

Bible Readings Week 252 - w/c 5/9/21

Monday: Acts 21:1-36. When Paul arrived in Jerusalem in v17, it marked the end of his third missionary journey started in Acts 18:23. He had travelled 2,700 miles in a four-year period. Notice the reaction of the Church in Jerusalem in verse 20. Does news of what God is doing elsewhere in the world cause you to react in a similar way?

Tuesday: Job 34:1-30. When bad things happen to good people, some are quick to blame God and reject him as a result. But the Bible sees evil and difficulty as the result of man's universal separation from God, and not a problem of a specific sin an individual may have committed. Thank God he may use evil to bring about his purposes, but he is good and does no evil (v10).

Wednesday: Esther 2:1-23. Esther had little choice in being taken to the King's harem. But even when we have little choice in life, God is able to use us to further his purpose as this book shows in the later chapters. What is there in your past or present circumstances that you would not have chosen? How can you use the situation for God's glory?

Thursday: Proverbs 30:21-33. We are called to be peacemakers and verse 33 is a reminder that some consequences are an inevitable result of certain actions. Who do you need to handle with grace and patience to avoid stirring up their anger? Pray for God to bless them today.

Friday: Zechariah 10:1-12. v12 is a promise to the Old Testament people who come to faith that also applies to Christians today. God promises to make us strong in him and live by his authority (walking "in his name"). In what areas do you need his strength and authority today? Ask him to help you live out his word.

Weekend: Revelation 14:1-20. In Revelation 7:4 God had put a seal on the foreheads of his people. The number 144,000 is symbolic of a large and complete number of people, and here in Revelation 14, the same number are standing before him. None have been lost despite the judgements and difficulties that had come to earth. God knows those who are his, and not only saves but keeps us, whatever life, or death or judgement throws at us. If we belong to him, we will experience his grace at every turn and he will not let us go.