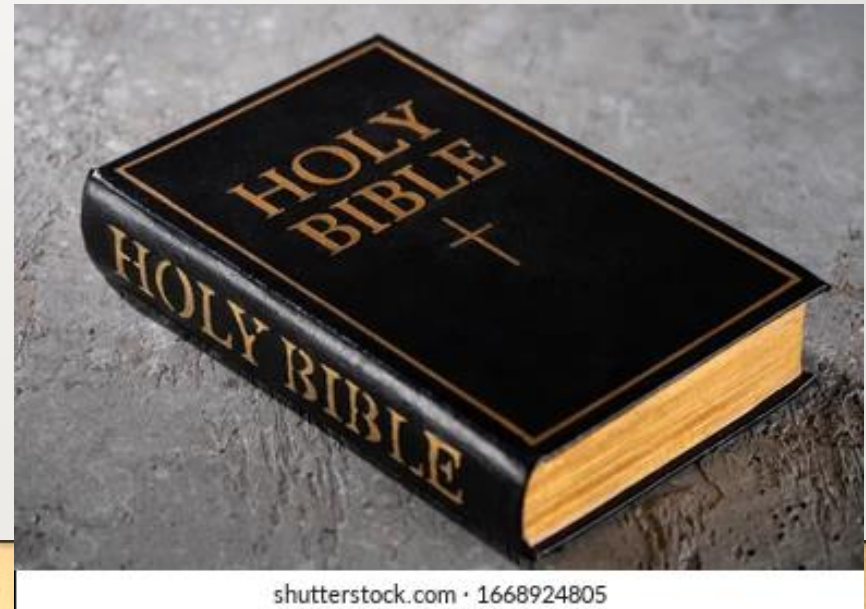


OUR VERY OWN BURNING BUSH

Sunday, June 5, 2022



GOD
SPEAKS IN
HISTORY



FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY

1991/1992



PSALM 119:9-16

9 How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.

10 I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.

11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

12 Praise be to you, LORD; teach me your decrees.

13 With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth.

14 I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.

15 I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.

16 I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.

PSALM 119:9-16 – Important Info

- A. We don't know the author = possibly David; some think Moses; others think someone from after the Babylonian exile – whoever he was, pretty important & well known as he was slandered (v. 23) & persecuted by rulers (v. 161) as well as spoke to kings (v. 46) – but the Word of God helped him through it all
- B. Probably written over a period of time, no definite flow
- C. Longest chapter in the Bible – 176 verses
- D. ACROSTIC Pattern = 22 Sections of 8 verses each section – each section is named after the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet because each line starts with that specific letter – example = vv. 1-8 is Aleph, 1st Hebrew letter and each line in vv. 1-8 begin with Aleph; vv. 9-16 is Beth, 2nd letter; & so on
- E. The whole psalm is focusing on God's word – some say almost every verse mentions His word except one, others say 171 of the 176 verses mention it
- F. 8 Basic words used = Law = “torah”; Word = “dabar”; Judgments = “mispatim”; Testimonies = “edut/edot”; Commandments = “miswah/miswot”; Statutes = “huqqim”; Precepts = “piqqudim”; Word/Saying/Promise = “imrah” (Possible other words - Way = “derek” & Path = “orah”)

IMPORTANT QUESTION

V. 9

**How can a young man stay on the
path of purity?**

Especially big for our world today!

SCRIPTURES ON THE IMPORTANCE OF PURITY

- a. Matthew 5:8 – “Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God.”
- b. Psalm 24:3-4 – “Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.”
- c. Romans 12:2 – “Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”
- d. James 4:4 – “You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.”
- e. 1 Timothy 4:12 – “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.”
- f. 1 Timothy 5:22 – “Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.”
- g. 2 Timothy 2:22 – “Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”
- h. Philippians 2:14-15 – “Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, ‘children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.’ Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky

IMPORTANT ANSWER

V. 9

By living according to your word

Living/Keeping/Taking heed = “Samar”

Guard with a hedge or thorns; protect; have
charge of

Ways to Live According to God's Word to Stay on the Path of Purity

1. Heart Focus – vv. 10-11

Seek = Frequent a place often

All my heart = all I am, mind, will, heart, understanding

Stray = wander; get off the path

Hidden = treasure

Sin = miss the way

a. Romans 3:23 – "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

b. Psalm 51:4 – "Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight."

Ways to Live According to God's Word to Stay on the Path of Purity

1. Heart Focus – vv. 10-11

2. Humility – v. 12

Teach = learn; exercise in; train

Ways to Live According to God's Word to Stay on the Path of Purity

1. Heart Focus – vv. 10-11
2. Humility – v. 12
3. Communication – v. 13

Recount = declare; talk; rehearse

Ways to Live According to God's Word to Stay on the Path of Purity

1. Heart Focus – vv. 10-11
2. Humility – v. 12
3. Communication – v. 13
4. Celebration – v. 14

Rejoice over; display joy = not a chore or a bore
More valuable than riches

Ways to Live According to God's Word to Stay on the Path of Purity

1. Heart Focus – vv. 10-11
2. Humility – v. 12
3. Communication – v. 13
4. Celebration – v. 14
5. Commitment – vv. 15-16

Meditate/Consider/Delight in/Not neglect = Non-stop focus each day

The Impact of God's Word in us & for us

1. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 = “All Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness so the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
2. Ephesians 6:17 = “Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God.” (Jesus used word against the devil)
3. 1 Peter 1:23 = “For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God”
4. Hebrews 4:12 = “For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

The Impact of God's Word to help us in the World

1. 2 Timothy 4:2-5 = “² Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.”
2. James 1:22 = “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

The Reliability of Scripture

A. TEXTUAL CRITICISM

1. Well over 5,000 manuscript copies of entire NT or extensive portions; 1000's more fragments & smaller portions
2. Some from 200 to 300 years later; some less than 100 years later; 99% confidence in the contents of original text – no error affects theological issues
3. Homer's Iliad – less than 700 manuscripts

B. ARCHAEOLOGY

1. No facts presented in the OT & NT have been shown false
2. OT = finds in the 1920's confirmed the presence of cities like Ur from Genesis 11 even though some doubted; Hittite city was found in Turkey complete with records even though some doubted; Ancient Babylonian records describe a confusion of language like Tower of Babel
3. NT = names of cities, political officials and events confirmed by historians & archaeologists; Luke considered first-rate historian for attention to detail

C. ORIGINAL WRITINGS FAITHFULLY PRESERVED

1. Dead Sea Scrolls (1940's) – manuscripts of the OT that were dated 100's of years before the earliest manuscripts we have – found to be nearly identical
2. Scribes were very meticulous to faithfully preserve the original writings as they passed them down from generation to generation

D. NT WRITTEN SHORTLY AFTER EVENTS

1. 4 Gospels written 40-60 years after Jesus' resurrection – so pretty soon after the events took place
2. A number of NT letters would have been written earlier than that, perhaps 15-20 years after Christ
3. Would have been numerous living witnesses to disprove NT if it was not accurate

OUR VERY OWN BURNING BUSH

The Word of God is a miraculous gift from our Lord
Make it an ultimate priority
Practice using our swords
Bible dedication

