

PT Memo #16 from Ron
Aug 1, 2010

Listen guys,

If you are doing NT or NT-Online, you should be reading Luke-Acts right now. That's a quarter of the entire NT in terms of words, so I do feel for you.

On the other hand, those of you doing OT will be reading four books, Samuel and Kings, almost 200 pages in most bibles! That's a lot of words to eat up.

So, if I were you, I'd start real soon – if you have not already started. Check out the recommended reading pace. Break up each monthly reading into roughly 4 weekly parts and try to give yourself some breathing space as we head towards the session, ok? Make these readings a part of your own quiet time. Its not that bad once you get the hang of it, especially if you remind yourself that many others are facing the same reading schedule as you are.

Personally, I spend more time grazing the TV with my remote than actually spending time with the Lord in my very quiet time (ahem). So most of us have no real excuse of 'no time' since your vice could be something else and not remote grazing.

OT Q&A

Samuel & Kings: Read 1 Samuel 13:8-13; 15:1-24; 2 Sam 10-12, 24; 1 Kings 11

How did Saul, David and Solomon fail to meet God's standards?

How do we translate Israel's fidelity to God's covenant in the 21st century Gentile context?

HINTS:

When were the book of Samuel and Kings written? During the Babylonian exile.

What does the exile mean to Israel? The monarchy failed

What did the author wish to tell the readers? You turned away from God yet again and are paying the consequences now

In your exegesis, establish the authorial intent.

Why does the writer describe the kings this way? Later, compare this Samuel-Kings account (Court Historian) of the same events with that of Chronicles (Chronicler's Historian).

In your hermeneutics, establish a reader response.

Look for the contemporary analogues to kings and prophets.

Then examine what lessons we may draw from these four remarkable books about leadership.

NT Q&A

LUKE-ACTS: Read Luke 10:1-24.

What did Jesus mean when he said he was watching Satan fall like a bolt of lightning from the sky?

What does Satan's fall mean in this context and what can it mean for us today?

HINTS:

When we think of a Fall of Satan, we tend to be influenced by John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, which describes Satan and his angels being ejected out of heaven and falling down to hell. In Milton's story, they go backward in time and space as they revert to a past before the creation of humans and in the depths of the earth (where the Greek God Hades dwells). Is there such a portrayal in the Bible? Not quite like that.

In Luke, Jesus drew from a well-known passage in Isaiah 14:12. Isaiah was predicting the fall of the Babylonian king (in his 7th century BC's future, future but not in our 21st century's future), whose overthrow is compared to the morning star being toppled. The Babylonian's king was so mighty that he was compared to Venus; the morning star that rises every morning without fail, and no one expects it to fall out of the sky.

The Jewish Publication Society's Hebrew Bible translates Isaiah 14:12 as "O Shining One, Son of Dawn" but in 1611, the KJV translates it "O Lucifer, son of the morning!" The Hebrew text does not mention any personal name but the KJV's translators thought that a personification of *lucem ferre*, literally meaning "light-bearer" into "Lucifer," might make the imagery more striking. In Latin, Lucifer refers to the dawn appearance of the planet Venus heralding daylight. So the KJV created a personal name out of a reference to brightness. Today, the word Lucifer has come to mean the Devil or Satan even though there is no such person named Lucifer in either the OT or the NT. A more accurate rendering is the NRSV's "day star, son of the Dawn" or the NIV's "morning star, son of the Dawn."

Heaven and sky are from the same word in the biblical languages. Satan is described as dwelling in the sky, between the world of humans and the realm of God. The sky is thus a barrier between us and God (Eph. 2:2; 6:12).

In 500 words, answer the questions with an exegesis and a hermeneutic paragraph

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In Christ,

Ron

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