

OUR HOPE AND PEACE

I have good news. Jesus is our hope and peace. Throughout the Old Testament we have witnessed God's requirement for holiness and our hopeless inability to meet that requirement. In Psalm 42 and 43 David sings of his hope being in God and his promised salvation. Our savior has come - and with him hope and peace. Justification before God is life altering. We are justified by faith, not by our works. It is through faith in Jesus that we can have peace with God. It is through Jesus that we can rejoice in all things. It is through Jesus that we can stand securely before God. It is through Jesus that we experience God's great love. It is through Jesus that we are saved from the wrath of God. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). Celebrate what God has done for you in Christ!!

1 Chronicles 22-25; Psalm 78; Romans 5
1 Kings 1; 1 Chronicles 26-28; Romans 6
1 Kings 2; 1 Chronicles 29; Romans 7
1 Kings 3; 2 Chronicles 1; Psalm 42; Romans 8
1 Kings 4; Proverbs 1-2; Psalm 43; Romans 9

Every week, you'll see the same five content questions. Use them as a guide as you read the scriptures. Pray for consistency in your Bible reading.

1. Who are the main characters in this text and is there anyone you can relate to?
2. Is there anything from this text that we are to do (obey, believe, heed or follow)?
3. What do you learn about God in these chapters and how has that changed what you believe about Him?
4. What do these passages reveal about human nature, sin and our need for God?
5. What's the Good News found in this text?

Every week, you'll see five unique application questions. Use them to help live out what you're learning in scripture. Pray for life transformation.

1. How are you investing in the next generation? Whether you have children or not, how can you pass on the instruction of the Lord?
2. When have you seen God keep his promises? How does 1 Kings 4:20 encourage you to walk by faith?
3. How do you actively and daily set your mind and heart to seek the Lord? Is their fruit of that desire that is evident in your life?
4. Have you ever felt separated from the Lord or felt like He was far off? How can you mentally and spiritually prepare for those times now? Do you believe anything can separate you from his love?
5. How do you relate to Paul's struggle to keep doing good and stop doing evil? How does this struggle make you love Jesus more?

Remember the words of this great hymn by Robert Lowry:

*This is all my hope and peace,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

That is good news!