

Bible Readings Week 260 - w/c 31/10/21

Monday: Acts 28:17-31. Although he was under house arrest, Paul used the freedom he had to live out his work and ministry. He didn't allow his circumstances to prevent him serving the Lord in whatever way he could. Is this true for you? Sometimes if we can't change our circumstances, we must change our attitude.

Tuesday: Job 42:1-17. Although Job's questions were not answered, he experienced God in a deeper way (Read v5). Experience matters more than second-hand learning but our learning about God paves the way for genuine experience. Notice v6 – every true experience of God also makes us more aware of our own weakness. Is this reflected in your own experience?

Wednesday: Esther 9:18-10:3. The feast of Purim is one of two festivals of the Jews that came into existence during their period of exile. (The other is the festival of the dedication of the Temple). Which events in your past walk with God are worth celebrating each year? What specific milestones remind you of his faithfulness? How might you celebrate these appropriately?

Thursday: Song of Solomon 8:1-14. If 1 Corinthians 13 is the clearest definition of love in the New Testament, verses 6 & 7 are among the best in the Old Testament. The love demonstrated in a good marriage relationship is outlined here, and Ephesians 5:32 makes it clear that marriage is a reflection of Christ's love for his church. List the qualities of love mentioned in vv6-7 and ask yourself who you can demonstrate God's love to in some similar fashion.

Friday: Malachi 3:16-4:6. The last two verses of the Old Testament end with a promise of the return of "the prophet Elijah". 400 years passed before John the Baptist came in fulfilment of this scripture as Jesus made clear. This passage implies that the "day of the Lord" would then happen very soon afterwards, but some 2500 years later we are still waiting God's final judgement. God's words will not fail, but they sometimes have a longer time scale than we would want or expect.

Weekend: Revelation 22:1-21. This is the final chapter of the Bible, and our last reading on this 5-year journey through the Bible. Well done if you've done it all! Three times in this last chapter Jesus says "I am coming soon" – but as we noted yesterday this is against the backdrop of eternity. We are called to obey God's word (v7), wait for our eternal reward (v12) and look forward to his return to usher in a new Heaven and a new Earth. Don't give up - Persevere in your faith! The tree of life and the river of life await those who persevere to the end. And all the grace we need to keep on going is available to us (v21).