***Knowing God - Part 2***

***From last month:”*** The Old and New Testaments work together to give us the picture of who God is, who we are, and what God does with our rebellion.

We need the Old Testament to know God.

The profile of God’s traits is found mostly in the Old Testament and shown through His engagement with individuals. So, one reason we study Old Testament characters is to know God’s nature and man’s dilemma. We should never denigrate any part of the Bible in our thinking.

***Last month I left you with the suggestion to study Solomon, Jeremiah and Joseph. How did you do? As promised, below are my comments on these three patriarchs. This is not an exhaustive list, but a start for your personal study.***

***Solomon: 1 Kings 1-11, 2 Chronicles 1-9***

1 Kings 3:7: “And now, O Jehovah my God, you have made Your

servant king instead of David my father. And I *am* a little child; I do not know to go out or come in!”

1 Kings 3:9: “And give to Your servant an understanding heart, to judge Your people, to discern between good and bad. For who is able to judge this, Your great people?”

**\*A required response**:

 Always be aware of your complete dependence on God. He is sovereign. Prayerfully review His oversight in your life. Only with Him in our lead can we have a good and fruitful life and make good decisions.

Ecclesiastes 12:13: “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter. **Fear** God and **keep** His commandments. For this *is* the whole *duty* of man.”

\***A required response**: Life is simple. Admit you are goofball, so “**fear** God and Obey His commandments”. God knows best.

Ecclesiastes 12:14: “For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it is* good, or whether evil.”

***Jeremiah:*** Jeremiah 1-52

Jeremiah 5:22: “Do you not **fear** Me?” says Jehovah. “Will you not tremble at My presence, I who have placed the sand *for* the

 boundary of the sea *by* a never-ending decree, so that it cannot pass it?”

**\*A required Response:** Our life will be reviewed by God. Live like He is watching and keeping notes.

Jeremiah 10:7 “Who would not **fear** You, O King of nations? For **fear** belongs to You, because among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, *there is* none like You.”

\*God is to be **Feared (this is terror)**. Fear means more than to be revered and honored.

There is a great question in verses 10:7 that’s worth considering: “Who would not **fear** You, O King of nations?”

 AND yet there are many voices today that say that there is no

 need to **fear** God.

**A required response**: Study and understand the command to **fear** God. If you don’t fear Him, I would suggest you don’t know God.

***Joseph*:** Genesis 37-45

There are many observations on Joseph’s view of God. The one I like best is:

Genesis\_50:25: “And Joseph took an oath of the sons of Israel saying, God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.”

Exodus 13:19: “And Moses (400+ years later) took the bones of Joseph with him. For he had strictly sworn the sons of Israel, saying, ‘God will surely visit you, and you shall carry my bones away from here with you. Joseph saw God as faithful to His character and promises.’”

Joshua 24:32” “And the bones of Joseph, which the sons of Israel brought up out of Egypt, they buried in Shechem, in a piece of ground which Jacob bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for a hundred pieces of silver. And it became the inheritance of the sons of Joseph.”

**\* A required response**: Rely on God’s character and His promises in the execution of your life. Even to your burial site.

**Question:** Do you know any of God’s promises for you that are influencing your behavior in life?

***Josiah:*** Kings and Chronicles

I studied the Kings 30 years ago and I observed there were 42 Kings and God called 8 of them good and only 3 of the good ones ended their life while serving God.

One of the kings you should study who finished well is Josiah. He inherited a country in chaos.

Josiah is the last king of significance. The Tora had been hidden/unavailable/not read to the people for over 40 years. This elimination of the Word was started by Manasseh. The Tora was the found and read to Josiah. Josiah was 18 years old.

His response was:

2 Kings 22:11: “And it happened when the king had heard the Words of the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes.”

Josiah said,

2 Kings 22:13: “Go inquire of Jehovah for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the Words of this Book which is found. For great *is* the wrath of Jehovah which is kindled against us, because our fathers have not listened to the Words of this Book, to do according to all which is written concerning us.”

**\*****A required response**: Be fearful of a life without the Word of God. Daily read it and read it to your family.

**\* A required response**: What should God’s response be to you when you ignore His Word.

Verses from Winston Parker:

Psalm 150:1: “Praise Jehovah. Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in the expanse of His power.”

Psalm 150:2: “Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness.”

Psalm 150:3: “Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the harp and lyre.”

Psalm 150:4: “Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and pipes.”

Psalm 150:5: “Praise Him on the sounding cymbals; praise Him with the resounding cymbals.”

Psalm 150:6: “Let everything that breathes praise Jehovah. Praise Jehovah!”

There are many applications from the above but first,

Who is your God?