

Week 26: June 30 (June 23–June 29)

- You are half-way through the Bible!!



- Elisha and the twenty loaves that are able to feed one hundred men: “They will eat and have some left over”. Sound familiar?
- Elisha tells Naaman to wash 7 times in the Jordan to rid himself of leprosy
- The miracle of the floating ax-head
- Elisha is charged with anointing Jehu king of Israel to “clean house”
- Jezebel is killed by being flung out a window, and then crushed under horses’ hooves; gruesome
- The 70 sons of Ahab all killed by Jehu; then has the prophets of Baal all killed.
- But - Jehu did nothing about those who continued worshipping the golden calves at Bethel and Dan
- Jehoiada the priest begins to draw the people back to God
- Elisha dies (2 Kings 13:20/June 28)
- A man’s dead body touched Elisha’s bones, which brought the man back to life
- We finally come to the time when Assyria begins to invade from the north; Tiglath-Pileser, king of Assyria, leads the charge, and removed the people of Judah from the land
- The question of circumcision: it was the sign of the covenant, so should believers be circumcised? Some said yes, others said no. Paul’s response: “God who knows the heart, showed that he accepted [the Gentiles] by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.... We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”
- Barnabas and Paul finally split and go their separate ways, Paul with Silas and eventually Timothy, the Spirit leading them, eventually to Macedonia and to Lydia, “a dealer in purple cloth”
- Did you notice how suddenly the writer of Acts switches from “him” and “them” to “we” and “us” (Acts 16:10, p. 577)
- Paul is happy to speak to the group of women gathered by the river, to teach and preach, and then accept Lydia’s invitation to remain
- Paul and Silas “severely flogged” and beaten
- Baptize the “whole household” of the jailer - support for the notion of baptizing infants. Debate to this day over at what age baptism is appropriate. What is the teaching of our denomination?

- Paul continues traveling, on to Thessalonica. He taught and preached and “some of the Jews... and a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women” joined Paul and Silas.
- Paul eventually reaches Athens, where he is asked, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.”
- Paul leaves Athens for Corinth; meets Aquila and Priscilla. Tried to teach the Jews, who “became abusive”, so Paul turned to the Gentiles. But God says to Paul, do not be afraid.
- He eventually leaves Corinth for Syria with Aquila and Priscilla; went to Ephesus, then to Caesarea, and finally Jerusalem; from there on to Antioch, and then the region of Galatia
- John’s baptism compared with baptism in the name of Jesus Christ, which brings the Holy Spirit.
- Remember, those filled with the Holy Spirit spoke in different languages; the notion of “speaking in tongues” misunderstands the text
- “God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.”
- Followers of the Way are attacked verbally by a silversmith named Demetrius – what was his concern?
- Proverbs 17:27– “The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint, and whoever has understanding is even-tempered.”
- Proverbs 18:1 - “An unfriendly person pursues selfish ends and against all sound judgment starts quarrels”
- Proverbs 18:2 - “Fools find no pleasure in understanding but delight in airing their own opinions”