

May 27th, 2018
"The Certainty of God's Word"
Isaiah 34
Focal Passages: V. 8-17

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

May 20 2 Chron. 35-36 May 24 Neh. 1-3
May 21 Ezra 1-3 May 25 Neh. 4-6
May 22 Ezra 4-7 May 26 Neh. 7
May 23 Ezra 8-10 May 27 Neh. 8-9

Cross References: *Romans 1:18-32, Genesis 3:1-7, Jeremiah 17:9, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Philippians 2:14-16, Job 42:2, 1 John 2:27, Titus 2:11-12, Galatians 5:22-23*

Lesson Introduction: *Over the last 33 chapters, the judgement of the Lord being poured out on the wicked nations of the earth has been a common theme. The first 7 verses of chapter 34 paint a vivid picture of the severity of God's wrath toward sin, and what the final days of judgment will look like. We will spend most of our time today focusing on V. 16-17. These verses speak of the significance and certainty of God's Word. In this world of instability and relativism, it is easy to be lead astray. However, as the people of God, we must stand on the truth of His Word, and align every aspect of our lives with what it says. With that in mind, this week we will consider: **Our Need to Seek and Read from the Book of the Lord, The Absolute Certainty of God's Word, and How the Truth of God's Word is Carried Out.***

Key Memory Verse: Isaiah 34:16

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- The Word of the Lord is certain and true (V. 16-17).
- Seeking and reading from the book of the Lord is our only hope for finding and living out truth in a world of relativism (V. 16)
- Every detail of God's plans as seen in His Word will come about by the power of His hand, though the working of His Spirit (V. 16-17).

Isaiah 34:8-17 English Standard Version (ESV)

8 *For the Lord has a day of vengeance,
a year of recompense for the cause of Zion.*

9 *And the streams of Edom shall be turned into pitch,
and her soil into sulfur;
her land shall become burning pitch.*

10 *Night and day it shall not be quenched;
its smoke shall go up forever.
From generation to generation it shall lie waste;
none shall pass through it forever and ever.*

11 *But the hawk and the porcupine shall possess it,
the owl and the raven shall dwell in it.
He shall stretch the line of confusion over it,
and the plumb line of emptiness.*

12 *Its nobles—there is no one there to call it a kingdom,
and all its princes shall be nothing.*

13 *Thorns shall grow over its strongholds,
nettles and thistles in its fortresses.
It shall be the haunt of jackals,
an abode for ostriches.*

14 *And wild animals shall meet with hyenas;
the wild goat shall cry to his fellow;
indeed, there the night bird settles
and finds for herself a resting place.*

15 *There the owl nests and lays
and hatches and gathers her young in her shadow;
indeed, there the hawks are gathered,
each one with her mate.*

16 ***Seek and read from the book of the Lord:
Not one of these shall be missing;
none shall be without her mate.
For the mouth of the Lord has commanded,
and his Spirit has gathered them.***

17 ***He has cast the lot for them;
his hand has portioned it out to them with the line;
they shall possess it forever;
from generation to generation they shall dwell in it.***

Our Need to Seek and Read from the Book of the Lord (V. 16)

-After all the prophesy concerning God's severe judgement in **V. 1-15**, why do you think the people are instructed to "**Seek and read from the book of the Lord**"?

-What is our society's general outlook on the nature of truth?

-How do we often go about seeking truth?

Note: *We have seen over the last several years in America that, in general, truth is whatever we want it to be. To make statements about coming judgement due to sin, or what's absolutely right or wrong, seems to have become increasingly unpopular. While it may seem that relativism is a recent phenomenon, **Romans 1:18-32** makes abundantly clear that denial of absolute truth has been a problem in the hearts of mankind ever since the fall of man. In fact, the fall of man actually stemmed from a denial of the truth of God's Word (**Genesis 3:1-7**).*

*In short, a lack of regard for the truth of God's Word is at the heart of all the chaos that has happened from Genesis 3 on. Our passage today instructs us to, "**Seek and read from the book of the Lord.**" The fact is, "**The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick**" (**Jeremiah 17:9**). Left to our own longings and desires, we will go astray. However, the Lord has been gracious in giving us His Word, which is able to equip us for "**every good work**" (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**). If we are going to shine as lights in darkness, we absolutely must be people who "**hold fast to the word of life**" (**Philippians 2:14-16**).*

Discussion Section 2: The Absolute Certainty of God's Word (V.16-17)

-What do statements like, "**Not one of these shall be missing; none shall be without her mate. For the mouth of the Lord has commanded,**" and, "**He has cast the lot for them; his hand has portioned it out to them with the line; they shall possess it forever**" tell us about the nature of God's plan? (**Job 42:2**).

-How does knowing that God's judgement **will** play out the way He has said it will impact your life?

-Why is it sometimes difficult for us to accept that God's plan is set, and His Word will come to pass in the exact way He has said it will?

Note: *These verses speak not only to the importance of our seeking and reading the Word of the Lord, but also tell why we should do just that... Namely, because His Word is certain, and all that He says **will** come to pass. Even details such as where birds will nest (**V. 15**) have been determined by God, and it will be accomplished it.*

*Quite frankly, it should be startling to us to consider the wrath that God has guaranteed to be poured out on sinners. However, for those that are in Christ, the reality that all that the Lord has planned and spoken will come to pass should be incredibly comforting to us. Consider some of the promises of God meant for His children found in Scripture, and be comforted by the fact that all of them, **absolutely**, will come to pass.*

Discussion Section 3: How the Truth of God's Word is Carried Out (V. 16-17)

-What do these verses tell us about the way the truths of God's Word are carried out?

-How have you seen the hand of God move in your life concerning the promises of His word?

Note: *We see in these two verses that all that will come to pass concerning the word spoken from the "**mouth of the Lord**" will happen by the power of His "**hand**," through the working of "**His Spirit**." The Lord is not dependent on the power of man to bring about His purposes, rather, all that is in His Word will be **fulfilled by Him**. As believers, we have the very Spirit that will bring all of this about living in us, and He teaches us that all that the Lord has said is true, and causes us to walk in that truth. (**1 John 2:27, Titus 2:11-12, Galatians 5:22-23**)*

Application:

-In what ways can you grow in seeking and reading from the book of the Lord?

-What does this passage teach us about God that might be encouraging this week?