Week 163 - w/c 22/12/2019

Monday: Luke 23:1-25 History shows that Pilate was a cruel, ruthless man. However, Pilate could see no reason to sentence Jesus to death yet he still surrendered Jesus to the will of the crowd. How easily do you give in to peer pressure? If anyone should be able to say, "Jesus died for me," it was Barabbas. He knew what it was to have Jesus die on his behalf, the innocent for the guilty.

Tuesday: Numbers 20:14-29 God gave special warning about Aaron's death, so a smooth transition could be made in passing down the position of high priest to Aaron's oldest living son, Eleazar. No one's relationship with God in Israel was to depend on Aaron, but on the high priest – whomever he was. God has ensured there will always be a high priest for us to come to in Jesus (<u>Hebrews 4:14-16</u>).

Wednesday: 1 Chronicles 3:1-24 The books of Exodus - Deuteronomy focus on Moses but here the focus turns to David. Israel was never able to redeem herself through observance of the law, so the nation needs a Saviour who can secure redemption for her - a king in the line of David. God had promised David explicitly that he would establish David's throne forever (2 Sam. 7:16). Praise God that he keeps his promises.

Thursday: Psalm 119:17-24 There are many wonderful things in Scripture; but they can only be seen when our eyes are opened by God. This means that prayer is an important, and often neglected, part of Bible study. Pray that God will open your eyes today. What wonderful thing has God revealed to you recently? Who can you share this revelation with?

Friday1: Ezekiel 30:1-26 These prophecies show the sovereignty of God. These apparently mighty monarchs of Egypt and Babylon were both in the hands of God. Their apparent successes and failures resulted from His action. They were completely in His power. Thank God that he is still in control of our nation.

Weekend: 2 Timothy 3:1-9 In this universe there is God, and there are people and things. We are to worship God, love people and use things. If we start worshipping ourselves, we will ignore God, love things and use people. The worldwide craving for things is evidence that people's hearts have turned away from God. Remember the principle of JOY - Jesus first, Others second, Yourself last.