



# Thru the Bible in 2012

*The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God endures forever. Isaiah 40:8*

## Ladies for Jesus Tuesday Bible Study Ponderings

**Readings for February 13, 2012 – February 16, 2012**

**Emailed: Thursday, February 16, 2012**

For our ponderings, consider the questions listed below in regards to what we have read during the days of Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>.

- **(Exodus 39:32)** The Tabernacle was finally complete to the last detail. God was keenly interested in every minute part. The Creator of the universe was concerned about even the little things. Matthew 10:30 says that God knows the number of hairs on our heads. This shows that God is greatly interested in you. Have you considered in what details you relate to the Father? He cares about every detail of your life, regardless how small. In reality, EVERY detail of our life is small to God. But He is a loving God and cares deeply for us so He cares about them all. Don't be afraid to talk with Him about any of your concerns.
- **(Exodus 40:1)** The people were finished with their work. They had done everything by following the Lord's instructions to Moses. They then brought it before Moses for inspection. Moses was careful to obey God's instructions in the smallest detail. Notice that he didn't make a reasonable estimate of God's description, but an exact copy. We should follow Moses example and be particular about our obedience. Has God told you to do something? If so, do it right and do it completely as He has instructed. He has a purpose for every detail of His instructions.
- **(Exodus 40:17-33)** The physical care of the Tabernacle required a long list of tasks, and each was important to the work of God's house. This principle is important to remember today in regards to God's house being the church. There are many seemingly unimportant tasks that must be done to keep the church building maintained. Washing dishes, painting walls, or sweeping floors may not seem very spiritual. But they are vital to the ministry of the church and are an important part of worship of God. In what ways have you participated in maintaining the church building in your own church?



### The Lord's Glory Fills the Tabernacle:

The Tabernacle was God's home on earth. He filled it with His glory – the overpowering sense of His presence. Almost 500 years later, Solomon built the Temple, which replaced the Tabernacle as the central place of worship. God also filled the Temple with His glory (2 Chronicles 5:13, 14). But when Israel turned from God, His glory and presence departed from the Temple, and it was destroyed by invading armies (2 Kings 24). The Temple was rebuilt in 515 B.C. God's glory returned in even greater splendor nearly five centuries later when Jesus Christ, God's Son, entered it and taught. When Jesus was crucified, God's glory again left the Temple. However, God no longer needed a physical building after Jesus rose from the dead. God's temple now is His church, the body of believers in which His Spirit dwells.

- **(Numbers 9:14)** God said regarding foreigners and the Passover, "They must follow these same decrees and regulations." This principle designed for foreigners doesn't mean we force our religion on our neighbors, but in our homes we should live out our convictions. When we have guests in our homes, whether visitors, or family, we may be tempted to change or water down our Christian practices. If family devotions, attending church, and mealtime prayers are your practices, don't change these when you have guests. Instead you should maintain your family standards even when guests visit. In what ways do you and your family maintain your Christian standards and principles? You never know what influence you may have on the guests in your home.

- **(Numbers 9:23)** The Israelites traveled and camped as God guided. When you follow God's guidance, you know you are where God wants you, whether you're moving or staying in one place. You are physically somewhere right now. Instead of praying, "God, what do you want me to do next?" ask, "God, what do you want me to do while I'm right here?" Direction from God is not just for your next big move. He has a purpose for your life. How are you responding to God's guidance? Are you confident that He is taking you where He wants you? Discover what He wants you to do now!
- **(Numbers 7:1)** After the Tabernacle was set up, anointed, and consecrated, the leaders of the 12 tribes brought gifts and offerings for its use and maintenance. All of the people participated – it was everyone's Tabernacle. What items do you have in your home that can be used in the house of God?
- **(Numbers 7:89)** Imagine hearing the very voice of God! Moses must have trembled at the sound. Yet we have God's Word recorded for us in the Bible, and we should have no less reverence and awe for them. God sometimes spoke directly to His people to tell them the proper way to live. The Bible records these conversations to give us insights into God's character. How tragic when we take these very words of God lightly. Like Moses, we have the privilege of talking to God, but God answers us differently – through His written Word and the guidance of His Holy Spirit. To receive this guidance, we need to seek to know God as Moses did. In what ways are you seeking to know God? In what ways do you feel you need to begin seeking to know God more?
- **(Numbers 8:25-26)** Why were the Levites supposed to retire at age 50? The reasons were probably more practical than theological. First, moving the Tabernacle and its furniture through the wilderness required strength. The younger men were more suited for the work of lifting the heavy articles. Second, the Levites over 50 did not stop working altogether. They were allowed to assist with various light duties in the Tabernacles. This helped the younger men assume more responsibilities, and it allowed the older men to be in a position to advise and counsel them. How are you passing on the knowledge and experience the Lord has given you?
- **(Numbers 9:6-12)** Several men came to Moses because of the predicament they faced: They were "ceremonially defiled" because of contact with a dead body (or entering the home of a person who had died), and this prevented them from participating in the Passover meal. The standards of holiness were maintained, and the men were not allowed to participate. But God did make an exception and allowed the men to celebrate the Passover at a later date. This upheld the sacred requirements while allowing the men to participate in the feast – a duty for all Israelite men. Sometimes we face predicaments where the most obvious solution might cause us to compromise God's standards. Like Moses, we should use wisdom and prayer to reach a workable solution. How are you making decisions in your life when you encounter predicaments? Are you petitioning God for a solution that honors Him and brings Him glory?
- **(Leviticus 1:3-13)** Why are there such detailed regulations for each offering? God had a purpose in giving these commands. Starting from scratch, He was teaching His people a whole new way of life, cleansing them from the many pagan practices they had learned in Egypt and restoring true worship to Himself. The strict details kept Israel from slipping back into their old lifestyle. In addition, each law paints a graphic picture of the seriousness of sin and of God's great mercy in forgiving sinners. Do you recognize the seriousness of sin in your own life? In what ways are you working to overcome sin in your life? Are you following the detail regulations set out by God? Do so by first approaching His throne through the blood of Jesus Christ and then petition His throne for wisdom of how to overcome and obtain strength to do so.
- **(Leviticus 1:13)** *It is a pleasing aroma to the Lord.* This is a way of saying that God accepted the sacrifice because of the attitude of the people. As Christians, our number one priority is to maintain our relationship with God and to bring Him glory by finding out what pleases Him. Do you know what pleases the Lord? If so, are you doing the things that please Him? If not, in what ways do you intend to find out what pleases the Lord?