

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 16, 2014

Passage: Various

Memory Passage: 1 Corinthians 14:1

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Deut. 18:9-22 & Acts 3:17-26.** This week we will engage in a brief overview of NT prophecy, beginning today with a very brief look at OT prophecy. What separates the nations from Israel in Deut. 18 (note how they each “listen” in v. 14 & v. 19)?

(b) Why must Israel listen to the prophet God raises up, and what is the penalty if they do not listen?

(c) What activities would bring a prophet death (v. 20), and why would such a harsh penalty be levied?

(d) How would the people know for sure that the word of the Lord had been spoken?

(e) Ultimately, who is the prophet that God will raise up?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Joel 2:28-29 & Acts 2:17-18.** To what time period does the term “in the last days” refer, and when does it end?

(b) When did God “pour out his Spirit,” and what results are itemized in Acts 2:17-18?

(c) Who will be given the ability to prophesy? Another way of asking this is, “Is the gift of prophesying limited to a certain class, group, or nationality?”

(d) How do the events in Acts 2 fulfill Joel’s prophecy?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Acts 11:27-30, 15:32, 21:8-14, & 27-36.** If you were evaluating Agabus by OT standards would he be considered a true or false prophet? Give reasons for your answer.

(b) For what purposes did Judas & Silas prophesy (15:32)?

(c) What was the purpose of Agabus’ second prophecy? How did the people respond and how did Paul respond (in other words, did they “listen” to the prophecy)?

(d) What deductions can you make about the difference between these prophecies in Acts and OT prophecies?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-24.** Again, there is much to be learned from this passage but our focus will be on NT prophecy. Why does Paul say that the one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues (vs. 1-5)?

(b) Explain what Paul is saying in vs. 15-17.

(c) Why would Paul rather speak 5 words of prophecy than 10,000 words in a tongue, and what is significant about the fact that he designates this to be “in church” (v. 19)?

(d) Why is prophecy a sign for believers (vs. 22-25)?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Cor. 12:29-33a & 1 Thess. 5:20-21.** Explain how prophecy should work in an orderly worship service.

(b) How should the church (“the others” in v. 29) “weigh” the prophecy, and what does the fact that prophecy must be weighed tell us about NT prophecy in contradistinction to OT prophecy?

(c) What does it look like for a person to despise prophecies (which Paul commands us not to do in 1 Thess. 5:20), and what are we to do instead (v. 21)?

(d) Synthesize your study from this week: What is NT prophecy? How does it function today? Who can prophesy? Where should prophesying occur? How & why is NT prophecy to be evaluated? Can a NT prophet be wrong? Why or why not?

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