

THE ONE YEAR BIBLE Reading For September 1:

Job 40:1-42:17:

Job 40:1-2 clarifies why God is asking Job questions in these chapters. Since Job has called into question whether or not God acts righteously (and thus implies he has enough knowledge and wisdom to do that), then he had better be able to answer the questions being posed to him. If he cannot, then he is not qualified to find fault with God. In response, Job acknowledges he cannot answer God in these things and thus should not have found fault with Him (40:3-5).

God continues with a second round of questions designed to silence Job and to show he is not qualified to find fault with what God does (40:6-41:34). Noteworthy in these chapters are the following: God clearly shows that His questions are about showing Job just how wrong he has been to question God's righteousness (40:8); God affirms His absolute sovereignty in that no one is superior to Him such that he could give to God something God needs and so no one can judge God's actions rightly except God (41:11).

In 42:1-6 we see God's speeches work, for Job acknowledges God's sovereignty (1-2), the reality he is not qualified to question God and has been wrong (3-4), and affirms his greater knowledge of God which leads to his repentance (5-6). What these few verses display is that God has shown Himself worthy of worship and trust even in the midst of suffering and He has shown Himself able to keep Job through the difficulties (both of which Satan challenged as recorded in chapters 1-2). What we find in Job is a foretaste of what would ultimately be accomplished in Jesus Christ, namely, for Him to redeem God's elect and defeat Satan and thus, through His suffering, to win victory and bring the solution for all suffering. As such, we see that Job is a type of Jesus Christ. His life prepares us to understand just what Christ came to accomplish and to see that our place with God is not won merely by our own efforts, but by God displaying His righteousness in Christ and declaring us righteous in Him by grace through faith.

The book concludes by God rebuking Job's friends and forgiving them based only upon atonement and the intercession of the righteous Job—another way Job serves as a type of Jesus Christ (42:7-9); then by showing that the LORD restores Job's health and fortunes, which gives a type of what will happen with all those who are in Jesus Christ, the ultimate sufferer: though we suffer, we all will be rewarded because we are righteous in Jesus Christ (42:10-17).

It should also be noted that if we are right and Job was a Gentile, this is another Old Testament example of God looking favorably upon someone outside of Israel and thus having a heart for the nations, not just for the Jews in the Old Testament.

2 Corinthians 5:11-21:

In today's reading Paul takes what he has argued about the gospel and being driven by future reward and now applies it to the current situation in Corinth. Paul seeks to persuade others out of his trust in and reverence for the Lord. His point is not to commend himself. As such he would hope that the Corinthian believers could answer the

opponents of Paul once they understand Paul's heart and why he operates the way he does. After all, if some think Paul is somewhat crazy in how he operates it is because he is propelled forward so passionately by the love Christ has displayed for the elect. After all, since we know Christ died for the elect, we know they have all died in Him, have become new people, and thus can live for the glory of Him who died and was raised for them.

With this realization, Paul no longer thinks of any person merely in a human way. This is especially true of believers, for all who are in Christ are absolutely new creations and can live a new life unto Christ. This is also what propels Paul forward in his ministry and gives him courage to suffer, even if need be. All this is possible since God has reconciled believers to Himself in Christ and then given us all the ministry of reconciliation (to proclaim the gospel to others). God reconciles people to Himself based upon the life and death of Jesus Christ, declaring them to be righteous in Him. This is why ministers of reconciliation (including Paul) call others to be reconciled to God in Jesus Christ.

Here in 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 Paul is not only seeking to defend the gospel he preaches and why he goes about ministry the way he does, he also is seeking to show, therefore, how this gospel should make a difference in the Corinthians. Seeing the glory of the gospel and its entailments is designed both to counter the anti-gospel teachers in Corinth and to teach all readers about what true gospel ministry is and what should drive it.

Psalm 45:1-17:

This is a psalm celebrating the wedding of an Israelite king. Since the Hebrew kings represented the people and thus if they were blessed, the people were blessed, they were also a type of Jesus Christ. This is why some of this psalm is quoted in the New Testament and applied to Jesus Christ. (See Hebrews 1:8-9)

Proverbs 22:14:

Those men who are not wise and righteous (those who do not trust in and reverence the LORD) usually are taken in by the mouth (sweet speech and enticing lips) of a sinful woman. When this happens, the devastation is part of the judgment of God upon them for ignoring and not worshipping Him. This is very similar to what Paul says in Romans 1 when he writes of God judging mankind by giving him over to his sin (Romans 1:24, 26, 28). O, men, how we must realize that sexual sin (including the lust of our eyes and mind) is no small matter!