

## Scriptures and Doctrine :: Through the Entire Bible with Zac Poonen

**Through the Entire Bible with Zac Poonen - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/6/25 19:11**

Saints,

I am listening to Poonen's 70 message series on the entire Bible. Each message is 1 hour long and full of such wealth and wisdom and life that you are simply overwhelmed. Would anyone care to join me on this voyage? I can post a new audio on this thread every few days...and together we can travel methodically through God's Word here on SI, discussing the wonderful highlights along the way. I think it would be very profitable for all who participate, and it would also provide a good break from much of the vain and transient and divisive subjects we see so often shoot across these forum walls.

So...is it worth starting something like this? I personally believe God would be pleased to see such a thread in this forum.

Brother Paul

Here are the messages we've gone through thus far:

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2566>) Genesis, part 1  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2567>) Genesis, part 2  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2568>) Genesis, part 3  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2569>) Exodus, part 1  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2570>) Exodus, part 2  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2571>) Leviticus  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2572>) Numbers  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2573>) Deuteronomy  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2574>) Joshua  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2575>) Judges and Ruth  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2576>) 1 Samuel  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2577>) 2 Samuel  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2578>) 1 Kings  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2579>) 2 Kings  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2580>) 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2581>) Nehemiah and Esther  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2582>) Job, part 1  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2583>) Job, part 2  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2584>) Psalms, part 1  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2585>) Psalms, part 2  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2586>) Proverbs  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2587>) Ecclesiastes  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownload>  
[s/visit.php?lid2588](https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2588)) Song of Solomon  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2589>) Isaiah, part 1  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2590>) Isaiah, part 2  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2591>) Jeremiah and Lamentations  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2592>) Ezekiel  
 (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2593>) Daniel

**Re: Through the Entire Bible with Zac Poonen - anyone care to join me on SI? - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2007/6/25 1**  
Great idea!

**Re: Through the Entire Bible with Zac Poonen - anyone care to join me on SI? - posted by running2win (), on: 2007/6/25**  
I would love to do this with you brother Paul but was wondering how often you would want to listen to a message. Every two or three days? Once a week? I have kind of a busy schedule and live 5 minutes from work so I will have to specifically set aside time to listen to them.

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/6/25 20:02**

Quote:

-----I have kind of a busy schedule and live 5 minutes from work so I will have to specifically set aside time to listen to them.  
-----

I totally understand, and this why I wanted to get some feedback before we started. I was originally intending to post an audio once a week, but being this is a 70 part series, it would take well over a year! I don't have any problem with this, but others may have trouble committing. What would work for you? Every four days? Five days? Weekly?

Brother Paul

**Re: Through the Entire Bible with Zac Poonen - anyone care to join me on SI? - posted by Tears\_of\_joy, on: 2007/6/25 2**  
Brother Paul, could you say more about the messages? How is Mr Poonen going, is it book by book, or by themes, is it in some specific order? Are they preached in his church week by week? What is the purpose that is laid? Are those messages with the title beginning "basics"?

Thanks.

**Re: - posted by running2win (), on: 2007/6/25 20:18**

Ummm, twice a week should be good for me. Something like Tuesday night and Friday night maybe? Or even any other two nights of the week should be good for me. Except maybe Saturday.

**Re: Through the Entire Bible with Zac Poonen - anyone care to join me on SI? - posted by FreebyWord, on: 2007/6/25 20**

Brother Paul I'm with you. I've read Poonen in the past and heard one of his audios recently and I sense in my spirit this is a true man of God. Your post may be God's answer to me as I've prayed and fasted, even today, for His power to overcome all as I see the late hour. Thank you so much. I will join you beginning this very night. I see some have already asked the questions I have. If I can't find exactly those audios you reference I'll be back with that very question.

OK, I think I'm getting it right. Poonen's audios on Through the Bible with Poonen isn't posted on this site. I see. This is something I would do two or three hours a day. So, if you can tell me how I may purchase this I'd appreciate it Brother Paul. Thanks.

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/6/25 20:28**

Hi Kire,

The messages go book by book, chapter by chapter and often verse by verse. I'm not sure how often he preached them in his church - if they were week by week, or twice a week or whatnot - but he is very consistent in the study. The purpose laid, I feel, was to demonstrate the unsearchable riches of God's Word under the premise of 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and also to whet his own congregations' appetite to diligently search the scriptures themselves.

Brother Paul

**Re:, on: 2007/6/25 20:39**

Hello brother Paul,

I am really looking forward to listening to these messages, and also sharing with one another on this thread about what insight we glean from brother Zac's teaching along with what the Holy Spirit is teaching each one.

Twice a week would be good for me. At first I was thinking *seventy weeks?* but I like the idea of 35 weeks. :)

I'll be awaiting the first message!

Blessings,  
Joy

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/6/25 20:50**

Quote:  
-----Poonen's audios on Through the Bible with Poonen isn't posted on this site. I see. This is something I would do two or three hours a day. So, if you can tell me how I may purchase this I'd appreciate it Brother Paul. Thanks.  
-----

You don't give SermonIndex enough credit, brother. They *are* posted here! You can find them in Poonen's archive on pages 31-33. You can also write Benoy James at [www.ravensministry.com](http://www.ravensministry.com) and he'll send you all 70 mp3s on a single disc. The reason I wanted to post them individually was for the sake of unity of the brethren, to move through the Bible together as a whole group here in the thread. That was the vision I had, all of us discussing, commenting, digging, savoring the Word of God as led by the Holy Spirit. And completing the Bible together. How glorious! How noble!

Brother Paul :-)

**Re: Let's Begin! Genesis Part 1 - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/6/25 21:07**

Okay saints, here is the first message. It takes you from Genesis 1 through to Genesis 10. Poonen wisely begins this amazing journey by expounding 2 Tim. 3:16-17 - the reason for studying Holy Scripture. Lots of people study scripture for the wrong reasons. Instead of searching the scriptures for life, they search for knowledge. One thing I have to constantly remind myself is that I mustn't study scripture to increase my stature as a preacher, or to impress others with wisdom - I must study for myself, to get life at the feet of Jesus, to be adequate and complete in God. All other motives will lead to dryness, vanity and death.

(<http://64.34.176.235/sermons/SID2234.mp3>) Genesis, part 1

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/6/26 2:00**

I will "sit" with you brother Paul and go through this series, i have noticed that God has very much to say to me through t his man brother Zac Poonen, you continue to post the next one once a week?

**Re: Through the Entire Bible with Zac Poonen - anyone care to join me on SI? - posted by HopeinChrist, on: 2007/6/26 6**

What a great idea. I am downloading the first message now.  
Hope

**Re: - posted by Josiah777 (), on: 2007/6/26 9:07**

Paul & all:

I'd like to join you all. I liked the suggestion of doing 2 a week. I went through this series several years ago and my life has been wonderfully blessed through brother Zac's ministry of the Word. One helpful thing to note is that books that have the most messages are not necessarily because the book is longer but because of the depth of insight and richness Zac has in those. Hebrews, Luke and Job have been the most life transforming for me.

Thanks, Paul, what a wonderful idea that Lord gave you, and I hope we can have some good fellowship as a result.

In Him,

Ken

**Re: - posted by ravenmolehil, on: 2007/6/26 9:40**

Sounds like a Great series to podcast;  
It would be easy to organize, access, and stay updated  
if not, I'm still in..  
Thanks for the great idea

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/6/26 10:08**

Quote:  
-----Sounds like a Great series to podcast;  
-----

I'm all for it. I don't know anything about Podcasts, though. I'm from a different generation!

:~)

Brother Paul

**Re: Through the Entire Bible with Zac Poonen - anyone care to join me on SI? - posted by repentcanada, on: 2007/6/26**

Great Thread brother Paul, I am in.

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/6/26 10:17**

Quote:  
-----I liked the suggestion of doing 2 a week.  
-----

Two a week is fantastic, I think. I have been burning the messages to CD and playing them in my car. In the mornings and evenings I do my regular, daily devotions with the Holy Spirit. I think I need to emphasize that these commentaries are in no way intended to be substitutions for our own quiet times with Jesus. Nothing at all can ever replace our daily quiet times.

Brother Paul

**Re: - posted by LoveHim, on: 2007/6/26 11:43**

i love the idea of 2 a week as well. i am very excited and anticipating what the Lord will teach us all during this time.. thanks for being obedient to God..

**Re: - posted by ravenmolehil, on: 2007/6/26 16:52**

Bump,  
just thought some others may want to join in

**Re: - posted by running2win (), on: 2007/6/26 17:06**

Brother Paul,  
I was just wondering what two nights during the week do you have in mind?

**Re: Through the Entire Bible with Zac Poonen - anyone care to join me on SI? - posted by Vakugal, on: 2007/6/26 17:58**

brother i would also join.  
This would definitely add to the much required discipline in my life.  
Going through it is one thing, do you expect any posting on what we went through, any guidelines for the same?  
In the home church site br.Zac's vs by verse bible study for some of the books are also available. Our current endeavour could lead to that :-)  
For the sake of semantics ...all things should lead us to the a deeper walk of obedience and love for the Lord Jesus.  
may the Lord speak to us through these efforts.  
1Th 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit.  
1Th 5:20 Do not despise prophesying.  
1Th 5:21 PROVE ALL THINGS, hold fast to the good  
Thank you for your effort.

**Re: - posted by strawrifle (), on: 2007/6/26 18:00**

Hi i'm in to,if thats ok..Listening to the first sermon as i type..  
andy

**Re: In the beginning God... - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/6/26 18:29**

This is wonderful. May the Lord bless His Word to our hearts and spirits as we travel along together. I was thinking of posting a new audio every Monday and Thursday evening. I can see many, many people eventually joining in. These studies are truly life transforming...and I believe God is working to instill discipline in the lives of His children. Discipline can begin with only two days a week, and for some people this will be the first time ever making it through the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. It is my prayer that this will be the beginning of a lifelong journey for them, a wonderful door opened, an ever increasing appetite to explore and feast on Holy Scripture!

