November 25

Daniel

A Dream and Danger

Daniel was chosen from among the Israelite prisoners taken from Jerusalem by King Nebuchadnezzar to be a royal court servant.

King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, the royal advisors couldn’t tell the king what his dream meant, after Daniel prayed he asked to see the king and explained the dream about a giant statue made of gold, silver, bronze and clay. Daniel explained the future kingdoms – Read: Daniel 2:44. What insight into the Kingdom of Heaven. Daniel was promoted to a higher position. Daniel had his friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were put in charge of Babylon.

King Nebuchadnezzar had a gold plated statue made and when they heard music everyone was to bow down to this statue. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to bow down and were turned into the king and were thrown into the blazing furnace as was edict from the king in Daniel 3:6. The fire was seven times hotter than usual and they didn’t burn up – Read: Daniel 3:25.

Nebuchadnezzar called out to the three, they came out of the furnace unharmed, not even a singed hair! – Read: Daniel 3:28.

We find it hard to realize that in the world there are people today that die because of their faith in God. Our faith and commitment needs to be that strong, that we would still serve God even in the face of death.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Daniel 3: 28

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, never to deny you, knowing that my physical death is just a step to eternal life with you. Praise the Lord!

November 26

Daniel

Another Dream

The King’s second dream was more personal, there was a tall tree representing himself, who became self-centered in his power, Daniel warned the king to stop sinning but he didn’t so the tree was cut down with the stump left so he could become king again after seven years living like an animal. - It came to pass - Read: Daniel 4:29, 30, 33 – In the end the king declares - Read: Daniel 4:37.

We need to humble ourselves before the Lord, no matter what our station in life; we are not able to make it on our own. We must declare the Lord, Lord of our lives and assume the role of God’s servant.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Proverbs 15:33

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to have a healthy pride in myself but to be humble and know my life is governed by your will.

November 27

Daniel

The Writing on the Wall

King Belshazzar assumed the throne from his father, who was humbled before the Lord.

At a banquet, before a thousand noblemen – Read: Daniel 5:5.The king was very frightened and offered a third in command position to the person who could interpret the writing. The magicians and wizards tried to tell the meaning and finally the queen the disturbance and told Belshazzar about Daniel and his God given wisdom.

Daniel was brought before the king and gave this explanation of the writing: Read: Daniel 5:25-28.

Belshazzar kept his promise and made Daniel third in power but that same night Belshazzar was killed and Darius the Mede took over the government.

Our days are also numbered and we’ll be weighed, let’s hope we’re not too light in our faith!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Psalm 90:12

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, I know my life is short, help me to do my best for you and not to waste my life on sin and hate.

November 28

Daniel

In the Lion’s Den

Darius liked Daniel but the other people in the government did not so they tried to find things to show that Daniel was bad – Read: Daniel 6:5.

They got Darius to issue an order that did not permit anyone to request anything from anybody, including gods, except Darius for the next thirty days. Daniel continued to pray three times a day facing Jerusalem from his open upstairs window. The wicked administrators saw Daniel and reported him to Darius, who was distressed at the news but had to comply with the decree – Read: Daniel 6:16.

Darius spent a very restless night and at the crack of dawn he went down to the pit – Read: Daniel 6:20, 21.

The King was very happy and had the accusers thrown with their families into the lion’s den, they were dead before they reached the bottom, God had indeed saved Daniel.

We may never need rescuing from lions, but we do need saving from ourselves, our human wants and desires, that lead to eternal destruction.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Daniel 6:22

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I always have Daniels’s trust and loyalty unto eternity.

November 29

Jonah

Can God be Avoided?

Jonah was called by God to take a message to Nineveh – Read: Jonah 1:2.

Jonah had a different idea; he went the other way and boarded a ship for Tarshish. Suddenly a big storm hit the sea and the sailors were frightened – Read: Jonah 1:5-6.

Jonah told them about his Hebrew nationality and that he was suppose to be in Nineveh but was trying to run away from God. Jonah told the sailors to throw him overboard, they tried to row against the storm but the storm became worse, the sailors cried out to the Lord for mercy and threw Jonah overboard, the storm stopped as soon as it started!

The Lord provided for Jonah – Read: Jonah 1:17. Three days later, after much prayer Jonah was thrown up on to the shore. Then Jonah completed his mission to Nineveh with God’s message of destruction, the people of Nineveh believed God’s message, they gave up their wicked ways and by God’s mercy the city was saved.

Jonah’s disobedience was wrong but his adventure did lead the sailors and the city of Nineveh to the Lord, good often does come out of bad situations.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Jonah 1:16

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me to know O Lord that Your Will, will be done no matter how much I try to avoid it. Help me not to be stubborn but to put your will first in my life.

November 30

The Old Testament

In Summary

Many feel that the Old Testament is just boring history, it does have a lot of repetition and genealogy which can be boring.

There is also a lot of a lot prophesy both fulfilled and future events foretold that are yet to happen!

The Psalms are poems of prayer, worship, praise, comfort and hope.

The Proverbs are packed with wisdom to aid us in our everyday life.

We see the Old Testament is not boring history, but vital to our daily lives. We’ve only read a small part of the Old Testament, hopefully your curiosity has been awakened and you’ll read the Old Testament completely. The Bible cannot be read like a good novel, once and you’ve got it, every time a passage is read there is something new to be gained. God is infinite and his Word is inexhaustible. The important thing is to read with an open mind and receptive heart, looking to find something new and the Lord will reveal it to you.

VERSE FOR TODAY: II Timothy 2:15

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me to approach your Word whether the New or Old Testament with an open mind and receptive heart to receive what you have written there for me.