

Week 164 – w/c 29/12/2019

Monday: Luke 23: 26-49. When Jesus died, the natural realm was affected as the sun stopped shining for three hours (v24,25). But the spiritual realm was also changed as the curtain in the temple was torn, symbolising that through Jesus there is now free access into the dwelling place of God.

Tuesday: Numbers 21:1-35. Faith in what God says brings salvation. Looking at the bronze snake prevented people dying from the snakes bite. Jesus likened this event to himself in John 3:14 & 15. Thank God that looking in faith at Jesus raised up on the cross brings us salvation from judgement and forgiveness for our sin.

Wednesday: 1 Chronicles 4:1-43. In a long list of names, we are only given details about one man's individual prayer and experience, Jabez (vv9-10). His prayer comes out of a difficult past life (His name means "pain"). No matter what past difficulties we face we can experience God's blessing, growth, guidance, protection, and freedom, as Jabez did.

Thursday: Psalm 119:25-32. Verse 32 shows us that when our hearts are freed from our slavery to sin, we can run in God's ways. Have you made a definite choice to walk in the way of truth? Are your hearts set on God's values as expressed in the OT Law and in Christ's life?

Friday: Ezekiel 31:1-18. God warns Pharaoh that splendour and majesty, wealth and power, do not make us immune from God's judgements! Yesterday's accomplishments, experiences, and successes are not a guarantee of blessing today or tomorrow. Once again, today, we are entirely dependent upon Christ, and need to seek grace to enable us to live for his glory.

Weekend: 2 Timothy 3:10-17. Verse 14 reminds us of the need to persevere in our growth as disciples. Pray again and thank God for those who have taught you most about your walk with God. Encourage them by sending a text or a card of thanks for their influence in your life. Notice the purpose of the Bible in vv15-17 – to bring us to faith in Christ, and to equip us to serve him.