The Lord would encourage us to share what is on our hearts as we travel through the Bible. This is going to take 35 weeks, and there will be much to share and explore. I believe that if we approach this study with pure consciences and humility...we will learn of God. There will be serious transformation in many of us.

I've already posted the first of the series. I encourage everyone to listen to it, and meditate on the verses. I realize that there is much meat to digest in the first few chapters of Genesis! Brother Zac moves through the chapters and verses, highlighting the areas he feels deserves the most attention and interpolation.

"In the beginning God..."

And this is our beginning, too. The beginning of our voyage. May we put God the Holy Spirit first in all our posts here, may the Lord breathe life into the pile of cyberdust here and say it is good. May he separate the light from the darkness here and say it is good.

Has anyone listened to the first message yet?

Brother Paul

**Re: Through the Entire Bible with Zac Poonen - anyone care to join me on SI? - posted by ZealForTruth, on: 2007/6/26 2**

To all you people who have not had the blessing to meet Zac Poonen in real life, I was want to say that he is truly a man of God! I met him earlier this year at a convention, and was awed at his simple, yet profound insight into the Bible. Many times I listen to preachers who use such big words that I don't even understand what they're trying to say. And like the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 1:17 "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect." I have found this to be very true of brother Zac's humble demeanor. Although I'm pretty young (only 22) and work as a security guard in the summer, I have downloaded every single one of his preachings and constantly feel the presence of God as I listen to his sermons on my MP3 player while I'm on shift. May God help us take heed to His word through brother Zac and may it bring forth much fruit in our lives!

**In the beginning - posted by crsschk (), on: 2007/6/26 23:02**

Quote:

-----Has anyone listened to the first message yet?  
-----

Well, to be honest I started last night and somehow nodded off about midway through ... Not due to Zac! Just ... long story.

Quote:

-----These studies are truly life transforming...and I believe God is working to instill discipline in the lives of His children. Discipline can begin with only two days a week, and for some people this will be the first time ever making it through the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation.  
-----

Brother, that was exactly what occurred to me, that this would be a discipline to do so and I am going to join in his as well, a tremendous idea brother.

What did grab my attention straight away (while it was still coherent) was his taking note of the usage of 'created' and 'made'. As simple as it sounds just that distinction ...

**Re: - posted by tjservant (), on: 2007/6/26 23:26**

Quote:

-----I believe God is working to instill discipline in the lives of His children.  
-----

Discipline.

I need it.

I'm in.

**Re: Through the Entire Bible with Zac Poonen - anyone care to join me on SI? - posted by seanjol (), on: 2007/6/27 6:49**

I am in as well. Started listening last night. I have also seen Zac in person a few years ago and was deeply impressed by his humility and desire to please God. I pray God would richly bless our time in this endeavor.

I was already convicted and blessed by his statement about reading the bible for knowledge or life. Many times it's been about knowledge for me. May it be always about life from here forward.

Blessings,

Sean

**Re: - posted by running2win (), on: 2007/6/27 7:05**

I just listened to the first one last night. There's so much to learn from it that's impossible to retain it all! I'd say what blessed me the most was his first point about "in the beginning God-" and the need for it to be that way in every part of my life. Why do I do the things I do? Is it because in the beginning when I was reasoning as to whether or not I would do some specific thing God was the first consideration? I pray that it might be that way with me and all others who love God.

**Re: Through the Entire Bible with Zac Poonen - anyone care to join me on SI? - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/6/27 7:05**

one part that spoke to me, was that on the seventh day God rested, but that day was man's first day, so we need one day "before" we work, not the other way around.

Just one of the many things that God showed me in this first part.

**Re: - posted by Josiah777 (), on: 2007/6/27 9:26**

What stood out to me:

2 Cor 3:18 how we meditate on Jesus Christ and how the Scriptures reveal Him.

God's zeal that the light not be mixed up with the darkness - how I need to trust Him to work this work of separating for me.

"Whenever you accuse other people, your fellowship with God is gone" (in referring to Adam accusing Eve). This has been a principle from Zac's ministry that has been a GREAT safeguard for me to see when I accuse (starts in my thought life) that I am holding hands with the devil instead of interceding with my Lord Jesus. I say that because I have such a self-righteous propensity that wants to immediately criticize and accuse other believers, and being able to recognize the true nature of that spirit has gripped me in such a way as to run to the Lord to deliver me and love that person like He does.

Ken

**Re: - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2007/6/27 9:34**

Quote:  
-----"Whenever you accuse other people, your fellowship with God is gone" (in referring to Adam accusing Eve). This has been a principle from Zac's ministry that has been a GREAT safeguard for me to see when I accuse (starts in my thought life) that I am holding hands with the devil instead of interceding with my Lord Jesus.  
-----

Yes, this stood out to me also. Then Zac also spoke about how Ham told his brothers about Noah's drunken nakedness. Ham's brothers on the other hand covered their father's nakedness. A curse was pronounced on Ham because he chose to expose (no pun intended) his father's sin.

What a sobering warning, oh let us be very careful before we speak about others' faults, especially those in authority. Let us rather turn that same searching eye on our own hearts.

In Christ,

Ron

Re:, on: 2007/6/27 11:07

Quote:  
-----InTheLight:  
What a sobering warning, oh let us be very careful before we speak about others faults, especially those in authority. Let us rather turn that same searching eye on our own hearts.  
-----

That also struck me. When I am in close fellowship with God I will not be focusing on others faults but rather what God is doing on my own life and the needs that are there! This ties in to my dad's sermon this past Sunday and I quote from my notes:

"The only problem in my life is me. Once that problem's taken care of I won't have any more problems." It's easy to blame our problems and difficulties on other people...but as we draw close to God He will show us the root problems in our lives.

The other thing that I noticed was on the tree of knowledge and the tree of life. At first bro. Zac was talking about the danger of going to the Scriptures for knowledge alone and that didn't really strike me until he mentioned the tree of knowledge and how many people will choose knowledge over life and that made me stop and think about the deep truth that is there. And why do we desire knowledge? Doesn't knowledge puff up? 1 Cor. 8:1. Could this be a self-centered focus of studying Scriptures so that I will know a lot so others will think highly of me? Hmm, there's a lot there.

Here's a quote I read that tied in to studying the Scriptures:

"Believers are strong only as the Word of God abides in them. The Word of God is spirit and life to those who receive it in simple faith, and it is a verifier of all who own its sway." - Smith Wigglesworth.

This first teaching was very rich and I have scarcely begun to soak in all that is there. I hope to go over this message at least once more and take careful notes.

~Joy

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/6/27 23:26

Quote:  
-----When I am in close fellowship with God I will not be focusing on others faults but rather what God is doing on my own life and the needs that are there!  
-----

Yes, this is a true sign that you are in right fellowship with God. You stop looking at others and begin seeing all the holes and cracks in your own vessel. You suddenly see that you are a leaky mess! I know that I am not right with God, for example, the moment I began finding faults with my wife. This usually happens when I've taken a hiatus from the Word of God. I find it very profitable to study the great men of God in the Bible, like Abraham and Joseph, and observe how they treated others and reacted to injustices. They were very humble and gracious, and so I ought to be. God can make you like this, if you bow to His authority as clay to the Potter's hand.

Quote:  
-----And why do we desire knowledge? Doesn't knowledge puff up? 1 Cor. 8:1. Could this be a self-centered focus of studying Scripture so that I will know a lot so others will think highly of me? Hmm, there's a lot there.  
-----

There sure is! An ocean of self large enough to drown in. God constantly deals with analyzing the *motives* for doing all that we do. He looks to our hearts and His arrows of correction always hit the bullseye. A good way to observe God's archery skill is to read the Bible with the anticipation of standing in a pulpit to share the jewels the Holy Ghost gives you.



**Re: - posted by tjservant (), on: 2007/6/27 23:34**

Quote:  
-----God constantly deals with analyzing the motives for doing all that we do. He looks to our hearts and His arrows of correction always hit the bullseye. A good way to observe God's archery skill is to read the Bible with the anticipation of standing in a pulpit to share the jewels the Holy Ghost gives you.  
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: -)

**Re: Genesis, part 2 - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/6/28 22:01**

Saints,

Here is part 2 of Genesis. There is much meat to digest in it, as Zac touches on money and false Christianity and paints a very warm, human picture of Abraham and his exploits which helped shape the Jerusalem of God's divine purpose and plan. Take special note to the constant juxtaposition Poonen employs between the spirit of Jerusalem versus the spirit of Babylon, both of which have their beginnings in the book of Genesis.

Above all, be blessed during this study.

Brother Paul

(<http://64.34.176.235/sermons/SID2235.mp3>) Genesis, part 2

**Re: - posted by BeYeDoers (), on: 2007/6/29 1:04**

I was surprised to hear that Brother Poonen subscribed to the gap theory, especially for someone who is so careful with the scriptures. Although Jer. 4:23 may lend a little more credence, it still seems like an incredible amount of speculation. Is this a more prevailing thought on this forum?

But Oh the blessings from the first message! The "first day Sabbath" to "acovenantal commandments" were new to me and have had somewhat of a liberating effect. Praise be to God! Can't wait for the next 69!

**Re: Gap Theory - posted by Josiah777 (), on: 2007/6/29 6:03**

Hello BeYeDoers,

Regarding your comment/question on the "gap theory". I will give a little background to some readers who might not know what that is. Basically people read Genesis 1:1 - 1:2 with two different trains of thought. The first is that God created the heavens and earth (in verse 1) and verse 2 describes HOW God created the earth--He created it without form and void and darkness over the face of the deep. For the sake of giving it a title, I guess we could say this is the "non-gap theory".

