

**One Year Bible Blog – Weekly Notes - www.OneYearBibleBlog.com
March 6 - March 12, 2011, [Copyright © 2004-2011 One Year Bible Blog](http://www.OneYearBibleBlog.com)
Weekly Notes will cover our readings from Sundays through Saturdays**

Notes & Group Questions for March 6 - 12 readings (Questions (Q:) for groups are bolded below)

NUMBERS 6:1 - 18:32

3/6 - Today in Numbers chapter 6 we read about the Nazirite laws! The Nazirite vows could be taken for as little as 30 days or as long as a lifetime. It was voluntary - except parents could take the vow for their children, making them Nazirites for life. Samson, Samuel, and John the Baptist are all thought to have been Nazirites for life. More info on the Nazirites is [at this link](#).

3/6 - Today in Numbers chapter 6 verses 22-27 we will read the well known "Aaronic Blessing", which I've underlined in the verses – *"The LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron and his sons, "This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace." "So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.""* **Q: How does this blessing speak to you today? Have you heard this blessing prayed aloud before? Can you imagine this ancient blessing that has been prayed innumerable times in history being prayed over you today? Take a few moments to really meditate upon the 3 sections of the blessing. Do you notice that each section begins with God's name? Do you believe that God can indeed bless you and keep you (favor & protect you)? That he can indeed make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you (be pleased & be merciful and compassionate to you)? And do you believe that God can indeed turn his face toward you and give you peace (give approval & peace to you)? It is also of note that this blessing "put God's name on the Israelites and they were blessed." Do you believe that God's name is upon you today? Do you want God's name to be upon you today?**

3/7 - Today in Numbers chapter 8 we read about the dedication of the Levites and in Numbers chapter 9 we read about the Second Passover. In chapter 9 we read about the fiery cloud over the tabernacle! Verses 22 & 23 stood out to me in today's readings: *"Whether the cloud stayed above the Tabernacle for two days, a month, or a year, the people of Israel stayed in camp and did not move on. But as soon as it lifted, they broke camp and moved on. So they camped or traveled at the LORD's command, and they did whatever the LORD told them through Moses."*

3/8 - Today we begin to read about the Israelites discontent with God's provision and care in Numbers chapter 11, and this discontent & disobedience we will read about through chapter 25. As we read through these chapters, I do think we would do well to not point fingers at the Israelites and say that we would have behaved differently back then. I'm not so sure that I would have. . . I think these chapters will very likely speak into our lives today and we might find that we are often not so different from the Israelites. In Numbers chapter 11 verse 1 today we read: *"Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the LORD, and when he heard them his anger was aroused."* How does this verse speak to you today? I don't know about you, but for me this verse is convicting. Simply because I know that I often complain more to God than I actually thank God for the blessings he has poured out into my life. It really is incredible to stop and think about how good God is to us. In fact, one of our One Year Bible participants in the past had a blog called "God is Good All the Time." And this is so true. And yet, what is our percentage of thanksgiving to God versus our complaining to God? I'm afraid my percentage is way skewed toward complaining or worrying (worrying is really similar to complaining I think). I pray that as I go forward in my walk with God that I will do a lot more thanking and a lot less complaining & worrying. It is an amazing thing – this gift of life. Even in the midst of all of our daily challenges and storms, let us know that God is the anchor and harbor in our life. And he continues to pour out blessings upon blessings upon our life – oftentimes without us consciously being aware of the blessings. And oftentimes without us thanking God for the blessings. **Q: How about you? How is your thanksgiving of God's blessings in your life going these days? How do you give thanksgiving to God?**

3/9 - Today in Numbers chapter 11 we read about God's Spirit resting upon 70 leaders! I found verse 29 awesome when Moses responded to Joshua's protesting of Eldad and Medad prophesying in the camp - *"Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the LORD's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his Spirit upon them all!"* This is great humility on Moses part! He was not threatened by others using gifts of the Spirit in public. "I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets." These words of Moses remind me of a more modern day quote I read somewhere that went something like - "We are all called to be saints." I like that... **Q: Do you believe that you are called to be a saint? Do**

you want to be a saint?

