

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

08-20-2023 // WEEK 33 NOTES

This week we completed **Job 24-42, Song of Solomon, and Ruth**

This week you should have finished Job and read through Song of Solomon and Ruth.

Briefly, here is an encapsulation of the last chapters in Job:

- **Job Chapter 24:** Job is in the middle of his three friends who are all trying to convince him that his suffering is because of his sin. They keep asking him to find his sin! Job responds with a feeling of desperation. He can't find what he did wrong. He is defensive, trying to find fault with why he is suffering.

A fourth and final "friend" appears. His name is Elihu. He's not much better. A younger friend and counselor, he has listened to the interchange. He finally concludes that God is sovereign. Therefore, there must be something that Job has done to invite this suffering (**chapters 32-37**). Elihu is quite the arrogant, assured theologian!

- **Chapters 38 - 42:** God finally intervenes. He goes through his great creation powers. How ALL was created by him. He asks Job the questions: "Who are you? Where were you when I created everything?" Then, in **chapters 40-41**, God launches into a long description of an incredibly strong creature.

Some commentators think it's just a hippopotamus. How big and strong he is, but God created him too. Others (and where I land) see this as a spiritual creature, Leviathan, who is a "type" of Satan, the first of all creatures and the strongest of all God's creatures on earth, whose job is to destroy. He is the king of all those who walk in pride (**41:34**). He works behind the scenes, secretly, anonymously, to destroy God's people.

Then, finally, there is **chapter 42**. Job finally "gets it."

- * He sees that nothing is impossible with God.
- * God is sovereign over all – even our pain and suffering.

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- * No plan of God's can be thwarted.
- * God did not like the first three friends and their counsel.
- * They needed to come to Job and ask for forgiveness and be prayed for.
- * They did and Job did and they were forgiven.
- * THEN God restored Job twofold for all he had lost (**verse 10**).
- * Job lived 140 years (twice the normal life span).
- * To his 4th generation, his kids were blessed.

The Song of Solomon.

Written by Solomon. Traditionally, in the church, this book of the Bible has been interpreted as and used to express the beauty of:

1. An allegory of God's relationship with Israel (Israel as bride, God as husband).
2. God's relationship with the church (Jesus as husband, us as his bride).
3. The Godly relationship with a husband and his wife – spiritually and physically.

All three are valid conclusions and can be proper interpretations. It seems to suggest the one true love of Solomon's love amidst the multitudes of wives and concubines (a harem, if you will) that he had – 700 plus! Can you imagine? It speaks of the beauty of physical love, a gift from God, meant to be used exclusively in the marriage covenant between a man and a woman. Just read it and enjoy it. It's what God intended us all to experience with our brides. God created the physical relationship. It's a gift to be enjoyed within marriage.

The Book of Ruth.

A beautiful story of God's faithfulness. This little book is found after Judges. That is intentional. Its storyline occurred during the time of the judges in Israel. It should be listed among the historical books. It has several important aspects:

1. The importance of including a foreigner/Moabitess/Ruth as its heroine, thus showing God's love for Gentiles early on and his desire to include them in his covenant of grace.
2. Boaz as the kinsman/redeemer who had to redeem Ruth to marry her. Jesus is the kinsman/

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redeemer of you and me, his death redeeming us into his family.

3. Something awful (Naomi losing her husband and two sons), returning to Israel from Moab after the famine and these two deaths with Ruth, becoming something good: Ruth marrying Boaz produced the granddad of King David who is, of course, in the lineage of our Lord and Savior Jesus.

The point: God is in ALL things, using them for his glory and purposes. We must trust him.

I hope you've continued to enjoy your journey through God's Word!

Grace to you all,
David