The other way Bible students have looked at it is with a "gap", that is, an insertion of a lengthy interval of time that occurred between verses 1 and 2. In addition to the Jer. 4:23 passage already referenced, they will go to Isaiah 45:18 which specifically says God did NOT create the earth "in vain" (same word as "without form" in Gen. 1:2). So the conclusion drawn is that God did NOT initially create the earth "without form" (Hebrew word means a waste, a desolation, a desert, a worthless thing). The line of thought, then, would be that verse 2 describes something different than a perfect creation in verse 1. That idea (drawn from Scripture) is what some have labeled "the gap theory". Now Poonen and others have speculated that the fall of Lucifer from heaven is what caused that flood, destroying the perfectly created earth to the ruined state we see in verse 2. Nobody can definitively say that, because the Bible isn't focusing on that story, but is plausible for it fits in with the character and destructive nature of Satan, the devil.

I have read/heard teachers--godly men--who ascribe to either point of view. The Bible is full of many things that are true, but what is the main point the Holy Spirit is emphasizing here? We have to step back and see what is God's point for mentioning verses 1 and 2. Was it to draw our attention to the "non-gap theory" or the "gap theory"? Or was it to draw our attention that God can take something that is shapeless, empty and full of darkness and make it into something beautiful and glorious and God Himself with perfect omniscience see it to be "very good"? I favor the latter. The creation as it is pictured here parallels the new creation, for while we were sinners, we were shapeless (no image of Christ), empty (not filled with God) and full of darkness. That is the main point brother Zac is drawing from these verses that we should take courage in. What a wonderful, awesome thing that God would come to us and undertake this glorious work of transformation!

Your brother in Christ,

Ken

**Re: - posted by divdasunder (), on: 2007/6/29 6:26**

This is a wonderful idea.  
I'm in.

**Re: - posted by strawrifle (), on: 2007/6/29 6:54**

Hi i was surprised at the first sermon to..I have heard a little about the gap theory.I always though gap people believed there's a gap between each day.I've not heard it preached theres a gap between verse 1 and 2..I guess the question is if there's not a gap between 1 and 2 when did Satan rebel?

andy

**Re: Famine in Egypt - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/6/29 19:25**

This second message is exceedingly rich.

These teachings are very clean, and the Holy Spirit is able to move and bless through them. We know there's life in this study, for the Dove always returns to us with an olive branch after each message. Life! Beautiful, vibrant, eternal life.

I like what brother Zac had to say about Abraham going down to Egypt during the famine. It was a test! The Lord knew there'd be a famine in Canaan, yet that didn't stop Him from sending Abraham there. Oh, the blessed implications. A test in the school of God! I think of all the times I blow it and headed down the Egypt when bread gets scarce.

The modern gospel teaches believers to head to Egypt, that Pharaoh is God. How many minds have been raped and ravaged by the prosperity preachers who tell us that God sends believers to Egypt during famines. I've heard testimonies of people saying that they "told" God what they wanted in prayer: a blue Toyota 4-Runner with leather interior, sun roof, fully-loaded. And then they went to the car lot and found *exactly* what they asked! And for the exact price they wanted to pay for it, not a penny more!

And as they give their testimony, people whoop and holler in church, praising God. I don't believe these people are deliberately evil; they're just misinformed, and some are brainwashed. They've been trained, like Pavlov's dogs, where to find bread when they hear the bell.

Brother Paul

**Re: Returning to the Place of the Altar - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/6/30 8:19**

In Genesis 12:10 we read that Abram "went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was grievous in the land." Not long after, we see him prompting Sarai to tell a lie to cover his true identity. "Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: *that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.*"

Notice what happens when we decide to "jump ship", so to speak, and remove ourselves from the place God has planted us. I remember one such case, a few years ago, when I was driving forklifts in a dirty warehouse. I hated this job, but *new* God had put me there for a season of undetermined length. So, I endured the famine - one year, two years, three years. Finally, I couldn't take it anymore...and that's when the test came. A ticket to Egypt. A man from my church had his own A/C installation business and I offered to work for him. I quit my warehouse job, and went down to Egypt where there was bread.

But I soon realized it was a terrible mistake! The business, it turned out, was shady, and a bad witness had cast a pall over my name...and everyone else associated with his company was stigmatized as well. I found myself invariably sucked into daily profane communication, and my conscience haunted me every night.

I quit at last - right before the law stepped in and the owners were indicted on fraud charges. God was exceedingly gracious towards me, and healed me, and brought me back to the old altar I had erected in my heart...and I once again called on His name.

"Then he (Abram) went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, to the place where his tent had been in the beginning, between Bethel and Hai; *unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first:* and there Abram called on the name of the Lord" (Gen. 13:3-4).

I want to say that if you've gone to Egypt and flunked the test...there's an old altar between Bethel (the house of God) and Hai (or Ai - *The Heap*). You'll find the altar still standing between the messy heap you've made and God. We who are coming from Egypt should call on Him from that old altar. Canaan is on the horizon!

Brother Paul

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/6/30 8:43**

there is very much that spoke to me in this, was the part about abraham went into egypt, and that he failed one time how much "trouble" came from that one time.... much to meditate on, and i found also the part where he spoke about the money issue to be very good, and about the babylonian "spirit".... this message deserves to be re-listened to

Christian

**Re: staying in Haran - posted by running2win (), on: 2007/6/30 16:28**

I would have to say that the part of message 2 that ministered to me the most was Zac saying that even if in a moment of weakness and weariness we decide to stay in Haran because of the difficulties of our journey, if we are sincere then God is faithful to remove the hindrances (Abram's father) and lovingly push us out of Haran into our journey again. God is faithful even when the flesh is weak and stumbles. He doesn't just say "some follower you are!" but out of love He does those things necessary to keep a stubborn child obedient.

**Re: Finishing Up Genesis - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/7/2 18:46**

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2568>) Genesis, part 3

Saints, here is the next installment, beginning with Isaac's wedding and ending with Joseph's coffin in Egypt. Pay particular attention to Zac's deep insights and practical parallels found in the life and character of Jacob the "grabber/deceiver". You'll be tremendously blessed by this study, and eager to dive straight into Exodus!

Brother Paul

**Re: the blessing of Abraham - posted by Josiah777 (), on: 2007/7/5 9:15**

This last one in Genesis was a great one in drawing out both positive and negative characteristics of the patriarchs that are really practical. I've been put on guard in my own heart, especially about partiality towards my children. The most impacting truth for me has been the blessing of Abraham, being a blessing to all the families of the earth. We, as Jesus' body, are fulfilling that promise to Abraham. That promise has fueled many an expectation and intercession that not only does God want to bless those I meet, but their whole family as well! I see this as God's heart to those who don't know Him yet, and that however the Lord sees fit to use me to be a blessing to them in sharing the gospel, it goes so far beyond what our eyes can see.

Be blessed and be a blessing in Christ,

Ken

**Re: - posted by running2win (), on: 2007/7/5 9:53**

I'm always tremendously blessed whenever I hear someone expound on Jacob at Peniel wrestling with God. What an encouragement to think what God can do in changing the life of a cheating deceiver into a prince of God! I wish Zac had spent more time on that passage!

**Re: - posted by Tears\_of\_joy, on: 2007/7/5 10:09**

Brother Paul, may I suggest something:

As you are adding new sermons in a new post, could you also edit and make a list on your first post with the messages, and as you add new one, also to add it in the first post. As the number of messages will grow it will be easier for following.

Thanks,  
Kire

**Re: Jacob at Peniel - posted by Josiah777 (), on: 2007/7/5 11:47**

Quote:  
-----I'm always tremendously blessed whenever I hear someone expound on Jacob at Peniel wrestling with God. What an encouragement to think what God can do in changing the life of a cheating deceiver into a prince of God! I wish Zac had spent more time on that passage!  
-----

Jeff,

Zac has a more detailed teaching on Jacob at Peniel in "(Genesis) - Part 24" (page 7 of Zac Poonen). You may find what you're looking for there :-)

Ken

**Re: Gap Theory - posted by spoonen (), on: 2007/7/5 17:42**

Quote:  
-----I was surprised to hear that Brother Poonen subscribed to the gap theory, especially for someone who is so careful with the scriptures. Although Jer. 4:23 may lend a little more credence, it still seems like an incredible amount of speculation. Is this a more prevailing thought on this forum?  
-----

By the way, Brother Zac has a short article dealing with this very subject on his website, entitled ([http://poonen.org/zac/the\\_creation\\_of\\_the\\_earth\\_and\\_the\\_origin\\_of\\_satan.html](http://poonen.org/zac/the_creation_of_the_earth_and_the_origin_of_satan.html)) The Creation of the Earth and the Origin of Satan.

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/7/5 18:02**

Quote:  
-----By the way, Brother Zac has a short article dealing with this very subject on his website, entitled The Creation of the Earth and the Origin of Satan.  
-----

Brother, are you one of Zac's sons? Welcome, and God bless you. It's a wonderful privilege to have you here, joining our study. God has used your dad to bless multitudes of believers - least of all this man here.

Brother Paul

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/7/5 18:06**

Quote:  
-----As you are adding new sermons in a new post, could you also edit and make a list on your first post with the messages, and as you add new one, also to add it in the first post. As the number of messages will grow it will be easier for following.  
-----

A great idea, brother. Sorry I didn't think of it sooner. I'll try to doctor it up somewhat. I also want to provide a link to Zac Poonen's homepage each time I update a new study, so people can be blessed with the additional free resources found on his website.

Thank you, Kire.

Brother Paul

**Re:, on: 2007/7/5 22:29**

Ah, this last one was so rich. There were so many points that I wanted to hear expounded on even more. :) I'm a little behind in sharing what has blessed me. One thing that stuck out from session two was don't be moved by man, but be moved by God. It is so easy to lean on man's opinion even as Abraham was. It takes more time and discipline to wait on God to hear what He desires of us.

I loved the analogy of Eliezer talking to the Rebekah the bride not about the blessings that the bridegroom or his father would provide but about the bridegroom himself. And even so now the Holy Spirit wants to talk to us, the Bride of Christ, about Jesus our Bridegroom.

Another thing was the name Rehoboth, 'The Lord hath made room for us', and the truth of not pushing and grabbing for what I want but leaving that in God's hands and trusting Him to provide. It is humbling to take the 'leftovers' and trust God that it will be sufficient, but it is far better than being disillusioned and disappointed by giving in to our worldly lusts and finding the emptiness that comes from such selfish actions.

