

“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”
August 9, 2016

Isaiah 17:1–19:25. Judgment on nations and promise of Millennial worship.

Luke 7:1–35. Faith of the centurion.

Job 5:1–7. More “encouragement” from Eliphaz.

COMMENTS:

Isaiah 17:1–19:25. This section continues the theme of God’s judgment on nations: Damascus (17:1-14), Ethiopia (18:1-7), and Egypt (19:1-25). It is not just the heathen nations that are judged, Israel, too, is judged in order to get her to look to her Maker (17:7-8). Mixed within these judgments are promises for blessings in the Millennium. For example, in 19:19-25 the God of Israel will be openly worshipped in Egypt and peace established throughout the land (19:23-25). Note that in that day people will travel on “*a highway from Egypt to Assyria,*” and people in those two nations—enemies in Isaiah’s day!—will worship together! This has never occurred and we are a long way from this being fulfilled in our time. For good and inexpensive resource on the details of the divine prophecy regarding nations, I recommend “The Nations in Prophecy” by John Walvoord

(https://www.amazon.com/dp/0310341019/ref=olp_product_details?encoding=UTF8&me=)

Luke 7:1–35. Note the incredible faith of the centurion. As we have been studying, faith is a result of both the intellect and the will assenting to a proposition. However, we have also noted that the will is more crucial than the intellect when it comes to supernatural revelation (the Bible is the Word of God, the Trinity, the deity of Jesus Christ). The bottom line here is that those who do not have faith have diseased wills that desire other goods instead of the good of God Himself and His love and grace. This is a constant truth all the way through the Word of God from Adam, Eve, Cain, Judas, Demas, to those in the tribulation who pray to rocks that they would fall on them rather than accept the goodness and grace of the Lamb of God (Rev. 6:16). Of course, the person with an evil will will always try to justify their unbelief by appealing to some “evidence” that enables them to rationalize, consciously or subconsciously, their rejection of supernatural revelation in the Bible. As overwhelming as the evidence is for the Word of God, it is never enough for a will really does not want God—as evidenced by their pursuits of other goods. Besides, how in the world could one prove supernatural truths like the deity of Jesus Christ or the Trinity by natural means? In the end, we all get the good we want, God or evil (under the guise of some good). Those who choose God as their good are always characterized by faith and anticipation of being with the Lord, those who choose Mammon live vexed lives that can only be occasionally sublimated by temporal goods. The issue of faith is related to supernatural revelation whether it is the Word of God or the words of Jesus to the centurion in our text. As far as the existence of God, this is not a matter of faith, it is a matter of science, a matter of honestly looking at the world (Rom. 1:20). As far as faith in the supernaturally revealed truths of God, it really is a matter of what one loves: the light or darkness. You do not have to take my word on it, that is, exercise faith in my words, note the words of Jesus Christ: *John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life... John 3:19 "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

Job 5:1–7. Eliphaz continues to offer his unsolicited “wisdom” to suffering Job as he offers his commentary on Job’s lament (Job 3). He characterizes Job’s speech as nothing more than the “resentment of a fool,” and a simpleton’s “envy” that would kill, not heal. In addition to Job’s emotional and physical pain, he had to listen to Eliphaz call him a fool and tell him that man is born for the purpose of trouble as certainly as sparks from an open fire fly upward. Thanks a lot Eliphaz! God deliver us from ignorant self-appointed legalistic judges.

Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

Pastor Don