3/10 - Today in Numbers chapter 14 we read about Joshua and Caleb's bold faith. They were ready to move into the Promised Land! **Q: Again, similar to my thoughts in yesterday's post, I wonder if sometimes in our lives, when we are on the brink of something new & something big - that is of God - are we like Caleb & Joshua, or are we like the Israelites? Are we ready to move forward quickly and decisively on toward what God is giving us? Or, are we putting on the brakes and starting to complain? Do we sabotage ourselves? This is a tough question to ask ourselves I realize. But I think that if I honestly look at my life, I can more often be like the Israelites in this situation chapter - putting on the breaks and really becoming the cause of my own problem... I pray that I can have faith like Caleb and Joshua. I pray that I will boldly move forward to what God is calling me toward. How about you?**

3/11 - Today in Numbers chapter 15 we read about unintentional and intentional sins. Verse 30 stood out to me - *"But those who brazenly violate the LORD's will, whether native Israelites or foreigners, blaspheme the LORD."* I have thought about this in my life in the past... and thought about that old phrase, "ignorance is bliss." While this phrase may seem true at first glance - ignorance is bliss - it's obviously not "True" at all. It is so much better to know godly Truth, than to be ignorant. However... once we know godly Truth, what if we then consciously go against that Truth? What if we "brazenly violate God's will"? I'll admit - I have done this certainly. I have consciously sinned. And it eats me up inside when I do. Not because I expect myself to be perfect - but because I am simply sinning against God, whom I love so much. And I know better. I guess this verse today reminded me that once we know Truth - and as we continue to grow in our knowledge of Truth and the Bible - we really should be much more intentional in how we live. We know what godly living looks like. We should not go back to our old ways of thinking or our old habits. We know better. And we most certainly should not think that "ignorance is bliss." It isn't. **Q: Have you ever thought ignorance is bliss? Do you think it is? Why or why not?**

3/11- "Trial By Fire" - ever hear this term? I think this term may have gotten its genesis here in Numbers chapter 16. Korah's rebellion caused Moses to explain how this true trial by fire would go down in verses 4 through 7 - *"Tomorrow morning the LORD will show us who belongs to him and who is holy. The LORD will allow those who are chosen to enter his holy presence. You, Korah, and all your followers must do this: Take incense burners, and burn incense in them tomorrow before the LORD. Then we will see whom the LORD chooses as his holy one."* A trial by fire indeed occurs subsequently in this chapter. Verses 12 & 13 stood out as completely strange, as these 2 men had somehow now thought that instead of being a prison, Egypt was now in their minds a paradise?.... *"Then Moses summoned Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, but they replied, "We refuse to come! Isn't it enough that you brought us out of Egypt, a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us here in this wilderness, and that you now treat us like your subjects?"* I wonder if we do this in our lives? Think that things that used to be so bad for us are now somehow good? I know I've done this. I've left situations or relationships or bad habits - knowing they were simply bad for me - and then later down the road I've sometimes thought to myself, "ahh... I miss xyz or doing xyz... I should go back to that." And I do. And I regret it all over once again. There is a somewhat obscure R.E.M. song that goes "Don't go back to Rockville - and waste another year." I think of this song on occasion when I am tempted to go back to something I know I shouldn't go back to - I sing to myself, "don't go back to Rockville." Perhaps Dathan and Abiram should have been singing to themselves - "don't go back to Egypt - and waste another year..." **Q: What about you? Is there an Egypt / Rockville or two in your life that you've left behind? Are you ever tempted to go back? Do you sometimes even think you might have been wrong about how bad things were back then.... that it might have really been a land flowing with milk and honey even! Well, I know we'll all have our moments of going backwards.... but I pray we see the True land of milk and honey in front of us that is only available through a relationship with Jesus and the Father - and that we won't go back to our "Egypt"...**

3/12 - Today in Numbers chapter 17 verse 8 we read how God stopped the questioning of the Israelite community about Aaron and his houses' unique priestly authority - *"When Moses went into the Tabernacle of the Covenant the next day, he found that Aaron's staff, representing the tribe of Levi, had sprouted, blossomed, and produced almonds!"* The 2nd sentence in Numbers chapter 18 verse 20 stood out to me today: *"And the LORD said to Aaron, "You priests will receive no inheritance of land or share of property among the people of Israel. I am your inheritance and your share."* What a beautiful thing to hear from God! I am your inheritance and your share. **Q: In your life today, is God your inheritance and your share? Do you want God to be your inheritance and share? Does anything else at all compare to this glorious inheritance?**