And then there was the part on serving the Lord with love and passion even as Jacob served so many years for Rachel. *Do you find your labor for the Lord heavy? It's because you don't love the Lord' Let your service be out of love, it will not be heavy.*

I could go on and on, like about Jacob finally letting go of all these things he had been seeking and just wanting God...but I'll just recommend that everyone take the time to listen to these messages and soak in the deep lessons that are found in them. :)

~Joy

Re: Exodus - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/7/5 22:32

Saints,

We have begun Exodus. If you've made it through all three parts of Genesis, you can clearly see how rich God's Word is, how much meat can be extracted from even the most mundane-looking verses. Brother Zac teaches us from the Word of God that the riches are below the ground, the diamonds and gold and silver are hidden deep beneath the surface of this planet. The stuff on top of the ground is cheap: mud, grass, dirt, sticks, worthless rocks. These studies should inspire us to make it a habit of searching *below the ground* for the riches God has hidden. It is the Father's good will that we discover His treasures.

Jesus said that the Helper will open the scriptures to us. As we begin Exodus, notice the opening and insight into the stages of brokenness God had to take Moses through before He could finally use him. It took God 20 years to make Jacob; it took God 40 years to make Moses; how many years will it take Him to make you and me? Zac makes a wonderful comparison between the school of God and a secular university. A university typically has a four-year degree program where in any diligent student can aspire for a Bachelor's degree. But whether or not the student achieves the degree in four years depends on the student. God may need only ten years to break us to where we can be of use to Him...ah, but we can resist and rebel and it can end up taking twenty years for something that should only take ten. Although there is no finality to our walk this side of heaven, I *do* believe God can break a man or woman to the point where He can finally say, **"I can now send you out to accomplish what I need you to do."** And when this happens, when God gets His Moses, His Wigglesworth, His Andrew Murray, His Moody, His Keith Daniel, His Art Katz, the world staggers.

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2569>) Exodus, part 1

I encourage everyone to visit brother Zac's (<http://www.poonen.org/zac>) homepage on the web. You'll find biographical information and downloads and numerous edifying articles to read.

Brother Paul

p.s. I've taken brother Kire's good advice and updated the first post of this thread. There you will find a running tab of the messages we've covered. I hope this makes it easier to follow along!

Re: - posted by spoonen (), on: 2007/7/6 15:19

Quote:  
-----Brother, are you one of Zac's sons? Welcome, and God bless you. It's a wonderful privilege to have you here, joining our study. God has used your dad to bless multitudes of believers - least of all this man here.  
-----

Yes, Paul, I am -- the second of four.

Thank you for initiating this thread. Even though I've listened to these messages many times over, it's been refreshing to go through them again together with you all from all over the world, and especially to hear how different aspects of the messages are an encouragement. All praise and glory to our Father alone!

The best testimony I can give about my Dad and Mom is that the things that have been preached through their ministry, I was blessed to witness firsthand in the *every day* aspects of their lives. In that, they showed me by example, that the true Christian life was a life of secret reality, and that to really follow Jesus meant living a life that was hidden with God (Colossians 3:1-4) as He Himself did when He walked on this earth. That witness is exactly the opposite of what is portrayed by many of today's money-loving and fame-hungry preachers, but it is the only kind of witness that will ultimately be a blessing to others.

One last thing... regarding Jacob at Peniel. The second chapter of Zac's book ([http://www.cfcindia.com/web/mainpages/book\\_window.php?bookbeauty\\_for\\_ashes](http://www.cfcindia.com/web/mainpages/book_window.php?bookbeauty_for_ashes)) Beauty For Ashes delves into this in more detail, if you're interested. That is still one of my favorite stories from the Old Testament.

May you be encouraged today!

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/7/6 22:49**

Quote:  
-----The best testimony I can give about my Dad and Mom is that the things that have been preached through their ministry, I was blessed to witness firsthand in the every day aspects of their lives.  
-----

Dear brother,

How blessed you are, to have been raised by such godly parents. My parents were the exact antithesis of this; my dad was a violent drunkard and abused my mother and a terrible divorce shattered my youth. I picked up many bad habits from my father, and it looked as though I was heading down the same path...when God suddenly took hold of me in a very dramatic way. It's all broken now, the curse, and the blood of Jesus has set me free. But just reading your post so blessed me, brother! I certainly didn't have what you had, but I am so happy to say that we both have the same Father now!

You must have some remarkable testimonies concerning your dad and how he raised you and your three brothers, alongside the humble, godly woman your mother is. Dear brother, if the Lord shall ever lead you...please share. I believe that this study is blessed by God, and I know that anything you share pertaining to your dad's messages will just open a myriad of thoughts and additional wealth that can only help this community grow!

Be blessed and encouraged!

Brother Paul

**Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2007/7/7 1:04**

What a wonderful discovery. Thank you spoonen for dropping in, I do not know that I could add much beyond Paul, only a warm welcome and hope to hear from you more often. It was a great pleasure to meet your father earlier this year when he was in the Bay Area.

**Re: The Tabernacle - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/7/9 22:28**

Saints,

We've arrived at the second half of Exodus -- the construction of the Tabernacle. I've had to listen to this message multiple times in my car, and each time I hear it, I catch something startlingly new. Needless to say, this is very, very rich, full of revelatory symbolisms and wonderful spiritual applications. I don't think I've ever heard someone break down the details of the Tabernacle in such a practical, illuminating way. The lessons taught in this study go down deep. I pray you take the time to meditatively hear this; I guarantee you'll never read the second half of Exodus the same again.

Brother Paul

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2570>) Exodus, part 2

Brother Poonen's homepage is [www.poonen.org/zac](http://www.poonen.org/zac)

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/7/10 2:04**

yes the part about the tabernacle was truly very rich, and what it is that draws people to church, what attracts people to come,

and everything about the "hidden" life in our christian life



**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/7/10 8:33**

Particularly wonderful was the discussion of the curtains of the tent. The outer curtain being made of badger's skin -- ugly, dusty, brown. This is what everyone saw from the outside of the Tabernacle; no beauty to be desired by the onlooker. All the glory was within, all the beauty was layed out for those who entered in. As was said of Jesus, there was no beauty that men should desire Him. He was despised and rejected. But once you entered through the gate, the curtains you saw on the *inside* were no longer of badger skin; they were intricately interwoven with beautiful design.

What a profound spiritual lesson we can learn from just the curtains! What Zac said was powerful: that many believers have the Tabernacle curtains reversed, that many believers have the beautiful patterns and delicate designs on the *outside*, whereas the ugly, dirty badger skin is hanging on the inside.

Brother Paul

**Re: the glory of the inner life of the Christian - posted by Josiah777 (), on: 2007/7/10 9:23**

Yes, those aspects stood out to me too, about the glory of the inside being far superior than the outside. "Your inner life must be better than other people can see." I also appreciated the insight of keeping God's word fresh in your heart by being in His presence. "It only takes one day for the freshness to go" (referring to the manna breeding worms the next day).

Ken

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/7/10 22:29**

Quote:

-----"It only takes one day for the freshness to go" (referring to the manna breeding worms the next day).  
-----

Yes, the manna that fell from heaven spawned worms in 24 hours. Like Zac said, that's fast! Raw meat won't even bring forth worms that fast. This explains how I can hear God's voice speak to my heart through a verse of Scripture one day, and the next day read the same verse and not have an equally dynamic heart-penetration. Manna was to be eaten the day it fell -- with no leftovers. More manna is falling today, but not necessarily in the same spot it fell yesterday. It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; it is the glory of kings to search it out.

This also explains how we can do a Bible study and write powerful notes on our page margins...and see the same scriptures months later and not blink an eye. In fact, there's been times I've gone over my notes, scratching my head. "How in the world did I get *that* from this verse?" And then, suddenly, it all comes back. "Ahhh! I remember now!" It's during these times I realize how deep some of God's choice jewels lay. And I'll tell you what: If we aren't constantly *digging* into scripture, the jewels that once surfaced will be buried again. You go out to the middle of the desert and leave a diamond ring on a sand dune. Come back in a few months and see if it's still there. It'll be under the sand.

Brother Paul

**Re: Leviticus - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/7/12 20:33**

We've arrived at the book of (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2571>) Leviticus.

When I read through the Bible, I always approach this book with a deep breath and a gulp. I'll admit that it's a pretty tough book to read...and it's certainly a chore to finish it with undivided focus and attention to the details.

Brother Zac does a great job of outlining the feasts and sacrifices and has some pretty amazing insight into the ceremonial laws concerning lepers. I was very blessed. This is really an amazing book when you have a wise brother to walk you through it! New Testament parallels to Jesus Christ are virtually everywhere, as brother Zac so aptly demonstrates, and the gems uncovered by his shovel should whet your appetite to go and do some digging yourself! There's gold in the hills! This study on holiness is not to be missed!

Brother Paul



Zac Poonen's homepage is ([www.poonen.org/zac](http://www.poonen.org/zac)) here.

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/7/12 21:17**

a very good message, i must say this book is, much longer then it seems wile reading it, but still i would say it is one of the most important books, and when listening to bro Zac Poonens teaching and how he opens the scripture up, it is a blessing,

the false fire part was very good in ch 10, i aslo liked the part about speaking if Jesus had stayed and conducted the revival in joh 4 it would have been sin for him

quote:

...Sin at the PHD-Level... :-P

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/7/12 22:02**

Quote:

-----, i aslo liked the part about speaking if Jesus had stayed and conducted the revival in joh 4 it would have been sin for him

Yes, sin at the PhD level! When he said that, I just smiled. It's so true. He's talking about the School of God, you know. I look back to when I first became a Christian, and I was doing things then that I could never do today without repenting! And I did them with a clear conscience. God holds us responsible for the light we presently have. The entering of His Word brings light, and the more we hide His Word in our hearts, the more the light is imparted for our path. And the more light we have for our path, the more we see things that were once in the shadows.

