Nineveh?

Jonah was concerned with those things of life – not the things of the “Life”. How often are we concerned of those things close to us? The things which give us comfort and yet miss the big picture while enjoying the little things? Nice house got your attention, nice car, boat, watch, speaking on others instead of taking time to help or view self?

“Human nature.” Jonah syndrome.

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

- 1) 2:1 Who is the scatterer of verse 1?
- 2) 2:2 Who will restore the nations?
- 3) 3:1 How do you think living in Nineveh would've been?
- 4) 3:12-13 With God's wrath upon Nineveh did they have a strong enough defense?
- 5) 3:17 The attack against Nineveh was so fierce how did its commanders and generals act?
- 6) 3:19 How was Nineveh's condition in the end?
- 7) 1:1 The burden (prophecy) of who?
- 8) 1:4 What was Habakkuk's concern?
- 9) 1:12-13 What did Habakkuk call God?
And what of His eyes and evil?

Daily Thought

Lord, why do You wait to punish the wicked?

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

God is patient, hoping to save all even those who we may now view as wicked.

- 1) 2:2 How was Habakkuk to write the vision on the tablets?
- 2) 2:4 What is wrong with the soul of the proud?
- 3) 2:6 The person who gathers earthly things gathers what?
What gathering should they be concerned with (verse 14)?
- 4) 3:1 What are we reading in Chapter 3?
- 5) 3:17-18 Though nothing may seem to work out for us what shall we take
pleasure in?
What did Habakkuk look to?
- 6) 1:1 The word of God through who?
- 7) 1:6 God says He will destroy everything of those who what?

Daily Thought

Habakkuk, write the words I tell you plain, make them who read it have no excuse.

God has placed His every command right before us and it is plain. We who know it and study it are well on our way only with this knowledge as well as the knowledge of our Savior. Pray for those who won't take the time to read what has been laid plain before them. They are without excuse. Lord, they know not what they do . . .

- 1) 2:1a & 3a What two things were these people to do?
- 2) 2:11 How was and is the Lord still before man?
- 3) 3:1-2 Woe to who because they had what?
- 4) 3:8-9 What is God's determination, and what will He do when He restores His people?
- 5) 3:17 God will what – over who?
- 6) 1:1 When had God's word come to who? (August 29, 520 B.C.)
- 7) 1:14 What took place and why?

Daily Thought

Consider your ways!

Haggai 1:6-7

“You have sown much, and bring in little;
You eat, but do not have enough;
You drink, but you are not filled with drink;
You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm;
And he who earns wages,
Earns wages *to put* into a bag with holes.”
Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Consider your ways!

What kind of ways would cause this? How would one prevent such?

Word of Growth

HE WILL REJOICE OVER YOU:

Zephaniah 3:17

The LORD your God in your midst,
The Mighty One, will save;

He will rejoice over you with gladness,
He will quiet *you* with His love,
He will rejoice over you with singing.”

These books of our Old Testament seem hard to take in. God’s wrath over and over. But in the end is always God’s promise of better things to come for the obedient. Remember all these standards, all this wrath, all these books were given to guide us in right living. See 1 Corinthians 10:11 and Galatians 3:24. These books were given to guide us not condemn us. These words, written plain are to guide us into righteousness. We will not be condemned. And Jesus came for us, as our cover where we not meet these standards. Knowing all this I’d say condemnation has no hold on us. No hold whatsoever! Yes, yes, narrow is the path which leads to the kingdom and wide the road to destruction. How many will not read these words? How many won’t know or trust our Lord? These are those of the wide road. We are on the narrow path which our Lord has etched for us to follow. He has loved us, He has loved you, and you’d better believe His path has hand rails, guard rails, bumper pads, and whatever else His loved ones need to reach their destination. He’s going to rejoice over you and you in Him. Our King is a loving King, a merciful King, an all-powerful King and He’s proclaimed plain in His word His love for you. Knowing He is watching out for your every need. Trust Him.

Read Luke 1:26-38 and 2:1-24 to your family or loved ones tonight in remembrance of our Lord’s birth.

- 1) 2:3 How was the new temple in comparison to the old?
- 2) 2:6-9 What was God going to do with this new temple, this temple which did not meet the standards set by Solomon's temple?
- 3) 2:15-19 Now if all the ailments and chance was removed from our lives, though we only had little, would it not go further?
- 4) 1:1 When did the Lord speak to Zechariah (520 B.C.)?
- 5) 1:5-6 Has God's word stood through these even until today?
- 6) 2:2 Where was the man with the measuring line headed?
What was his purpose?
- 7) 2:5 What were these measurements prepared for?
- 8) 2:10 Why were the daughters of Zion to sing and rejoice?