MARK 12:38 - 16:20

3/6 - In Mark chapter 12 verses 41 through 43 today we read the powerful narrative of the Widow's Mite - "*Jesus went over to the collection box in the Temple and sat and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. Then a poor widow came and dropped in two pennies. He called his disciples to him and said, "I assure you, this poor widow has given more than all the others have given. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has."*" **Q: How does this narrative speak to you? When it comes to your time, treasure, and talents, do you give to God out of your surplus? Or do you give to God all that you have? What should we learn today from the widow about giving?**

3/7 - In Mark chapter 13 today we read about the signs of the end of the age. For me personally, Jesus' words in verses 32 & 33 have always been so powerful when it comes to end-times considerations – "*No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.*" I think this teaching from Jesus is so important for each of us to keep in mind. No one knows the day or the hour of the end of times. Only God the Father. I have some friends who are very into speculating and discussing end-times prophecies and events. For me personally, these verses above make me realize that we truly do not know when the end of time will come – but, yes, we know it will come. And therefore I believe we should live every day loving God and loving people around us – and not get so focused on speculation of end times that we forget about these 2 great commandments. . . :) My other thought on these verses is this – not only do we not know when the end of the age will come, but we do not know when the end of each of our lives will come. Hopefully we will live long lives. But it's not guaranteed. You know how life is – there is cancer and there are accidents and the list could go on. So, I guess I'd recommend this – don't worry about when the end of the age will be. Don't worry about when the end of your life will be. Instead, be on guard and be alert each and every day to make sure you are loving God and loving people – as if each day might be your last day. I am reminded of something I read on another Christian blog recently and it really did make me think. Here's how this blog put it, and I think this relates well to these Mark verses – "*Breaking News: mortality rate is STILL 100%! You are not guaranteed all the days you believe you have coming to you. What would you do differently if today was your last day alive?*" **Q: Powerful question for each of us to consider, no? What would you do differently if today was your last day alive?**

3/8 - In Mark chapter 14 today we read the beautiful story of Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, who anoints Jesus, and as he tells us in verse 8 - "*She has done what she could and has anointed my body for burial ahead of time.*" A new insight I learned on this today is from Zondervan's commentary - In Jesus' day it was a normal Jewish custom to anoint a dead body with aromatic oils in preparing for burial. Jesus seems to be anticipating suffering a "criminal's" death, for only in that circumstance was there no anointing of the dead body.

3/9 - This week we will be reading about Jesus' passion in the Gospel of Mark. Today In Mark chapter 14 verses 35 & 36 we read this about Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane – "*Going a little farther, Jesus fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.*" What a powerful prayer here from Jesus! Jesus knows what is coming. He knows what the road to Calvary will bring. He knows that God has the power to take this suffering away from him – BUT, here's the amazingly important piece of this prayer, which I think each of us would do well in praying in our prayers – "*Yet not what I will, but what you will.*" This is such a powerful prayer from Jesus to God. We get a glimpse here of a prayer from the Messiah to the Father – and again, I think we would do well to pray this in our prayers as well. This of course is very similar to the Lord's Prayer, which Jesus taught in Matthew in the Sermon on the Mount, when we pray – "*Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will be Done.*" Not our will, but Thy Will be done. **Q: In your prayer life, do you model Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane and in the Lord's Prayer? Do you pray that not your will – but God's perfect will – be done?**

3/10 - Today in Mark chapter 14 we read an amazingly powerful statement from Jesus in verses 61 & 62 - "*Then the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the blessed God?" Jesus said, "I am, and you will see me, the Son of Man, sitting at God's right hand in the place of power and coming back on the clouds of heaven."*" Wow. This is it. This is a statement that changes everything. **Q: The question for us is this - is this more than just a statement from Jesus? Do you believe this is Truth?**

3/11 - It is interesting in the One Year Bible how we go through the 4 Gospels one after another in the beginning portion of the year. In some ways it may seem repetitive - but I think repetitive is good when we're talking about the story of Jesus... we really cannot hear and meditate upon this story enough. Also, what I like is the nuances of each Gospel - or maybe things that are indeed in a few of the Gospels that somehow just stand out to me in some new way in one of the

Gospels. Today is one of those days where something jumped out at me that I have not really noticed before - and that is Pilate in verses 9 & 10 - *"Should I give you the King of the Jews?" Pilate asked. (For he realized by now that the leading priests had arrested Jesus out of envy.)*" It's interesting that Pilate used the term King of the Jews here - and again later in the narrative - and that he also had this term nailed to the cross. And the question I have is this - did Pilate do this simply to try and irritate the leading priests? I think this is probably the case. But, I'm looking forward to some further study on this.