Brother Paul

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/7/16 22:18**

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2572>) Numbers

This study on the book of Numbers is outstanding. Zac mines the most wonderful gems...but he doesn't polish them. He quickly presents them to us and then moves on. If you want to stand around and enjoy their luster, you need to go and dig them yourself. Zac only proves how rich the field is, how much potential riches there are for those that seek life at the feet of Jesus.

[www.poonen.org/zac](http://www.poonen.org/zac)

**Re: - posted by running2win (), on: 2007/7/17 13:03**

It's been awhile since I last posted on this thread because I usually leave work before the lesson is posted :- ( so I don't get to listen to it until Tuesday night. Anyway, just a question Paul, are all of the lessons here on SI? I looked for Numbers last night before I left work but couldn't find it.

Leviticus is an amazing book. I really enjoyed that lesson. Especially in taking special notice of the fact that God cares about us and our lives even down to the small details. So we ought to think of *Him* in every little small detail of our lives. To live as carefully and Christ-like as we possibly can. Or rather to seek God to make us as Christ-like as we possibly can be.

Again I say, God bless you brother Paul for starting this, it has been a tremendous blessing even though I've been a day behind with the Bible study.

I wonder what can be done to revive the conversation on this thread:-P ?! It's been somewhat lacking, myself included!

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/7/17 13:11**

something God showed me in this message was the "discipline" part and all that broZac shared about that, I need more discipline in my own life.

**Re: Excellent Studies - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/7/17 20:22**

Quote:  
-----Anyway, just a question Paul, are all of the lessons here on SI? I looked for Numbers last night before I left work but couldn't find it.  
-----

Yes, brother. They are all on SI in the Poonen archive -- you just need to search for them. Not all of them start alphabetically under "Thru the Bible"; sometimes they're under the individual book's name.

Quote:  
-----Leviticus is an amazing book. I really enjoyed that lesson.  
-----

The study on Leviticus is astounding, I agree. The lessons are getting more and more powerful. I've listened to Deuteronomy three times already, and I'm basically in awe. God is really speaking to me through this humble man, and the Spirit is able to do this because Poonen's scripture insights and teachings are so very clean.

Quote:  
-----Again I say, God bless you brother Paul for starting this, it has been a tremendous blessing even though I've been a day behind with the Bible study.  
-----

You're welcome, dear brother. A million times over.

Quote:  
-----I wonder what can be done to revive the conversation on this thread  
-----

We can do it just by continuing conversations such as this. I'm not distracted by the lack of feedback thus far; I know God is faithful and many are being blessed. Mind you, we still have over 60 lessons to go! Things will heat up...especially when we get to the major prophetic books and the NT.

I leave this entire thread in the hands of God.

Be blessed! :-)

Brother Paul

**Re: - posted by Josiah777 (), on: 2007/7/18 6:37**

Quote:  
-----We can do it just by continuing conversations such as this. I'm not distracted by the lack of feedback thus far; I know God is faithful and many are being blessed. Mind you, we still have over 60 lessons to go! Things will heat up...especially when we get to the major prophetic books and the NT.  
-----

Yes, I agree, Paul. Since I have the luxury of having been through these a few years ago, I like to comment just on those which have borne fruit up until the present time. I am really glad you suggested this, and it is really great going through

them again - I missed a lot the first go-around. Like you said, we have 60+ lessons left. There will definitely be some rich topics to fellowship around as we make our way through God's holy word.

Have a blessed day enjoying and being thoroughly satisfied with our exceedingly rich Savior,

Ken

**Re:, on: 2007/7/18 14:48**

There were two things that really stuck out from the lesson on Numbers. The first was on discipline (like brother Christian mentioned earlier). I thought that was a good point that brother Zac made about the importance of disciplined Bible study. Even his point about Bible schools was excellent. While there may not be a perfect school out there, there are still things to be learned from one. It's been good for me in being enrolled in an online Bible school to have the discipline and accountability to study God's Word systematically. While it may not be for everyone...there are benefits!

Here is the other thing: "One of the things we see through out the wilderness wanderings is murmuring and complaining. If you are still murmuring and complaining you're still in the wilderness. One proof that we have finished the wilderness and got into Canaan land is that we have stopped complaining and started giving thanks for everything." Wow, what a thought that is! Once we reach that point of absolute brokenness and dependence we will be grateful for a *nothing* that we receive! Anything good is far beyond my deserts! But oh to keep that realization ever before me!

Did this strike anyone else on the murmuring and complaining?

**Re: The Second Law - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/7/19 19:30**

Saints,

We've arrived at the fifth and last book of Moses -  
(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2573>) Deuteronomy

You are in for an amazing blessing. There is simply so much meat here...it is quite overwhelming to describe. Pay particular attention to Moses' qualification list for leaders: *Wisdom, Discernment, Experience*. Brother Poonen really opens the magnificent pages of God's Word here. You may need to hear this lesson a few times; I assure you that this is pure meat for men to grow by. Chew slowly is my humble advice. The introduction alone is of sublime weight. God is so generous to His hungry children.

Please be blessed by these teachings. I've updated the first post on this thread, and there you'll find a running tab on the lessons we've gone over thus far.

As always, here is the link to Zac Poonen's ([www.poonen.org/zac](http://www.poonen.org/zac)) homepage

Unfeigned love,

Brother Paul

**Re: The Canaan Conquest - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/7/23 19:58**

Saints,

Here we are at (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2574>) Joshua.

There is some wonderful material here. Zac teaches the difference between the "old man" and the flesh. The "old man" has already been killed by God (i.e. Pharaoh's army), but the giants in Canaan must be killed one by one if we are to enter in and possess the land. God commands us to go and conquer the land and make no treaties with the inhabitants or spare anyone. Kill them all. He's already given us the absolute victory, and now commands us to "be **strong** and **courageous**." And even then, the strength is in Him. We move by faith and trust Him.

We find wonderful similarities between Joshua (Jesus is Greek for Yeshua) and our Saviour who goes out and leads us into victory. What a foreshadowing of what was to come in the New Testament book of Acts!

This is an extremely profitable message. I hope it generates some profound feedback -- the Word of God certainly warrants as much.

Visit [www.poonen.org/zac](http://www.poonen.org/zac)

Brother Paul

**Re: - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2007/7/23 21:13**

One thing that stuck out to me in the Numbers study was the account of Korah's rebellion in the wilderness. I believe his sin was that of spiritual pride and it was interesting how Zac pointed out how blinded Korah was by this pride, so much so that he would openly rebel even after what had happened to Miriam. Spiritual pride causes understanding and discernment to go out the window. I mean how blind can you get to think that God would accept his incense offered in pride, anger, and self-vindication? Take heed my soul.

I was also struck by how Zac talked about the sons of Korah, how they survived and went on to write some beautiful Psalms. No one sings so sweetly as one who has been delivered from death.

By the way, here is a list of the Psalms written by the sons of Korah, read them with this in mind.

42,44,45,46,47,48,49,84,85,87,88.

In Christ,

Ron

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/7/23 22:49**

Yes, the account of the sons of Korah was powerful. It's amazing how subtle this sort of pride is, the kind that breeds rebellion against God's established order. This may go off on a tangent, but I believe stuff like this happens wholesale in many churches today. The Korahs and Dathans rise up in a fellowship and split a church right down the middle, or murmur against a pastor, a man placed by God to lead a fellowship.

It's the same principle, and it still displeases God. I therefore always try to be careful in this area. Have you ever noticed how easy it is to become frustrated with a pastor or someone God has put in spiritual authority over you? I seriously challenge you to stop and consider why this is so. We've all been angry with our pastors, and have felt a surge of resentment shoot through us at one time or another. Many churchgoers actually despise their pastor's authority, and resent many of the things they do, decisions they make. When this type of spirit overcomes them, such disgruntled sheep are easily swayed away. They search scripture with a chip on their shoulder, looking for evidence to condemn the pastorate in general. I don't think people become like Korah overnight. Like the rise of many house churches, such things usually have had their long, secret genesis through wounded pride, and hidden rebellion.

Brother Paul

**Re: - posted by running2win (), on: 2007/7/24 8:35**

Quote:

-----Yes, the account of the sons of Korah was powerful. It's amazing how subtle this sort of pride is, the kind that breeds rebellion against God's established order. This may go off on a tangent, but I believe stuff like this happens wholesale in many churches today. The Korahs and Dathans rise up in a fellowship and split a church right down the middle, or murmur against a pastor, a man placed by God to lead a fellowship.

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Brother Paul

-----

Some excellent words brother. My father is the pastor of his church so I know experientially that what you have said here is SOOO true. After having seen the awful things that upset church people can do I become mortified when I notice the same tendencies in ME! God help us all to be Christ-like in every way at every moment, for none of us are above the sins of others.

I was terribly blessed by Zac's comments on the Christian life being like climbing a mountain. Perfect Christ-likeness being the summit which can only be reached when we are with Christ eternally. As I stopped to consider the matter I was overjoyed at the fact that in the school of God I can learn as fast as I want to. I can climb that mountain with as much effort as I wish and the more I put into it the farther I will go. May God make me a man that turns my generation upside down!

**Re: Roots of Bitterness - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/7/24 10:35**

I've heard people talk about my pastor, say disparaging things about him and gossip because, for example, one of his daughters happened to go astray (according to some sources). Well, even if that report is true, his daughter is a grown woman, she's married, and she makes her own choices. But for some reason, the Korahs and Dathans will try to use that against him. They'll misapply Paul's admonishments to Timothy for elders in the church -- i.e. "Elders must be able to govern their own families before they can rightly govern the church", and fail to see that this verse is talking about children still under the care and supervision of their parents, still living under their roof. My pastor raised his girls right and cannot be responsible for the decisions they make as grown, married women. They are now subject to their own husbands according to the Word of God. The Korahs will use whatever means necessary to destroy the testimony of a pastor, to thwart God's order, and to bring division.

The sin of Korah is insidious. I have to constantly guard my heart and mind from such roots of bitterness creeping in. They'll spring up overnight if we're not sober and vigilant and girding our loins of our mind daily. I know how easily such weeds can spring up in me! Nothing good exists in this old flesh, that's for sure!

