

Bible Challenge 2014
Going Deeper – Questions for Readings
Week 21

What is David trying to teach or pass on through his “last words” documented in 2 Samuel 23:1-7? What wisdom from these words can we learn and apply to our own living today?

In Psalm 95:7-8 the Psalmist urges us to listen to God’s voice and not harden our hearts against God. How do we “harden” our hearts against God today? What can keep us from doing this? (Hint: See Psalm 95:1-6)

What does it mean to proclaim that God will judge the world with righteousness (Psalm 98:9 NRSV)? What would a righteous judgment by God look like in our world today? How would we know it is God’s judgment versus a human judgment?

Why was David’s decision to call for a census of Israel (2 Samuel 24 & 1 Chronicles 21) considered such a grievous sin by God that it deserved such a severe punishment? What does David do to atone for this sin? How does God respond?

Psalm 30:5 proclaims that, “God’s anger is but for a moment; God’s favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night but joy comes with the morning.” Why do you think the Psalmist (David) saw this as a truth in his life? Do you see it as one you can proclaim as well? Why or why not?

How does Psalm 110 help us understand how religion and politics/governance intermingled in the theology of the Israelites during the reign of King David?

Why do you think Psalm 110 is the most quoted and alluded to Psalm in the New Testament? Why is it such an important Psalm in Christian theology?

Why do we have music in worship? What purpose does it serve? Why did David and the worship leaders of his time select 288 “master” musicians to lead worship in the Temple? (1 Chronicles 25)

How is the image of God portrayed in Psalm 139 different from the image of God we read about in Genesis 1? What does this tell us about God?

How would you answer the Psalmists question in Psalm 144:3?

What is the theology of giving and stewardship that David lives and teaches in 1 Chronicles 29? Do you see giving and stewardship, as David did, as a vital act of faith? Why or why not? When and how have you led a “stewardship life”? When and how have you not? What are the joys and blessings of faithful giving and stewardship?