

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

March 28, 2016

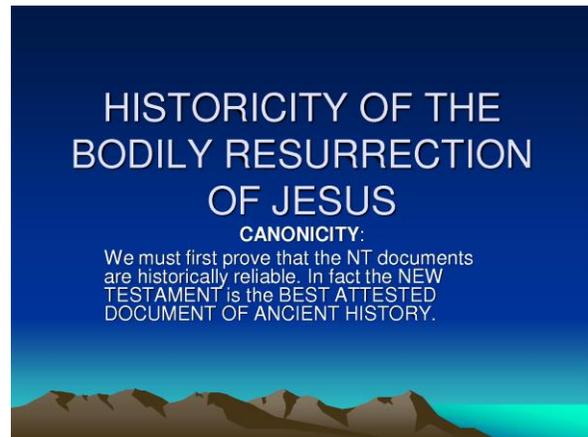
- ✓ Numbers 32:1-42 – The inheritance of the Eastern tribes.
- ✓ 1 Corinthians 14:26-15:11 – The historical core of Christianity.
- ✓ Psalm 27:1-14 – Seeking the Lord’s protection and beauty.

REFLECTIONS:

Numbers 32:1-42. Unexpectedly the abundant gains in livestock resulting from successive victories over the Amorites Sihon of Heshbon and Og of Bashan, as well as the miraculous defeat of the Midianites, precipitated a crisis for the Israelites. Satisfied with the gains of the present and not having the vision for the even greater opportunities that lay ahead in the Promised Land, two and a half tribes from the twelve-tribe confederation presented a request to Moses that would shake the foundation of the tribal unity, threatening potentially the very structural fiber of the nation. Reuben, Gad, and part of the tribe of Manasseh desired to take their cattle and flocks and settle in the recently conquered territory of Transjordan. Moses expressed legitimate concerns that they would abandon their comrades and not participate in the fulfillment of the promise of the gift of land by Yahweh to his children. Negotiations ensued and a compromise was reached, but the seeds of disharmony and discontent were planted. This passage would portend future divisions among the tribes that would transpire during the period of the judges and again near the conclusion of Solomon’s reign. An outline may be helpful to understand this section: Gad and Reuben request Land in the Transjordan (1-5), Moses rejects the request (6-15), Gad and Reuben propose a compromise (16-19), Moses revises the proposal (20-24), Gad and Reuben accept Moses’ revision (25-27), Moses’s proposal is offered to the leaders (28-32), Moses provisionally grants land in the Transjordan to Gad, Reuben, and Manasseh (33-42). In sum, the tribes of Gad and Reuben, seeing that the conquered land in Transjordan affords excellent pasture-land, petition Moses, and the people’s leaders to be allowed to settle there instead of crossing the Jordan. However, Moses was afraid that they would discourage the whole nation from entering Canaan.



1 Corinthians 14:26-15:11. After discussing the need for order in the church in chapter 14, Paul discusses the resurrection of Jesus Christ in chapter 15. Note the emphasis on the historicity of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. I attempted, in yesterday's Bible class, to underscore the uniqueness of Christianity in this respect. Christianity stands out from the rest of the world's religions because it is inextricably tied with actual historical events in history. Clearly, this fact brings with it both an asset and a liability. From the credit side, it gives Christians the ability to speak confidently of their faith because it is anchored in reality and not myth and speculation. Of course, the debit side is that in the final analysis Christianity could always be disproved with historical information. Hypothetically, if it could be actually shown that there was no such person as Jesus Christ, that HE was not crucified or that His dead body is still in the tomb, then Christianity would be falsified. Other religions cannot be so falsified, but they cannot be shown to be plausible on the basis of historical data either. The modern trend in contemporary Christianity to displace the historical core of Christianity with experiential application undermines the core and Total Truth of Christianity, which is inextricably tied to a chain of *historical* events beginning with creation, moving through the calling of Abraham, the giving of the Law, the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and the return of Christ to set up His kingdom—all occurring in space and time, and all transcending one's personal or phenomenological world.



Psalms 27:1-14. David begins this psalm by expressing confidence in the Lord in spite of a host of enemies who threatened his life. He, then, speaks of seeking the Lord to behold the “beauty of the Lord.” This really was the secret to David’s incredible love relationship with the Lord. As I have noted many times, we are always seeking our greatest good in life. May we redouble our efforts in seeking the Greatest Good for which our beings truly long and be transformed in time and in eternity: *1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.* ³ *And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*



All because of Christ,

Pastor Don