Unfeigned love,

Brother Paul

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/7/24 10:47**

there was so much in this message it is worth to re-listen more than one time. Something that stood out to me was the part about the giants, they are killed one by one, and also what I like about bro Zac Poonen's messages is that they are so Christ centered. And in this message also. And about us becoming more and more like HIM.

Christian

**Re: The Backslidden Nation - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/7/26 21:35**

Saints, we come now to (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2575>) Judges and Ruth

There is some wonderful, practical preaching here; exhortations of the first rate -- especially regarding the life example of Samson. This is a lesson every Christian worker should take heed to, particularly in this day and age of sensuality and lasciviousness. Notice the cycle with the Israelites: Victory preceding backsliding...and then the cry of repentance. Only to repeat the entire cycle ad nauseum. The Lord has taught me to read these OT books concerning the plight of Israel as though the nation was one person -- me! The giants in the land, the conquests, the unbelief and failures, the hasty treaty with the Gibeonites, the sacrifices; all these symbolize some personal aspect of my walk with God. Zac's portrayal of Gideon and the symbolism behind the broken lamps and trumpets was powerful and made a deep impression.

The story of Ruth and Boaz and Naomi is so beautiful, I always weep when I read of the kindness of Boaz toward this "little dog" Moabitess, and how she falls on her face at his feet, how the two marry and from whose lineage King David and Jesus Christ come into the world. What profound typology in this story! Oh, everything was so meticulously planned by God...the foreshadowing of Messiah and the gentiles, the joining, the mystical union of the widow-bride (dead to sin) and her new Bridegroom. Zac does a beautiful job in bringing many thoughtful points into Holy Spirit illumination.

Brother Paul

Here's Zac's website, for more messages and articles: [www.poonen.org/zac](http://www.poonen.org/zac) Everything is 100% free.

**Re: - posted by Josiah777 (), on: 2007/7/27 16:12**

This one on Judges and Ruth was a real rich one! Samson's life serves as a repeated warning for me - Zac said it well: "I make my body do what it SHOULD do, not what it WANTS to do."

Gideon as a picture of Christ is powerful when put against the fear of Midianites of Gideon -- how Satan and his hosts are scared of Jesus and His followers.

Paul - that was a great insight you shared from Ruth...a widow (Ruth, being dead to sin) being joined to the Lord (typified by Boaz, the Kinsman-Redeemer). I'll have to meditate on that some more :-)

Ken

**Re: More gleanings from Ruth - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/7/28 12:00**

Quote:  
-----a widow (Ruth, being dead to sin) being joined to the Lord (typified by Boaz, the Kinsman-Redeemer). I'll have to meditate on that some more  
-----

Yes, brother, it's a fabulous typology. I remember the first time I really read Ruth and the Holy Spirit began showing me the parallels. I sat there in amazement...and even called my wife: "Honey, check this out!" I showed her what the Spirit of God had opened to me, and even without first reading Matthew Henry! The picture of a gentile "foreigner" gleaning heavenly bread from the field of Christ, her widowhood, severed from her husband the law (correlated by Paul later in the book of Galatians) and now joined to Boaz, a picture of Christ. The falling on the face before Boaz, marvelling at the grace shown her. The literal redeeming act, the commanding of Boaz to his servants to "not touch her", a picture Jesus protecting us from the molestation of evil.

And to put the icing on the cake, God using this actual union to *physically* bring the *literal* Messiah into the world who would fulfill all this in the eternal spiritual! It is all too wonderful for words, so I will stop here.

Ruth is a tremendous, tremendous book.

Brother Paul

**Re:, on: 2007/7/28 12:08**

Who is Zac Poonen? I have never heard of him until SI. Is he good? Is he doctrinally accurate?

**Re: Zac Poonen - posted by crsschk (), on: 2007/7/28 12:20**

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/viewcat.php?cid157>) Zac Poonen

You might try:

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid3176>) The Way of the Cross

Yes, he is a rare preacher in our day, his ministry is based in India and has been a great teacher to many of us.

**Re:, on: 2007/7/28 14:08**

Quote:

-----

crsschk wrote:

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/viewcat.php?cid157>) Zac Poonen

You might try:

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid3176>) The Way of the Cross

Yes, he is a rare preacher in our day, his ministry is based in India and has been a great teacher to many of us.

-----

thank you for the link.

**Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2007/7/28 15:30**

Quote:

-----Who is Zac Poonen?... Is he doctrinally accurate?

-----

Many here will commend this man to you. For my part I can offer that brother Poonen brings to mind John 7.

How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?

Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

Consider the simple yet rich series "Through the Bible" presented in this thread. Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee. He is not a dynamic powerful personality, or a brilliant theologian, but nevertheless there is flowing through him an abundant stream in the desert.

Blessings,

MC

**Re: Saul and David - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/7/31 0:03**

Saints,

We continue onward with (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2576>) 1 Samuel

Zac Poonen is the only teacher I've ever heard expound on the *honorable* qualities of King Saul. I was impressed, as it is somewhat of an indication of how much grace Mr. Poonen has in his heart. Most preachers excoriate Saul, they use him as the pinnacle example of how pride and jealousy and disobedience can destroy the plan God has for a man. I myself have preached on this, and have used poor Saul as the notorious example.

How surprised I was to hear young Saul portrayed in a gracious light, a good light, an *honorable* light! It convicted me heavily; it showed me how a mature man of God approaches topics such as this. This simple fact made a greater impression on me than anything else, really...and this message is filled to the brim with wisdom and great truth. David and Saul, what a wonderful story to meditate on. Listen to this message and be amazed and humbled. The Holy Spirit is speaking to those with ears to hear.

Brother Paul



www.poonen.org/zac

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/7/31 5:17**

i was specially touched by that part where he spoke about being a worshiper of God, and how Saul "missed" out because he was not a worshiper and how we need to be worshipers of God like Abraham who left a trail of altars behind him.

And also it struck me how much "good" Zac Poonen draws out from this man's life all the good qualities Saul had, much more than me I must admit

and how this can work as a warning to myself! not to trust in anything "good" in me. But only in the Lord

and again, this inspires me to be a worshiper of the most high almighty God! no matter if one has a ministry or not or what ever we do, we need to be worshipers....

this was a wonderful hour!

God bless you all  
Christian

**Re: - posted by Josiah777 (), on: 2007/7/31 9:06**

Those nuggets about King Saul losing the kingdom are really sobering. The point Zac made about recognizing your ministry and staying within the boundaries God has given you is so key. Zac once had an illustration about a circle and one can tell whether a child colored or an adult by who stayed inside the circle. A mature Christian is content with the circle that God gives, whether it be ministry, friends, social status, material, etc. That principle has really set me free over the years.

The one warning about Samuel's children going astray has also been a safeguard about being critical. The admonition was not to judge the children of godly leaders because we don't know all the additional pressures and attacks they get from Satan. That has liberated my mind from being critical and leaving judging up to God and me siding up with Jesus to intercede in mercy.

A great hour of God's Word!

Ken

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/7/31 19:42**

Quote:

-----A mature Christian is content with the circle that God gives, whether it be ministry, friends, social status, material, etc.  
-----

Yes, this is an important concept to grasp; learning to stay within the boundaries God draws around us. Being able to identify where your property line ends, so to speak. If you're not sure where, stay inside! God gives grace to the humble, and I've discovered this to be true. This is why it's so dangerous to have zeal without knowledge. You watch a video, you have an experience, and suddenly you *take it upon yourself* to blaze a trail for God. But, unfortunately, the trail happens to be outside your circle, and so though you "step out in faith" you still have no authority.

How paradoxical! We are taught to "take it all by faith" but never informed of the boundary in which to exercise it, and the written Word on which to base it. I can have faith to preach in the market squares like Wesley and Whitefield and be used in the same capacity of effectiveness, but these are of different circles for different saints, ministries that God may have not called me to, or the timing may not be right. O how greatly we need sobriety and solid Bible teaching and wisdom and patience in our midst. The wisdom to stay rooted and broken till God moves us in His power.

Like Zac said, it need not take 40 years for God to break us, but one thing is certain: we must be broken. I believe the m



ore we allow God to break us in our daily conversation, the more we will begin to see a fuller picture and understand the se things. The outline of our circle will become clear, and ironically, the more we mature in God, the tighter the circle will appear. Brethren, I have found that the tighter the circle, the *greater* the discernment, knowledge, and intimacy one is aff orded with God.

Brother Paul

**Re: The Legacy of David - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/8/2 21:43**

Dear Saints,

It's time to begin (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2577>) 2 Samuel

As you know, 2 Samuel is the recording of the personal life and events of King David. We are shown here why David wa s regarded as a man after God own heart, notwithstanding all his mistakes and sins. Take notice of a few things: when D avid sinned with Bathsheba he was not at war; he was "sleeping" in the palace, in the lap of sufficiency and regal comfor t. As I look back at all of my own Christian failures, I also begin to see a pattern not unlike David. David would have neve r succumbed to temptation while was running from Saul and dwelling in caves. And everytime I've failed God, it's bee n during periods of spiritual repose.

Also, Zac brought up something I'd never noticed before: the retribution prescribed by David for the rich man who killed t he poor man's ewe lamb: he should have to pay back four-fold. After David said this, we see that four of his sons were ki lled, an Old Testament substantiation for a New Testament principle (i.e. Matthew 7:2).

There's plenty of wealth in this message; the Holy Spirit is speaking to you if you have ears to hear. We should gird up th e loins of our mind and soberly hear what God would speak into our lives.

Brother Paul

Zac Poonen's homepage: [www.poonen.org/zac](http://www.poonen.org/zac)

**Re: A Kingdom Divided - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/8/6 23:02**

Saints, we've arived at the book of (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2578>) 1 Kings

I really thought this was an excellent message. Poonen is always so accurate with his interpretation and balance. By virt ue of the Holy Spirit, he is able to see deep into the text and extract such beautiful diamonds of wisdom. I've read throug h these two "Kings" books so many times; in fact, they are among my all-time favorites in the Old Testament...I really lov e tracing the history of the kings from Israel and Judah, who was good, who was bad, and reading about the ministries o f Elijah and Elisha in the midst of all the wicked chaos and idolatry.

