



a survey of the Bible

Judges & Kings

May 26th '19

[If you've decided to get people to research various questions raised as we're going through this survey of the Bible – make sure time's set aside for this each week.]

1. Read Judges 3:1-11. What sequence of events do you see here? This is repeated in successive generations. (See Judges 3:12; 4:1; 6:1, etc) Judges 21:25 says "*Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*" What can we learn from Israel's history / our own culture about why this is so damaging to society as a whole? What can we do individually to ensure that our lives don't also show a similar trend of moving away from God & His ways? What confidence does God give us in Isaiah 65:24, Acts 3:19 & Ephesians 6:10,11?

2. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13. In this passage, outward appearance is contrasted with inner character.

- i) In what ways does our culture focus on image, status & superficial comparisons? What pressures do we face as a result?
- ii) Look at verse 7. What did Samuel learn about the way God assesses people? How should this affect the way we view other people and ourselves?
- iii) The New Testament describes David as a "man after God's own heart" (Acts 13:22). What might this mean on a daily basis for us?

3. Look at the list of books in the Bible from Judges through to Song of Songs. They've been collected into history books & then wisdom literature. What sort of information will help us get a better understanding of the historical context of these books? 2 Timothy 3:16,17 says that "*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*" Share examples of where God has spoken to you from any of these books. (e.g from biblical characters' experience, what we learn of God, principles for living.)

4. Read Proverbs 3:5-6. Spend some time reflecting on this and then use these verses as a springboard for prayer for each other.
Please pray specifically for the Fun Day on Saturday week – June 8th.

Next week We're joining with many churches across the UK to set aside time in the week leading up to Pentecost to pray for God's blessing. So do join in when you can. Starting Mon Jan 3rd, morning prayer will be from 7:30am – 8:00am Mon - Fri, and evening prayer from 5:30pm – 6:00pm. Both of these will be in The Hub. There'll be a prayer space in church which you're welcome to use between 9am & 2:00pm.

Further study

www.bethinking.org/bible/old-testament-mass-killings

<https://www.zachariastrust.org/does-the-bible-condone-slavery>