3/12 - Today we finish up the Gospel of Mark! The Gospel of Luke starts tomorrow. In Mark chapter 16 verse 6 is the key to our Christian faith: *"The angel said, "Do not be so surprised. You are looking for Jesus, the Nazarene, who was crucified. He isn't here! He has been raised from the dead!"* **Q: Do you believe this angel's proclamation? Do you truly believe that Jesus rose from the dead?**

PSALM 49:1 - 55:23

3/6 - Psalm 49 verses 1-3 are a fantastic teaching that the Word of God, the Bible, is for everyone, no matter what our lots in life may be - *"Listen to this, all you people! Pay attention, everyone in the world! High and low, rich and poor--listen! For my words are wise, and my thoughts are filled with insight."* Are you listening today? Are you paying attention to the wise words and insights of the Bible? Are you truly studying the Bible and then applying the Bible's teachings to your life? Then, verse 15 in this Psalm is beautiful: *"But as for me, God will redeem my life. He will snatch me from the power of death."* **Q: How about for you? How has God redeemed your life? Like the parable of the lost sheep that we read about in [Luke 15:3-7](#), how has Jesus saved you from being snatched from the power of death?**

3/7 - Psalm 50 verses 14 & 15 are beautiful words from God to Israel - *"What I want instead is your true thanks to God; I want you to fulfill your vows to the Most High. Trust me in your times of trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory."* **Q: Do you believe these words can apply to us today as well? Are you giving true thanks to God each day? Are you trusting in God in your times of trouble? Are you giving God glory for all that he has done for you? How often do you say "thank you" to God?**

3/8 - Today we read one of my favorite Psalms! Psalm 51. Psalm 51 is David's humble prayer for forgiveness and cleansing after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba and had her husband Uriah killed in battle. I believe that this Psalm can continue to be a humble prayer for forgiveness and cleansing for each of us today. This Psalm is read by many liturgical churches during the season of Lent as a penitential Psalm. A brief quote about Psalm 51 from this Bible.org is this – "The application of the psalm to believers today should be obvious. We, like David, can and must have complete cleansing before we can fully and freely serve God in any capacity. Our eternal destiny may not be in doubt when we sin as believers, and neither was David's because he appealed to that covenant relationship, but our fellowship and service will be. God will not tolerate unconfessed sin, and so will hold us accountable if we do not confess." I've been trying to figure out my favorite portion or two of this Psalm to share with you. . . but I can't just pick one portion. It is all so powerful! Tell you what – I'm going to copy the full Psalm below in the NIV translation (my favorite for this Psalm). Please take a few moments to meditate upon this Psalm. **Q: My questions for reflection are these – Do you confess your sins to God? Do you confess your sins to others? And ask them to hold you accountable? When was the last time you confessed your sins to God? Do you have sins to confess to God today? Will you do so now? How does Psalm 51 speak to you? Can you imagine yourself praying any of these lines to God? Have you ever prayed Psalm 51 to God? Or have you prayed other Psalms to God?**

3/9 - Verse 9 in Psalm 52 stood out to me today - *"I will praise you forever, O God, for what you have done. I will wait for your mercies in the presence of your people."* **Q: Are you looking forward to praising God forever? Are you willing to wait for God? If things don't seem to be moving as quickly as you would like them to in your spiritual life, will you still wait for God? And will you do so in the presence of God's people? Do you believe that being part of a church community can help you during a time of waiting for the Lord? And do you believe that you can help others in your church to wait as well?** Then, together you can look forward to praising God forever for what he has done and will do.

3/10 - If you've ever asked yourself - or ever been asked - **why do we need a Messiah? What is our need of Jesus?** Well, I think this question is clearly answered in verses 2 & 3 of Psalm 53 - *"God looks down from heaven on the entire human race; he looks to see if there is even one with real understanding, one who seeks for God. But no, all have turned away from God; all have become corrupt. No one does good, not even one!"* This is why we need Jesus. With Jesus, we indeed seek for God. With Jesus, we are blessed with the Holy Spirit to begin to have some real understanding. But

without Jesus.... well, it reminds me of the old DC Talk song "In the Light" - "What's going on inside of me? I despise my own behavior. This only serves to confirm my suspicions, that I'm still a man in need of a Savior!" Amen...