So many awesome points here to pick out and discuss. I thought Poonen's comparison of the baby being divided in half by Solomon with a picture of how leaders ought to handle church splits was superb. The real mother will let the imposter have it, rather than kill it. I'll take this concept even a bit further: quarreling over doctrine is a quick way to grieve the Spiri t, and a wise Christian will let the other brother and sister "have" the arguement, rather than quench the Spirit of God by continuing to strive. As those two prostitutes played tug-o-war with the infant, so I think we can do the same with pet doc trines, theological concepts, denominationalism, etc. Grabbing and pulling and saying "Mine!" How unwise and carnal w e must appear to the King, who watches us with flaming eyes on a throne of Eternal Wisdom. Solomon proposed to fetc h a literal sword to settle the matter; God gives us the sword of His Word and the Spirit. Where are the sincere Christian s that, like the "real mother", can give their dissenting brother or sister a superior place and say "you can have this debat e" rather than see division and spiritual death defeat the purpose?

To such who step down from the tug contest, God will esteem as peacemakers, and will impart more wisdom for future tr ials.

Brother Paul

[www.poonen.org/zac](http://www.poonen.org/zac)

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/8/7 16:03**

i was very blessed by this whole message, and what seemed to be a very good "nugget of truth" was that from david to the last king, how it just went down hill, when the next generation just knew a ritual, a doctrine, and not the God of their fathers... this seemed to me be a very good thing to take heed to, do we know God or just our "fathers" doctrines...

and also what will happened to the church when good leaders are not there... and how important it is to have godly leaders.

im getting more inspired by every message!

**Re: 2 Kings - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/8/9 22:32**

Continuing with (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2579>) 2 Kings

Again, some wonderful riches here. As Christian said, this study is really a blessing. It's amazing how after listening to these messages, you go back and read the books, and you begin to see all the things Poonen brought up, the nuances, and all kinds of wonderful meditations are initiated. I heard Warren Wiersbe say once that the *Holy Spirit does not work in a vacuum*. He instead uses Scripture and Bible-based teaching to work inner transformations in men and women. I believe these anointed commentaries on God's Word provide a such vehicle for the Holy Spirit to work these transformations. Good spiritual sustenance!

The mentioning of Gehazi receiving from Naaman compared to how Elisha received from Elijah was staggering. Here again we see a picture of the spirit of Bablylon versus the Spirit of Jerusalem.

Brother Paul

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/8/10 10:51**

Quote:

-----how it just went down hill, when the next generation just knew a ritual, a doctrine, and not the God of their father  
-----

Yes. Judah learnt nothing from the subjugation of Israel by Assyria. 130 years later they too were carried away by Babylon. Wisdom and knowledge are two different things. Knowledge is the accumulation of information; wisdom is the *application* of that knowledge in life circumstances.

Judah had knowledge of Israel's demise, but failed to apply the knowledge to her own situation. Some time ago, God began teaching me to read the Old Testament using my own life as a microcosm of what was then on epic, national proportion. *I am Israel, I am Judah*, the Land of Canaan is the New Life in Christ, the giants in the land are unsubdued passions, uncrucified lusts, etc. Poonen teaches this also. Books like Joshua and Judges and Kings and Ruth and Esther and all the other historical books take on such a glorious vibrancy when read this way...they begin to take on an incandescent vibrancy which only the Holy Spirit can ignite.

Brother Paul

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/8/11 16:55**

What spoke to me from 2 kings

1. A wise man learns from others mistakes
2. God never called a lazy man who sits around doing nothing. If you are not faithful in earthly things, how can you be in heavenly things?  
faithfulness in the little things, i was greatly convicted here.
3. Some settle for some experience. The importance not to stop, but go beyond experiences and visions or some gift or evangelism, not to be satisfied with anything but that I be conformed into (the image of) Jesus  
Many miss God's best by settling for these things.
4. Washing people's hands, feet, be willing to do the lower tasks, to be a servant, always think of myself as a servant of other people
5. Value of Godly music, and what responsibility to be in this ministry, for example worship leader in a church, what a responsibility!
6. shutting the door, and then give out the debt we have to others, the debt of Love  
many others to...

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/8/11 16:58**

Quote:

-----

PaulWest wrote:

God began teaching me to read the Old Testament using my own life as a microcosm of what was then on an epic, national proportion.

-----

what is a microcosm? :-P

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/8/11 17:47**

Quote:

-----God never called a lazy man who sits around doing nothing. If you are not faithful in earthly things, how can you be in heavenly things?

-----

This convicted me as well. It really makes you stop and examine yourself....and when I do that I see lots of areas where I fall short. This may sound strange but I am actually comforted by this! The moment I can look at myself and see that I no longer have lack and conviction, this is the moment of destruction and backsliding. If God ever does use me, it will be under the condition that I still remain a base worm and utterly unworthy of even the smallest attention of favor He might bestow upon me. We must be willing for God to make us willing to be broken.

Quote:

-----Some settle for some experience. The importance not to stop, but go beyond experiences and visions or some gift or evangelism, not to be satisfied with anything but that I be conformed into (the image of) Jesus

-----

Amen. Being around Pentecostal believers, I deal with this mindset quite frequently. I find that an 'experience' holds much spiritual clout these days, experiences of speaking in tongues, witnessing a miracle, the flowing of gifts, etc. If God uses a person in the miraculous or in some other tangible, outward means, it becomes very difficult to bring the focus back to Biblical sobriety and victory over sin and purity and humility. Everyone wants to talk about their "experiences", but a quiet, sober life hid in Christ doesn't draw much verbal enthusiasm. You'll get politely brushed aside.

I've found that I run into the same problems communicating the deeper life in Christ to most Christians as I do communicating the gospel to unbelievers. Both seem to have blinders, but in different areas.

Brother Paul

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/8/11 17:58**

Quote:

-----what is a microcosm?  
-----

Sorry, brother. *Microcosm* is actually a Greek cognate, meaning "Little World" -- *mikros kosmos*. You should have the same word in Swedish: "Mikrokosm" or something like that.

In my earlier context, it simply meant that the New Testament believer's walk with all his trials and conquests and failures is like a miniature model of the Great Epic Model, spiritually speaking, that was the plight of Israel and Judah in the Old Testament.

Brother Paul

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/8/13 22:59**

We come now to (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2580>) 1 & 2 Chronicles and Ezra.

This study has been so awesome, so rich, so life-changing. Just in the few books we've gone through thus far, I've been exposed to riches galore, and I hold the Holy Bible in more reverence than I ever did in my life. The entrance of the Word of God giveth light, and it giveth understanding to the simple. If we keep it simple, we'll get understanding. Part of the wonder and amazement behind a study such as this is the profound simplicity in which deep truths are illuminated by the Spirit. I don't know about you, but when I try to read those turgid, high-falutin theology textbooks I usually end up getting migraines! Surely, such abstruse musings are not of the same Holy Spirit of God that beckons us to come as children, in lowliness and simplicity and sit at the feet of Jesus.

Visit [www.poonen.org/zac](http://www.poonen.org/zac) for more messages and information. May the Lord continue to bless our study!

Brother Paul

**Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2007/8/13 23:55**

Quote:

-----I hold the Holy Bible in more reverence than I ever did in my life.  
-----

Paul,

I really appreciate you bringing this series to light in this thread. As I listen each day, I feel brother Poonen has become almost a personal bible study companion these past couple of weeks! His heart offers a special blend of an absolutely uncompromising view of scripture with a hopeful and gentle expectation that his listeners can and will grow in the Lord. Cynicism towards weaker saints is a pitfall I fear most mature teachers are tempted to slip into all too often...but not so with

th this brother.

MC

**Re: - posted by tjservant (), on: 2007/8/14 1:08**

Wow. This teaching contains a lot of great points. I will only touch on a couple.

I really like what brother Poonen brought out about the ability the people had to discern, in regards to David. Even though he was being persecuted; they recognized the anointing and chose to follow him. This definitely goes against the norm today.

I also took note about David's willingness to listen and discuss things with his juniors. He was a wise man and understood that he could gain from those in lesser positions.

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/8/14 13:29**

yes this was a very good message, I like when Poonen he always or very often speak to "young" believers or people who are new in the faith and gives good advice and gives clear teaching on what one should "take heed" to. I think i never heard a message from Poonen that didnt convict me in some area of my walk, and greatly encouraged me to seek more after Jesus,

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/8/14 13:46**

Quote:

-----I also took note about David's willingness to listen and discuss things with his juniors.

-----

To be greatly used and anointed by God and then to daily confess that you are a "weak man" and have to condescend to your lowly students and hearers for advice and honest discussion takes a lot of flesh-mortifying. We think it's easy, but then we're not at such dizzying heights to loathe such a stoop. I can walk along 6 inch curb and not hate the idea of slipping, but if I'm up 10,000 feet and walking a rail...I utterly *detest* the idea of slipping. How quickly our pride can elevate us to dizzying heights when it is God that tells us to remain at worm level. How far does a dust-crawling worm have to fall if he loses his footing?

If we humble ourselves and die daily, God will exalt us in due time. And, paradoxically, I've found that the most blessed exaltation God can permit me to have is to allow me to see just how low and helpless I actually am. When this happens, then I am strong, I am safe, my conscience is pure.

Brother Paul

**Re: Nehemiah and Esther - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/8/16 21:36**

Saints,

Here are two more books in one session: (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2581>) Nehemiah and Esther

Brother Zac had many wonderful and thought-provoking points when he compared God's interaction with the Jews that chose to stay in comfortable Babylon with those that returned to their land to rebuild Jerusalem and face opposition. This teaching is stupendous and musn't be missed!

Brother Paul

[www.poonen.org/zac](http://www.poonen.org/zac)

**Re: - posted by tjservant (), on: 2007/8/17 20:39**

Quote:

-----This teaching is stupendous and musn't be missed!  
-----

IÂ'll second that. I was very moved by this teaching. I wiped tears more than once.