Daily Thought

In our obedience God will bless us. Though we may not be as wealthy as some or have an over-abundance the things which we have will go the distance. Our foods will not spoil, our vehicles will not break down, our homes will stand, whatever we place our hands upon will prosper. It may seem others are getting ahead of us but we do not know what lays ahead of them. We do know we will never be without while trusting our Father.

- 1) 3:1-5 Try to explain this vision. Write it out as if you were preparing to share it with others.
- 2) 3:8 Again the “Branch” – who is this servant? (See Isaiah 11:1 and Matthew 1:1,6)
- 3) 4:10 What was in the hand of Zerubbabel?
And whose eyes were scanning the earth?
- 4) 4:14 What were these two branches of the olive tree?
- 5) 5:1 What was Zechariah’s next vision of?
- 6) 5:3 What was this scroll?
- 7) 5:8 What was the woman in the basket named?
What happened to her (verse 9)? [Signifying the removal of sin from God’s people.]

Daily Thought

In 3:1-5 the high priest, Joshua, was with his accuser (Satan) before the heavenly court. Satan was bringing a charge against Joshua, God’s servant. God took Joshua’s filthy clothes (sins) and gave him new clothing, clothing of righteousness.

When one turns to the Lord wholeheartedly he is forgiven of all his part doings. Though people may accuse us of our past, our Father never will recall such things. We stand in newness before Him in righteousness. “Not Bobby, he is pure before Me.”

- 1) 6:5 What were these chariots and horses Zechariah was shown?
- 2) 6:12-13 Who will branch out as well as build the Lord's temple?
- 3) 7:5 What did God ask the people about fasting?
- 4) 7:6-7 God asked these when they ate was it not for themselves?
(You did what you desired for yourselves, not I.)
What did God say would be better than fasting (verse 7)?
- 5) 7:9-10 What does God desire of His people?
- 6) 8:4-5 What would all take place in Jerusalem?
- 7) 8:6 What would be marvelous in God's eyes?
- 8) 8:12 What would be the seed that prospers, that which gives fruit, the increase of the ground, and the dew of heaven?
What could these symbolize?

Daily Thought

Zechariah 8:6

“Thus says the LORD of hosts:
‘If it is marvelous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days,
Will it also be marvelous in My eyes?’
Says the LORD of hosts.

God assures us here if we desire a thing, He too desires that for us. God wants us to be happy though we limit such pleasantries with worldly desires. He would give us so much more.

- 1) 9:6 What would settle in Ashdod?
- 2) 9:9 What was the daughter of Zion to look for her king to be riding upon? (See Matthew 21:1-11)
- 3) 10:3 Though the shepherds (teachers/leaders) of the time failed to keep the sheep, who would be coming to the flock (us)?
- 4) 10:6 How will those be who God receives back in mercy?
- 5) 11:4-5 What were the shepherds doing with the sheep?
- 6) 11:17 Woe to whom? Who would this symbolize?

Daily Thought

In Chapter 9:6 we read a mixed race would settle together in Ashdod. God's people were a separate people, sanctified. A mixed-race would lead to mixed beliefs. Idol worship, witchcraft, and all sorts of sin. Bad deal in Ashdod.

Word of Growth

The Branch and His temple:

Zechariah 6:12

Then speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying:
"Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH!
From His place He shall branch out,
And He shall build the temple of the LORD;

He, Jesus, will branch out. Spreading all across the world He will be known (Colossians 1:23). All ears will hear His words along with His works which are recorded in our Bibles. A temple. He is building a glorious temple but not a physical structure. A temple in the flesh. You and me – His followers make up this temple. He dwells in us. He's upon the hearts of His followers (Jeremiah 24:7). The foundation has been laid for this temple through the words of His prophets. You've been guided.

He has spoken. His word has been saved for your salvation and you are His temple. A glorious temple you are! A temple of holiness, of purity through Him (John 15:3). Think before you act, I am the temple, then live accordingly. He has loved you so. See 1 Peter 1:15-16.

