

Lessons To Be Learned from One Day's Reading Schedule

Introduction:

1. For several years we have made it a point to provide a through-the-Bible reading schedule each year. This year, 2016, is no exception. Each year's schedule has been arranged somewhat differently, but each year's schedule, if followed, enables a person to read through the Bible each year.
2. It is imperative that we read the Bible! 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 3:18; John 8:32; I Peter 3:15; I Tim. 4:13; Eph. 5:17, etc.
3. In order to illustrate how much one can learn in our daily readings, in this lesson we shall note some of the things one can learn by focusing upon the scriptures cited in **just one day's reading schedule**. We will start with the reading schedule for New Year's Day, Genesis 1-2, Psalm 1-2, and Matthew 1-2 (six chapters in all).

Discussion:

I. Genesis 1,2.

- A. "*Genesis*," the word, denotes the origin, the inception, the beginning.
 1. "*Genesis*," the word, constitutes a one-word summary of the book of Genesis.
- B. Genesis tells us of the Beginning of:
 1. The beginning of the Universe, Gen. 1:1.
 2. The beginning of man, Gen. 1:26-27.
 3. The beginning of marriage, Gen. 2:18,21-24.
 4. The beginning of the family, Gen. 4:1.
 5. The beginning of sin, Gen. 2:17; 3:1-6.
 6. The beginning of salvation, Gen. 3:15; Gal. 4:4.
 7. The beginning of nations, Gen. 10.
 8. The beginning of Israel, Gen. 12:2.
 9. The beginning of worship, Gen. 4:3-5.
 10. The beginning of a life of faith – evidenced by such men as Abel, Heb. 11:4; of Noah, Heb. 11:7 of Abraham, Heb. 11:8.

Note: In view of all "the beginnings" recorded in Genesis, it is evident that Genesis contains the most ancient history of the world!
- C. We should approach Genesis with the same attitude Jesus and His apostles took.
 1. As being literally true! Matt. 19:3-6; Rom. 5:12; I Tim. 2:13-14.
- D. Lessons Learned from Genesis 1 and 2.
 1. God is eternal! Cf. Isa. 57:15.
 - a. Genesis 1:1 implies the pre-existence of God; He pre-existed the universe, Psa. 90:2.
 2. Genesis 1:1 refutes atheism, "*In the beginning God.*"
 3. God spoke the universe into existence! Gen. 1:1-3; Psalm 33:6,9.
 4. The Universe, and all that is in it, was created in Six literal days!
 - a. "*Day*" in this chapter is from "*Yom.*" When "*Yom*" is associated with a definite number, solar days are being mentioned." Cf. Gen. 7:11; 8:14; 17:12; Ex. 12:6
 - b. The days are described as composed of "*evening and morning*," 1:5,8,13,19,23,31..
 - c. The Sabbath command can be understood only in the light of these days being 24-hour days. Ex. 20:8-11; Gen. 2:2.
 - d. Note the words of Jesus in Matt. 19:3-5.
 5. Everything produced after its "*kind*," Gen. 1:11.
 6. Man was the crowning project of God's creation, Gen. 1:26-27.
 - a. He was given dominion over the fish, fowl, cattle, creeping things, etc. 1:26.
 7. Man was placed in the Edenic paradise! Gen. 2:7-9.
 8. Man was given work to do, Gen. 2:16.
 9. Man was subjected to divine law, Gen. 2:16-17.
 10. Marriage was ordained by God, Gen. 2:18,21-24.
 11. Marriage, as God designed it, involves:
 - a. Two people – a man a woman.
 - b. Solemn responsibilities.
 - (1) Leaving father and mother, Gen. 2:24.

(2) Cleaving to each other, Gen. 2:24.

II. Psalm 1 and 2.

Note: "Psalms," the anglicized form of a Greek word which means a poem set to music.

A. The "Blessed" Man, Psalm 1:1-3.

1. Described Negatively, v. 1.
2. Described positively, v. 2-3

Note: Ps. 1 is considered an introduction to the book of Psalms in that it contrasts the way of the righteous and the way of the wicked. It also sets forth the way we should view true prosperity, v. 3.

B. "The Ungodly," Psalm 1:4-6.

C. Psalm 2.

1. It points to the gospel age!
 - a. Note verse 1; then read Acts 4:25-26.
2. The King introduced, Ps. 2:6-7.
 - a. "Thou art my Son: this day have I begotten thee," Ps. 2:7.
 - b. Fulfilled in Jesus! Heb. 1:5,8; Acts 13:30-33.

III. Matthew 1 and 2.

A. Chapter One.

1. The genealogy of Jesus Christ, v. 1-17.
 - a. The "seed" of the woman in Gen. 3:15; Gal. 4:4.
 - b. The "seed" of Abraham in Gen. 12:3; Gal. 3:16.
 - c. The child of a virgin, Matt. 1:18-25; cf. Isa. 7:14.
2. Observe:
 - a. Matthew 1:1-17 teaches that Jesus is the Son of Man.
 - b. Matthew 2:18-25 teaches that Jesus is the Son of God!

B. Chapter Two.

1. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Matt. 2:1; Micah 5:2.
2. Jesus was born in the days of Herod the King, v. 1.
 - a. A tyrant. Killed three of his sons. Killed his favorite (of ten) wife. Killed one of his mother in laws. Drowned a high priest. Killed several uncles and a couple of cousins. Caesar Augustus said he would "rather be Herod's pig than his son." Killed all children two and under, Matt. 2:16.
3. Wise men worshipped Jesus, v. 11. They offered:
 - a. Gold, the symbol for a king.
 - b. Frankincense, the symbol for a High Priest.
 - c. Myrrh, the symbol of death. Especially used for embalming. Cf. John 19:38-39.
4. The wise men were spared Herod's wrath, Matt. 2:12.
 - a. **Note:** Nothing was said about the number of wise men.
5. Jesus was spared, Matt. 2:12-15.
 - a. Satan stood ready to devour the "man child," but God preserved Him, Rev. 12:4.
6. Prophecy was fulfilled!
 - a. "Out of Egypt have I called my Son," v. 15. Cf. Hos. 11:1
 - b. Fulfilled the words spoken by Jeremiah, "Rachel weeping for her children..." v. 18; cf. Jer. 31:15
 - c. He came and dwelt in Nazareth, "that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene," v. 23
 - (1) Nazareth situated in lower Galilee, about 70 miles north of Jerusalem.
 - (2) Some wondered if anything good could come out of Nazareth, John 1:46. Jesus was more than just "good" as men think of goodness; he was perfect! Heb. 4:15; I Peter 2:21-22.

Conclusion:

1. In this study, we have observed some of the truths and lessons which can be gleaned from just one's day's reading schedule. Think of what we can learn if we follow the schedule for all 365 days of this year!
2. But it is not enough just to read the Bible. We must also **obey** its precepts. Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8-9; Rev. 22:14.

--Bobby Witherington, Jan. 3, 2016