

Lesson for January 4, 2009

Old Testament Survey

The Book of II Samuel

After the death of Saul, David was in line to assume the throne of Israel. The nation, however, was divided and it was up to David to unite the nation. At first, David was made king of only Judah, but eventually the entire nation recognized his divine appointment as king over all of Israel. (II Samuel 5)

We know from Scripture that David was a “man after God’s own heart,” but he was also a human being with a sin nature. David made many mistakes throughout his lifetime, including polygamy, adultery and murder. Among the many punishments that David suffered for his sins were the rebellion of his children, incest among his children and murder among his children.

In spite of all of these events, David always returned to the Lord and confessed his sins. Because of his attitude, David was used by God to lead the nation of Israel and defeat her enemies on numerous occasions. The royal bloodline of Jesus was David’s.

Some of the more famous stories about David are his defeat of Goliath when he was but a young man, his adulterous relationship with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband Uriah, the establishment of his kingship over all of Israel, the planning of the building of the Temple in Jerusalem (carried out by his son Solomon) and the establishment of a covenant by God with him.

Davidic Covenant (II Samuel 7:4-16; Psalm 89)

This *unconditional* covenant was given to David and promised a royal lineage, a throne and a kingdom. It is this covenant that established forever the line of David through which the Messiah (Jesus Christ) would come. The promises of this covenant guaranteed five things:

- 1) David would have a son to succeed him as king.
- 2) David’s son would build the Temple.
- 3) His kingdom would be established forever, which was a prophecy regarding the Millennium.
- 4) His throne would be established forever, which was a reference to the Messianic rulership of Christ during the Millennium.
- 5) Disobedience would not negate God’s promise to David, even though the nation would be disciplined.

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As a soldier, David was a great warrior and a great general. His defeat of Goliath proved his fearlessness in the face of greater odds. As always, David gave God all the glory for his victories in battle. As the general of the armies, David always had well-trained troops and used them wisely to defeat the enemy.

As a musician, David was a skillful player of the harp. His many songs are recorded in the book of Psalms. David was a prolific writer of poetry, verse and literature. He has been quoted more than any other writer of Scripture by other authors of the books of the Bible and by many secular poets throughout the ages.

As a prophet, David related much about the coming Messiah. His writings are quoted in the New Testament more than any other Old Testament writer. Jesus quoted David as He hung on the Cross. (Psalm 31:5)

As a king, David was the greatest in the history of Israel. He ruled the nation as God's representative on earth. Under his leadership as king, the nation of Israel expanded its territories, repelled attacks from pagan nations and established itself as the dominant nation in the world.

As a man, David was a believer and had an undying desire to know God. He, of course, failed on many occasions and suffered greatly as a result. But throughout his life, David never forgot God, and the general trend of his life was spiritual in nature. As with most of us, David had to be disciplined by God, suffered the consequences of his bad decisions, watched his family be torn apart and be rebuked by God's prophets from time to time. However, David also experienced wonderful times of victory, intimate times of mediation on God's Word and prosperity both personally and nationally.

The Word of God was more important to David than life itself. The central theme of David's writings is the Word of God. David understood that his personal sins separated him from fellowship with God and continually wrote about acknowledging his sins to God. David was full of thanksgiving and praise for all God had done for him. (Psalm 32:1-11; 119:81-120)

We believe that the Bible is inerrant and infallible in its original form. We believe that God so directed the writers of Scripture that His complete and coherent word was transferred to the pages of Scriptures in its original form without altering the literary style or personality of the author. "...Thou hast magnified thy Word above all thy name." (Psalm 138:2)

Synonyms for Bible Doctrine

- 1) The Faith (what is believed)- I Corinthians 16:13
- 2) Truth- John 8:32, 16:13, Ephesians 4:15, II Timothy 2:15
- 3) Word- Hebrews 4:12, Psalm 119:101
- 4) Commandments- Psalm 119:96,98,102
- 5) Knowledge- Proverbs 30:3, II Peter 3:18
- 6) Sword- Hebrews 4:12. Ephesians 6:17
- 7) Judgments- Psalm 119:106, Romans 11:3
- 8) Food- Jeremiah 15:16, I Corinthians 3:2, Hebrews 5:12-13, Psalm 19:10
- 9) Covenant- Jeremiah 22:9
- 10) Precepts- Psalm 119:100, Isaiah 28:10
- 11) Law- Psalm 119:97
- 12) Testimonies- Psalm 119:99
- 13) Statutes- Psalm 119:112
- 14) Mind of Christ- Philippians 2:5, I Corinthians 2:16
- 15) Scripture- II Timothy 3:16-17
- 16) Wisdom- Proverbs 4:7
- 17) Understanding- Proverbs 4:7

Christ's Reliance on Bible Doctrine

Jesus Christ is the unique person of the universe. He is different from God in that He is man, and different from man in that He is God. In His deity, He possesses all the attributes of God, being co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. (John 1:1-14; Romans 1:2-5; Philippians 2:5-11; I Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 2:14)

Christ, as deity is omniscient; He never needs to learn anything because He has always known all things. Bible doctrine is the very mind of Christ. (I Corinthians 2:16) But in His humanity, He was born a baby who needed to learn doctrine in the same manner as we do. Jesus was also a perfect child and subjected Himself to his parents and teachers. (Luke 2:46-52)

Jesus continually used the doctrine that He had learned to sustain Himself throughout the trials and tribulations of life. When attacked by others, He used the doctrine and principles of the Word of God to endure this adversity. He also used the doctrine He had learned to combat the test from Satan. And He used the doctrine in His soul to teach others. (Matthew 4:1-11; John 5:16-39; 6:59-60; 7:16-24)

Even during the six illegal trials of Christ and while He was on the Cross, He quoted Scripture. The very last thing recorded that Jesus said was a quote from Psalms 31:5. (Matthew 26:64; 27:46; Mark 14:62; Luke 23:46; John 19:28-30) Since Jesus used Bible doctrine throughout His life, His ministry and even His death, shouldn't we follow His example? To follow the example of Christ, you must study the Word of God and apply it to every facet of your life. God's Word has the potential to sustain you, strengthen you and stabilize you, if you chose to allow it to do so. (Matthew 4:4; Hebrews 4:12; Isaiah 33:6)

Bible doctrine will set you free. "And you shall know the truth (doctrine) and the truth (doctrine) shall make you free." (John 8:32)

"I will walk in freedom: for I seek thy doctrine." (Psalms 119:45)

Praise and Worship

Let's examine what the Bible says about praise and worship, setting aside any preconceived ideas that we may have.

The word for praise in the New Testament Greek is "espainos", which means approval or commendation. Therefore, when we praise God, we are saying that we approve or commend God for all the wonderful things that He has provided for us through His Son Jesus Christ. Here are three ways in which we bring praise to God.

- 1) We bring praise to God when we accept Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. (Ephesians 1:6,12)
- 2) We bring praise to God when we fulfill or live our spiritual life. (Philippians 1:11)
- 3) We will bring praise to God when we receive our glorified bodies in eternity. (Ephesians 1:14)

Praise of His glory means that we are praising His attributes and ways. Who and what God is and His character exhibited through Jesus Christ to each believer.

The word for worship in the New Testament Greek is "prokuneo," which means to reverence or honor. The Word of God says that we are to worship God under the filling or control of the Holy Spirit and in truth (the Word of God). It brings honor to God when we allow the Holy Spirit to control our lives and when we learn and apply His Word. (John 4:24)

