

Bible Readings Week 251 - w/c 29/8/21

Monday: Acts 20:13-38 In verses 28-38 Paul warns the church leaders of the dangers they had to recognise and deal with if they were to protect and lead the church. What dangers can you identify in these verses? Why is the church - the community of God's people, not just the scattered individuals - important to God?

Tuesday: Job 33:1-33 Elihu said that Job had claimed to be sinless (v9). Job did say that he did not lie, wasn't wicked, that he was just and upright and that he had not disobeyed God; but he never said he was sinless. He maintained his integrity but never said he was perfect. He was only saying he was blameless. What is the difference between being sinless and blameless?

Wednesday: Esther 1:1-22 The purpose for the harsh treatment of Vashti was so that she would not set a bad example for the other women of Persia. Xerxes wanted to reinforce the idea of a man's leadership in the home. However, the means used here to gain and preserve this respect were foolish. A man cannot demand or coerce respect from his wife – if it isn't freely given, then it's worth nothing.

Thursday: Song of Solomon 3:1-11 See v4. The maiden held her beloved and would not let him go. Spurgeon said that, according to this text, it is apparent that Jesus will go away if he is not held. Jesus is willing to be held; He is not trying to escape us. Jesus can be held; we can grasp Him by faith. Are you holding on to Jesus today?

Friday: Zechariah 9:1-17 Verses 1-8 describe the march of Alexander the Great and his army through the area north and east of Palestine. When Zechariah put the prophecy about Jesus (v9) after his prophecy concerning Alexander the Great, he was obviously inviting the reader to contrast the two conquerors. What differences do you see between Alexander the Great and Jesus the Messiah?

Weekend: Revelation 13:1-18 Just as Jesus Christ is God in the flesh, so "the beast" will be Satan in a human body. The world will wonder at the Antichrist's power, and they will worship him. The Antichrist will be a great orator and his speeches will blaspheme God. And finally, there will be war. If the beast appeared now with miracles and with charisma, how do you think our current society would respond?