

THE ONE YEAR BIBLE Reading for April 1:

Deuteronomy 18:1-20:20:

Chapter 18 continues to bring out more details about how Israel was to relate to those in authority. Specifically we learn of provisions for Levites and priests (1-8); fidelity to be shown those in authority by avoiding heinous sins such as sacrificing children like the people did who occupied Canaan before the Israelites (9-14); and words about a prophet like Moses who would be raised up (15-22). Concerning this last truth, we discover that true prophets speak words which, if they deal with the future, come true; Moses is considered a prophet (that is a spokesman for God and His Word, cf. Exodus 4:16; 1 Kings 22:14); and there will a line of prophets arise after Moses which looks forward to and will be ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ (the ultimate prophet, Acts 3:22). Chapter 18 should lead us to ask ourselves, “Do I listen to the ultimate Word (John 1:1) and prophet (Acts 3:22) from God, Jesus Christ, and His communication to me (the Scriptures)? Do I pray for those who have been commissioned in the Church to teach this Word?

Chapters 19-20 expound upon the sixth commandment (and things related to it), which prohibits the unjust taking of life, for they outline the call to create cities of refuge (19:1-11) and laws regarding warfare (chapter 20). They also expound on the eighth commandment, which prohibits stealing, by dealing with property boundaries (19:14); and also the ninth commandment, which prohibits false witness by outlining laws on witnesses (19:15-21). We leave these chapters reminded that God is making sure through Moses His people know His will. This is a reminder we should praise Him that He has given His clear, sufficient Word to us!

Luke 9:28-50:

Luke continues a theme begun earlier in the chapter, namely, setting forth who Jesus is. In verses 28-36 He is transfigured on the mountain before Peter, James, and John and, as such, the curtains are pulled back from Him that we might get a glimpse of His glory and learn He truly is the Son of God, the Father’s chosen One, to whom we are to listen. Are we listening to Him in His Word?

In the remainder of the chapter we learn that Jesus is also the One who has authority over the spirit world when He exorcises a demon (37-43), He again predicts His death (44-45), calls the disciples to humility (46-48), and teaches the Twelve to acknowledge believers who are outside their circle (49-50). Though Luke is moving quickly at this point, these are all helpful reminders for us.

Psalms 73:1-28:

The first psalm of Book 3 is a wisdom psalm which takes up the topic of why the wicked seem to prosper (3-9). Though the psalmist is greatly troubled by this (10-16), he finds help once he turns to the LORD and is reminded that the ultimate end of the wicked is not so good (17-22). So, rather than being tempted to follow the wicked, he realizes that God is his true prize, His true desire, the one whose way he wants to follow (23-28). In addition to the specific lessons of this psalm, the overall movement of it is instructive.

When we struggle with questions in life we should take the approach so often found in the psalms. Cry out to the LORD honestly and openly, admit our struggles, but look for solution in communion with Him and through His Word which leads us to make sense of the ways things are and shows us why we can trust in Him.

Proverbs 12:10:

Those who know and follow the Lord and His way of wisdom tend to bring great benefit to those around them and to the public square.