3/11 - I like Psalm 54 verse 4 a lot - *"But God is my helper. The Lord is the one who keeps me alive!"* **Q: Is this true in your life? Is God the one who keeps you alive? Or are you trying to lean on other things as your source of life?** I believe it is such a blessing to surrender more and more to God until we get to the point where truly this true for us - God is the one - and only - who keeps us alive. I am not saying I am there yet - but I'm trying to get there. I'm trying to surrender more and more each day to Jesus and the Father - all that I am - all that I am living for. I pray that in your life and in mine God will be the one who keeps us alive!

3/12 - Today we read Psalm 55 verse 22, which is a beautiful reminder to all who believe in the risen Lord! *"Give your burdens to the LORD, and he will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall."* Please do meditate on this verse a bit. **Q: Do you make it a habit of giving your burdens to the Lord? Or do you try to carry your burdens on your own strength? Is there a burden you are carrying today that you can give to the Lord? Will you? And do you trust that he will take care of you and not permit you to slip and fall?**

PROVERBS 10:27 - 11:7

3/6 - Proverbs chapter 10 verse 27 teaches us - *"Fear of the LORD lengthens one's life, but the years of the wicked are cut short."* **Q: Do you agree that the fear of the Lord lengthens your life? Why or why not? How is the fear of the Lord a good thing?**

3/7 - Proverbs chapter 10 verse 29 teaches us today: *"The way of the LORD is a refuge for the righteous."* This is a great teaching that those who trust in God are covered with a hedge of protection. Thank God for this protection! I know I need it. And I believe that God oftentimes protects us in ways that we do not even consciously realize... As we pray in the Lord's prayer - *"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."* Amen. **Q: How is God your refuge?**

3/8 - Proverbs chapter 10 verses 31 & 32 are great reminders of how very important the words that come out of our mouths are! They reflect the condition of our hearts... **Q: What are the types of words that are coming out of your mouth these days? Are they helpful to others? Do they give wise advice?**

3/9 - Proverbs chapter 11 verse 2 is so true and is something I personally need to be reminded of constantly - *"Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom."* Let us pray for humility... **Q: Have you ever struggled with pride issues? How did you overcome those issues? Do you agree with the Proverb today that pride can lead to disgrace? Do you think it's true that wisdom comes with humility? Do you ever pray to God to keep you humble? Do you think this might be a good prayer to pray on occasion? Or maybe even very often?**

3/10 - wow... this is a powerful Proverb in chapter 11 verse 4 today - *"Riches won't help on the day of judgment, but right living is a safeguard against death."* **Q: Based on our Proverb today, what are you focusing your life on? Is right living one of your focuses? Think it should be? (right living through your faith in Jesus of course - not "trying" or "working" to live right on your own will or power...)**

3/11 - Proverbs chapter 11 verse 5 stands out at me today, mostly because I've caught myself telling a couple of "white lies" recently.... and I so regret that I did so! There was no value in them.... I want honesty and not lies to come out of my mouth! *"The godly are directed by their honesty."* **Q: how about you? Are you directed by honesty? Do you place honesty as a major guiding principle in your life? Do you ever catch yourself telling white lies? Do you confess these to God and to others? Do you think we should we confess white lies? Why or why not?**

3/12 - Proverbs chapter 11 verse 7 today teaches us: *"When the wicked die, their hopes die with them, for they rely on their own feeble strength."* This is a great reminder of why we should not only not carry our burdens on our own, but we should also not rely on our own strength. Our strength is fleeting... **Q: Will you instead rely on the Eternal Strength that will never fail you? Have you seen in your life how your own strength can fail you? Have you ever been strengthened by the Holy Spirit? How are you able to discern when you are doing things from your own strength compared to when you are being strengthened by the Holy Spirit? How do you surrender your own strength and instead rely on God's strength?**

Group discussions:

- Introductions.
- What were some of your favorite verses or passages from the past week's readings?
- What are some questions that were generated for you based on the past week's readings?
- What is something new you learned about God or the Bible from the past week's readings?
- How did God speak to you through the past week's readings?
- What is something you want to change or grow in your life based on the past week's readings?
- **Discuss the bold Questions in the Study Notes**
- Any prayer requests for the group for the coming week?

Each group is encouraged to close in prayer.

Daily questions for this next week's readings you may want to journal or pray through and discuss with your group next Sunday:

- My favorite verses or passages:
- What I learned from the readings:
- My questions for further study:
- How God spoke to me through the Word:
- Something I want to change or grow in my life based on the Word:
- My prayer points based on the Word:

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