

Day 27 of “Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

Jan. 27, 2016

- Genesis 42:29-43:34 – Brothers return to Jacob; 2nd visit of brothers to Egypt.
- Hebrews 5:11-7:28 – Warning followed by encouragement.
- Ecclesiastes 10:10-20 – Avoid criticizing governmental leaders.

Reflections:

1. Genesis 42:29-43:34. God is working through all of these details to bring the family into Egypt so that it would grow and become a great nation. Later, Joseph will display the fact that he is well aware that God sent him down before them to provide for them in the midst of famine.
 - **Archaeological confirmation.** In Genesis 43:32 we are told that the Egyptians considered it an abomination to eat with the Hebrews. This is because Egyptians viewed all shepherds as abominations, Gen. 46:33-34. This attitude has been confirmed in archaeology. There are two reasons the Egyptians had such a negative attitude toward shepherds. First, because of history of the Hyksos, tribes of nomadic shepherds who invaded Egypt, burned many cities, and then ruled Lower and Middle Egypt. Second, because they considered wandering shepherds who had no real home, and were always in search of food, water, and grazing lands beneath their dignity. Joseph will use the Egyptians’ distaste for shepherds to provide his family an area where they and their flocks could flourish and Jacob’s people could retain their cultural and spiritual uniqueness. Goshen was a pastoral region of ancient Egypt on the eastern delta of the Nile River, where rich black soil had been deposited by the river. There Joseph’s family was isolated from most of the Egyptians, and had little daily contact with them. The plan of God moves forward as He builds a great nation from the Hebrews!
2. Hebrews 5:11-7:28. In the first part of this section we have the strongest warning in the Bible *for believers*. It is very frightening and it is all related to failure to grow spiritually. The last part of this section ends with the wonderful encouragement of our so-great High Priest, Jesus Christ, who continues to intercede on our behalf before the Father. What a wonderful grace gift.
3. Ecclesiastes 10:10-20. In this section, Solomon warns against criticizing governmental officials even if they deserve criticism. Back then it could result in the loss of your life very quickly. As far as present day application, the New Testament mandate is to pray for and submit to our leaders (by the way, the “kings” of the New Testament period were actually worse, at least more dangerous, in many ways than our leaders):

1 Timothy 2:1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. ³ For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

1 Peter 2:13 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and *for the* praise of those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—

We must not let the evil politics of our era distract us from pressing on in the spiritual life. Don't worry, one day the Lord is going to come and bust some heads and make things right. We have the privilege of preparing ourselves for our roles with Him in the next life.

In 'Ehyeh,

Pastor Don