- 1) 12:1 What things were accredited to God in this verse?
- 2) 12:2-6 Do we have an option; when God places His wrath is there anything we can do in our own abilities to prevent Him?
What had He done to those strong things in this verse?
- 3) 13:1-6 What would happen to the idols (verse 2)?
And those who prophecy (verse 3)?
- 4) 13:8-9 How many will remain, and what will happen to these?
- 5) 14:4 Where will the Lord's feet rest when He returns?
What will happen to this place His feet will rest upon?
- 6) 14:9 What will it be in the day of the Lord?
- 7) 14:16 What would take place year to year?
- 8) 14:17 What would take place with those who do not attend this feast?

Daily Thought

Read again Zechariah 14:4. The Lord's feet will stand upon the Mount of Olives on the day of the Lord and the mount will split from east to west. This mount is prepared for the Lord's coming. It will be split in two pieces – one piece will move to the north and the other to the south.

- 1) 1:1 The word of the Lord through whom to who?
- 2) 1:2 Who had God loved?
- 3) 1:6 The son and the servant does what?
Are we meeting these standards?
- 4) 2:2 What will happen to those who won't hear the word of the Lord or follow it?
- 5) 2:10 Do we have one God and Father?
Do we keep the promises of old? (Now trusting in Jesus and staying as obedient as we can?)
- 6) 3:1 Who are these two messengers?
See Matthew 11:10-11 and Isaiah 63:9.
- 7) 4:1 What group is classified with the wicked?

Daily Thought

God loved us while we were amongst the wicked (1:2). He loved Jacob (Israel) while his brother Esau was hated. They were one and one, they lived in the same home, they shared mother and father. Yet in spirit, one's father was from above and one's was from below. Jacob's conduct and faith in God set him apart, as us. Our Father won't judge us as them just because we live amongst them. As long as we don't live as them.

Read verse 1.

This letter is from our brother Peter (called the rock by Jesus). He calls himself a bondservant of Christ and an apostle (a slave of the Lord, with the authority to speak for his Master). This letter is addressed to those who've obtained like such faith, 'precious faith', as Peter and his brethren. By the righteousness of our Father and His Son.

Read verses 2 through 4.

This letter was written with the purpose of enlightenment. The enlightenment of the things of divine nature. All of which pertain to life and godliness so we may share in the inheritance. Now we don't often look to our faith as a business, though we are a part of a great business. You could say we're in the 'Business'. The business of saving lives, bringing peace to those whom lack, loving those in need, and sharing Who has shown us this way. "With all we come in contact with." No better business...

I've owned a business. I'm experienced in many trades. However, I've never experienced such a pay off or feeling as this business brings me. Not a physical pay off, not a cash amount, but such a rewarding feeling. I live in peace in all odds, I am blessed in all I do as long as it is fitting to the business. In order to have such progress in the business world one would need direction, goals, and plans to advance productivity. No business would do well or for that matter last without these. We then in the business should strive with a purpose not just at random. Set goals and standards. This is what Peter is saying here. This is our guide to good living, to great business results, as well as leading one to be the productive follower of Christ.

Read verses 5 through 7.

Do you possess these traits? Do you see an area to build upon? If you possess these read verse 8. If you lack in these see verse 9. If you are using all these traits work to build upon them.

As a business reviews its year and aims for a better one to come we should continue to grow in our productivity. Would we not do so with our personal businesses? If you lack perhaps you were not ready to take this step. Take a look back and remember your place, your past and aim to build on those things which require so. You're not counted out though you can be more productive in your service.

Read verses 10 through 11.

These standards will only produce blessings for you and grant your pass into the eternal kingdom. (Though this relies more upon the work of Christ in obedience we do have a set standard in this business.)

Brothers and sisters Peter has longed for those things which God can deliver, he has longed for you to share in them. He's loved us as his Master has guided him to do (Tend My sheep). He's been obedient.

Friends look to the better things. I as Peter long to see you sharing in these blessings. Don't wait upon the bumps and lumps of life to shape and mold you; make the choice to do this in obedience. I'm praying you keep focused, stay on track. Know your needs. Prepare for the future. And yes I am and as our Lord and Master love you and desire to see you above. Know me and my friends, 'family' have been writing you now for a year, and all out of love. Know we care. Please press on in your growth and productivity advance yourselves don't settle for the things of this world. ADVANCE to our 'HOME'. Thank you for completing the year way to stick with and apply yourselves. God bless you all.

Amen(so be it).