

Summer Study -- A Bible Overview With A Jesus Focus

Lesson 8: Esther, Job, Psalms 1 thru 22

Jesus in Esther (one of only two books in the Bible named for women; the other is Ruth)

- God is not mentioned in Esther, but as Matthew Henry said: “If the name of God is not here, His finger is.”
- Esther was queen (**v2:17**) when Haman persuaded Ahasuerus (Xerxes) to OK killing of all Jews (**v3:8-11**)
 - Her cousin Mordecai urged action; she replied that approaching the king risked her life (**v4:8-11**)
 - Mordecai’s words are good for us as well: “perhaps you have come . . .for such a time as this” (**v4:12-14**)
 - Esther’s reply showed resolve & bravery: “I will go. . .and if I perish, I perish!” (**v4:15-16**)
- Esther foreshadowed Jesus’ resolve to sacrifice Himself for those He loved (**John 3:16; Colossians 2:15**)
- More than just a nice story with a happy ending--it was essential to preserving David’s line to the Messiah!
- God could have saved the Jews by Himself, but He offers people the privilege of participating in His work
- Thru history, God has used other nations to discipline the Jews, but those nations in turn perished
- Jesus never promised us an easy path (**Mark 8:34-38**), but that we would not be left on our own to get thru it (**Matthew 28:20b; John 14:16-17; Romans 8:27,34**) & eternal life (**John 3:36a; Revelation 21:3-4,7**)

Jesus in Job

- Author & date unknown; **Ezekiel 14:14,20, James 5:11** & non-canon sources cite Job as a real person; focus is not on “why do the righteous suffer?” but on what Job learns--that God is sovereign over all creation
- Job was “blameless” (**v1:1,8**)--not like Jesus who didn’t sin (**1 Peter 2:22**), but that sin did not rule his life
- Satan assailed Job to try & turn him from God, just as he tempted Jesus (**Matthew 4:1-11**) without success
 - Despite intense anguish, Job praised God (**v1:13-20**); despite agony, he refused to blame God (**v2:7-10**)
 - Jesus’ greatest pain was not physical but feeling separated from His Father (**Matthew 27:46**)--in our place
 - Satan stalks us “like a roaring lion” (**1 Peter 5:8**), but we can stand by the Holy Spirit (**Galatians 5:16-25**)
 - God uses adversity to teach us to turn to Him for strength & guidance (**Hebrews 12:2-3; James 1:2-3**)
- Job’s friends(?) assumed he needed to submit to God’s discipline (**v5:17**) but God was using Job to teach Satan a lesson; we may not understand God’s purpose, but must have faith that He is always in control
 - Job asked: “how can a mortal be righteous before God?” (**v9:2**)--**only** thru faith in Jesus (**Romans 4:5**)
 - Job bemoaned lack of a mediator with God (**v9:32-33**)--Jesus fills that void (**1 Timothy 2:5; 1 John 2:1**)
 - Job prophesied resurrection & Redeemer (**v14:14-17; 19:25-27; John 5:24-29; 11:25**)
 - Job wondered why God lets injustice last (**v24:1**), but God is at work to His purpose (**Philippians 2:13**); only Jesus can right all wrongs & rule in righteousness (**Isaiah 65:17-25; Revelation 21:1-5**)
 - Job held to his righteousness (**v27:6**); Jesus’ parable of Pharisee & tax collector (**Luke 18:9-14**) held that being right with God requires admitting our sin nature, accepting His forgiveness & committing to Him
- Job asked a lot of unanswered questions to which we get the answers in Jesus (**1 Peter 1:10-12**)

Jesus in Psalms Part 1 – (over 100 prophecies Jesus in the Psalms, as well as many connections)

- All portions of the Hebrew Scripture (Law, Prophets & Psalms) prophesied of Jesus (**Luke 24:44**)
 - At least 36 “Messianic” psalms are fulfilled ultimately in Jesus, even if partially in David or others
 - Psalms starts with a “beatitude”--*blessing*, which defines true happiness & the way to attain it (**v1:1**)
 - “Royal psalms” (**2, 18, 20, 21, 45, 61, 72, 89, 110**) celebrate the Davidic kings but point ahead the only One who can fulfil the prophecies & whose kingdom will endure forever (**2 Samuel 7:16; Luke 1:33**)
- **Psalms 2** warned nations to submit to the new king, whom God Himself has selected & anointed;
 - Rulers will reject the Messiah (**v1-3; Matthew 26:64-67; Acts 2:36; 4:18,25-28; 26:28**)
 - God’s anointed (**v2; Matthew 16:16-17; John 1:41**) would be holy (**v6; John 8:46; Revelation 3:7**), King (**v6; Matthew 2:2; Revelation 17:14;19:16**) & His Son (**v7; Matthew 3:17; Romans 1:3-4**)
 - The Messiah will rule the nations with a rod of iron (**v8-II; Rev 2:27; 12:5; 19:15**)
 - Life comes to all who have faith in the Messiah (**v12; John 3:16; 14:6; 20:31; 1 John 5:13; Acts 16:31**)

