

THE ONE YEAR BIBLE Reading For February 19:

Leviticus 8-10 (covering today and tomorrow) record the institution of the priesthood as a follow up to the instructions for the priests (chapters 6-7). Chapter 8 tells of the ordination of Aaron and his sons in fulfillment of the instructions found in Exodus 28-29. Chapter 9 tells of the first tabernacle service which includes the atonement of the priests (7-14)—a necessary prerequisite to their offering sacrifices in behalf of others—and then atonement of the people (15-21). The chapter concludes with Moses and Aaron going before the Lord in the tent of meeting (9:22-24). Chapter 10 tells the sad story of Aaron's oldest sons, Nadab and Abihu, who disobeyed the Lord and profaned the priesthood and, as such, were put to death by the LORD. In all this we are reminded that we are to be holy as the LORD is holy (Lev. 19:2).

In today's New Testament reading (Mark 3:31-4:25) we discover a number of helpful truths. First, only those who do the will of God belong to the family of Jesus. Those whom Jesus came to redeem He calls brothers (Hebrews 2:11-12). Those who receive Jesus, who believe in His name, these are adopted into the family of God (John 1:12; Romans 8:15-17). This is a reminder that doing God's will is an outcome of truly trusting Jesus Christ as Savior and, as such, whether or not one does the will of God is an indication of salvation or the lack thereof. The same principle is emphasized in the parable of the sower, the seed, and the soils (4:1-20). Many people will make a profession of faith and yet fall away. In 4:21-25 we are reminded those truly saved and part of the kingdom will produce fruit. When the kingdom gospel is proclaimed it brings many hidden aspects of a person and his heart to light. Those who welcome God's rule will be given more of God's fruit, those who don't will lose out.

Psalm 37 (the Psalm of yesterday, today, and tomorrow) is a wisdom psalm, whose content is very similar to the Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. It speaks of skill for godly living. Specifically, it addresses the prosperity of godless people and how the righteous deal with this. The wisdom given is to remain faithful to the LORD, knowing in the long run this will bring the greatest reward, than to give in to the godless life for the short-term.

Finally, in yesterday and today's Proverbs readings (10:3-5) we learn that the LORD takes care of the righteous, but He usually provides through hard work. Proverbs often emphasizes the importance and goodness of hard work as part of God's design.