- **Psalm 5** is an imprecatory (cursing) psalm (**v10**). Views include: 1) they demonstrate the psalmist's human imperfections; 2) since we know the OT, we should emulate Jesus & pray for an evil person's redemption; 3) they reflect God's desire for justice & Jesus' judgment to come (**John 3:18; Revelation 19:11-15**)
 - Jesus cited some of these psalms; e.g., **v35:19 & v69:4** in **John 15:23-25** (*they hated me without reason*)
- **Psalm 8** praises God for all He is (*Your Name--v1*), but recognition of His glory requires a humble & trusting heart like a child's; children recognized the "Son of David" when the elders did not (**v2; Matthew 21:15-16**)
 - God often uses the inconsequential, weak or powerless to reflect His character (**1 Corinthians 1:26-31**)
 - The Messiah entered the world as a helpless infant born to a poor family (**Luke 2:7**)
 - Though Jesus put aside His glory to be human, He would rule over all (**v5-6; Hebrews 1:3-4; 2:5-9**)
- **Psalm 9:7-10** states that the LORD will judge the world in righteousness (**John 5:22,30; 9:39; Acts 17:31**)
- **Psalms 10 – 14** highlight how foolish are those who rely on prideful self while ignoring God; Jesus told the parable of the rich fool who made big plans without any thought of God & died that night (**Luke 12:20**)
 - Paul cited **v14:3** to start his description of how all people have turned away from God (**Roman 3:9-18**); but God sent His Son to Zion (**v14:7**) to repair the damage wrought by sin (**John 3:16; Romans 6:1-14**)
- **Psalm 16** declares faith in God for security, provision, counsel & especially for the soul's eternal life & the foretelling of the Messiah's resurrection from death (**v8-11; John 20:9; Acts 2:25-28; Acts 13:35-37**)
 - God set the circumstances of your life to conform you to the likeness of Jesus (**v5-6; Romans 8:28-29**)
 - A personal relationship with Jesus gives peace, hope & confidence you will be *with Him* forever! (**v9,11**)
- **Psalm 17:15** declares "I will behold Your face in righteousness;" to see His face is to know God personally
 - The more closely we know & walk with Jesus, the more God discloses His glory (**2 Corinthians 4:6**)
 - God's children will one day see Jesus face-to-face (**Matthew 5:8; 1 John 3:2; Revelation 22:3-4**)
- **Psalm 18:2-3** calls God "the horn of my salvation," which points to Jesus & is repeated by Zechariah in **Luke 1:69-71; v50** includes "His king" & "His anointed," making this a "royal psalm" as defined above
- **Psalm 19:1-4 & Romans 1:20** affirm that all creation gives testimony to God so that none have excuse
 - Creation only gives general knowledge of God; we need His Word & His Son for more (**Hebrews 1:1-3**)
 - Jesus said: "Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father." In Jesus we have One who sympathizes with our weaknesses (**Hebrews 4:15**) & we see God's compassion (**Matthew 14:14**) & love (**John 16:27**)
- **Psalm 22** --"Song of the Cross;" complete description of Jesus' crucifixion written by David ~ 1,000 BC
 - Earliest historical record of crucifixion ~520 BC in Persia; Romans adopted & enhanced it; death typically via asphyxiation when one could no longer push up to breathe; scourging prepped but itself killed many
 - **v1; Mark 15:34** Jesus cried out: "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" likely due to feeling separated from His Father by **our** sin that He took upon Himself (**Isaiah 53:6; 2 Corinthians 5:21**)
 - **v2** "By day. . . & by night" foretold the darkness that would come upon Calvary for 3 hours (**Mark 15:33**)
 - **v6-8** Jesus was scorned, despised & mocked (**Matthew 27:39-44**) even with the same words from **v8a**
 - **v9-11** saw that the Father would always be with Jesus (**Matthew 3:16**) which made **v1** even more poignant
 - **v12-13** Jesus was surrounded by hatred & calls for His death (**Matthew 27:1; John 19:6,15**)
 - **v14-15a** Describes utter helplessness & weakness: *poured out--body & spiritual strength gone, may also foresee blood & water; bones out of joint--unable to use his limbs; heart like wax. . . melted--no vigor at all*
 - **v15b** *Tongue sticks--severely dehydrated from loss of blood & exposure in the hot sun* (**John 19:28**)
 - **v16** *Pierced my hands & feet--archeological finds have verified the method* (**John 19:23a; 20:25,27-28**)
 - **v17a** *I count all my bones--emaciated & stripped so his bones are visible thru His skin; but none are broken--a requirement long-established for our Passover Lamb* (**Exodus 12:46; John 19:33**)
 - **v17b-18** *Divide my garments--per Roman law; cast lots--the seamless tunic had value* (**John 19:23-24**)
 - **v19-21** Jesus committed Himself to God: "Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit." (**Luke 23:46**)
 - **v22-26** Jesus would rise & ascend as the first fruits of all believers (**John 20:17; 1 Corinthians 15:22-23**)
 - **v27-31a** Jesus will be the governor of the nations (**Colossians 1:17-18; Revelation 19:15**)
 - **v31b** *All He has done--His last words: "It is finished."* (*tetelestai--paid in full*) (**Mark 15:37; John 19:30**)