I couldn't help but think of the Revival Conference when he spoke of, "gathering those that have a burden."

I was not familiar with the book of Nehemiah before this teaching; it's now one of my favorites!

I will be listening to this one again.

Do yourself a favor and listen to this sermon.

**Re: The Fantastic Book of Job - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/8/20 22:56**

Saints,

We now begin the two-part series that make up the Book of Job.

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2582>) Job, part 1

This is incredible teaching, friends. The commentary on Job is one of the most insightful and penetrating looks into scripture we've encountered thus far. Poonen strikes gold over and over and over again. I am sitting here thinking of what I can add, and I am at a loss. There's just too much eclectic riches mentioned here to highlight any one outstanding feature. It's really too bad this is a two-part message; we have "Sermon of the Month" worthiness here.

Be ready to never read Job the same again.

Brother Paul

Visit [www.poonen.org/zac](http://www.poonen.org/zac) to freely download all of brother Zac's published books.

**Re: - posted by Josiah777 (), on: 2007/8/20 23:32**

Quote:

-----This is incredible teaching, friends. The commentary on Job is one of the most insightful and penetrating looks into scripture we've encountered thus far. Poonen strikes gold over and over and over again.  
-----

Paul,

I couldn't agree with you more! Of all of brother Zac's teachings I've listened to, this 2-parter on Job has impacted me up there in the top ten. As great as part 1 is, part 2 steps it up as he goes into the characteristics of the "preachers" - and in his characteristic way through the Holy Spirit you see your own face in each one and turn to the Lord for transformation. But that is next lesson :-)

It is hard to pick out what stands out in part 1 because it all stands out! The pathway of suffering is the pathway of blessing. So many characteristics of the godly man -- not a man pleaser, lonely, misunderstood. What is really humbling for any of us New Testament believers is what Zac pointed out is how godly he was without a Bible, a church, brothers to encourage him, the indwelling Holy Spirit, and so on.

I'd encourage anyone who has not yet listened to any of the teachings of the Through the Bible to at least listen to Job 1 and Job 2. You won't be disappointed that you did!

In Him,

Ken

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/8/21 0:01**

Quote:

-----at least listen to Job 1 and Job 2

-----

Yes! Anyone reading this, anyone who has followed this thread thus far is encouraged to listen to Job 1 and Job 2. The experience cannot be described. When Job's friends gathered around to commiserate his misfortune with secret delight, it struck me right through the heart. Because I know I am guilty of the same, and the Holy Spirit with no uncertainty pointed and said, "You are the man, Paul."

And then Zac, as if to echo my own conscience and drive it home, says: "Search your own heart and see if it isn't so..."

It is so.

**Re: Job, part 2 - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/8/23 21:34**

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2583>) Job, part 2

Dear saints, this is the second part to this most excellent commentary on the Book of Job. I would like to write much about it, and try to express just how much I have benefited from these gleanings, but I am too sick to do so. Please, lift my health up to God if you should get a chance or burden to do so. I've missed work these past two days, having caught the flu. The only reason I can get up and type is because I am so doped up on ibuprofen and decongestants. Praise God for my precious wife who just happens to be a nurse! I am most eternally thankful for all the good things that cometh down from my Father of Lights.

The second part of this study is superb and deserves nothing but the highest accolades. I think you'll find a little bit of everything in these two studies. May they be a blessing to your soul.

Brother Paul

Visit [www.poonen.org/zac](http://www.poonen.org/zac) to read books and articles and info on Zac Poonen.

**Job, part 2 - posted by crsschk (), on: 2007/8/23 21:53**

Quote:

-----Please, lift my health up to God if you should get a chance or burden to do so. I've missed work these past two days, having caught the flu.

-----

Most certainly will brother.

**Re: Psalms, part 1 - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/8/27 22:24**

Saints,

Here is (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2584>) Psalms, part 1, which covers the first two books. Almost every individual Psalm is mentioned, and Zac brings out their highlights. This is a profitable study, and I pray everyone here is blessed by these wonderful breathings!

Brother Paul

[www.poonen.org/zac](http://www.poonen.org/zac)

**Re: Psalms, part 2 - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/8/30 22:27**

Saints, here is (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2585>) Psalms, part 2, the second half of our studies on the entire book of Psalms. If you've heard the first part, you see that brother Poonen goes through the individual chapters, briefly, highlighting the essence of each Psalm in systematic fashion. This, again, is designed to whet our appetites for exploring the wonderful scriptures on our own, with the guiding light of the Holy Spirit.

I pray many of you are still hanging on, still digging, still taking the time to listen to these amazing commentaries. Those of us that persevere to the end will be rewarded, as diligent study always yields the most succulent fruit. The more precious the metal, the deeper we must dig. The deeper we must dig, the more expenditure in energy afforded. Let this be an encouragement to continue on, to continue desiring the sincere milk of the Word, to store up like the ant and not be a sluggard toward the things of God. Let us bring our mortal bodies into subjection and gird up the loins of our minds and hope to the end for the grace that is to be revealed.

How blessed we are to share something like this!

Brother Paul :-)

Brother Zac's website: [www.poonen.org/zac](http://www.poonen.org/zac)

**Re: Proverbs - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/9/3 21:35**

We begin the book of (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2586>) Proverbs.

After Psalm 119 this is perhaps my most favorite section in the Old Testament; certainly a book God has greatly taught me from, and I always approach it with great delight and sober concentration. I believe it would be a wonderful book to preach from, and perhaps one day the Lord will give me liberty to do so, methodically beginning with chapter 10 and going through all 21 chapters, verse by verse, proverb by proverb.

I think Poonen does a fabulous job, as far as an appetizer goes. In so many cases you just want him to expound more and more, but, alas, he's off to the next highlight before the last one really sunk in. It reminds me of a Brazilian steakhouse I went to with my mother and wife earlier this year. The roving waiters would come to your table with all these different cuts of beef and pork and veal and chicken on massive skewers. They did this all night long with different cuts of meat, all fresh from the grill. You take a sample of the succulent meat, but as soon as you begin chewing and savoring, a waiter is approaching your table with a new dish of something deliciously exotic. You're overwhelmed.

It's the same thing here, as you'll see once the commentary gets going. It is exceedingly rich and poignant. Proverbs is a book I try to read a portion of each day, along with Psalm 119. I want both of these to become part of my spiritual DNA, part of my body, the protein feeding my Inner Man. In the midst of our daily conversation, memorized and assimilated and meditated-upon Proverbs should surface automatically in our mind like white blood cells in our blood stream to deflect potential infections.

This is a wonderful commentary! Take the time to experience it, then read Proverbs on your own...and keep reading them. They are indispensable vitamins and minerals for spiritual digestion.

Brother Paul

[www.poonen.org/zac](http://www.poonen.org/zac)



**Re: Ecclesiastes - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/9/6 22:17**

The book of (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2587>) Ecclesiastes.

You're in for a treat with this one! Like Job and Esther, Poonen's anointed commentary on Ecclesiastes can revolutionize your understanding of these scriptures. If our minds and hearts are surrendered to God, there is great liberty for the Holy Spirit to do a transforming work in us. I won't divulge too much information here, only that from the very beginning of this message I was led down a path of new considerations and variety of thought. It will be quite a challenge to read some of the scriptures in this book the same way once you've heard this commentary.

There is tremendous wisdom on display here...and some good practicality included too! I'm getting the feeling that King Solomon is *not* one of brother Zac's more popular Bible characters. In any case, there are plenty of lessons to be learnt by virtue of Solomon's supernatural wisdom and disappointing lifestyle. A paradox indeed, and one of great worth for our meditation today. Only God could have orchestrated such an account to grace His Word. For such things I am thankful.

Brother Paul

[www.poonen.org/zac](http://www.poonen.org/zac)

**Re: Through the Entire Bible with Zac Poonen - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/9/7 14:47**

This sermon was wonderful, i find every one of these so eyeopening and there is always some new light on things, There are too much to comment on but i just think i get hungry to read the book bro Zac is speaking about every time i listen to one of these!

Zac Poonen is a fresh wind blowing in my face and in joy mixed with conviction i feel every time a greater need for Jesus !

aleluja!

Christian

**Re: Canticles - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/9/10 23:57**

Here's our next message: (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2588>) Song of Solomon

Quote:

-----i get hungry to read the book bro Zac is speaking about every time i listen to one of these!  
-----

Just wait till you hear this next commentary. It is too rich to comment on here. The way brother Zac expounds it, he makes it appear to be the richest, most dearest book in the Holy Bible. I often wonder if that is not the truth. It is truly to be regretted how people have perverted the rich beauty and symbolisms of this book. I've seen it disgustingly done here on S I by posters who have been dismissed shortly thereafter. Wicked powers love tampering with the Song of Songs and eroticizing it in a way that repels the Holy Spirit, and this is because Satan hates what it truly represents and allegorizes in the heavenlies.

The Puritans loved discoursing Song of Songs, because, when rightly interpreted (as brother Zac so poignantly demonstrates), a vast treasury of gems is suddenly opened up...a lush and rare storehouse, I believe, which is found nowhere else in the Bible. The "dark" bride and the King who chose her. Brethren, do hear this remarkable message with spiritual ears and be profoundly blessed.

Brother Paul

**Re: Isaiah, part 1 - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/9/13 22:40**

Saints,

We're starting the book of (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2589>) Isaiah

I listened to this message today in my car on the way to work. Poonen provides some valuable facts to help usher in the prophetic section of our studies, and I found myself blessed soaking it all in. Isaiah, as you all know, is an extraordinary book, even for Bible standards -- it is the Bible within the Bible. Zac highlights the wonderful scriptures, chapter by chapter, and gives a brief history the Old Testament prophets and their timelines.

As you can imagine, there is way too much here to digest in one sitting. It is a message that demands repeated listening with undivided attention. I am forever amazed at the anointing of God that graces his teaching, and I count myself fortunate to be able to share such godly instruction on a forum such as this.

The Lord bless you all in your pursuit of Him.

Brother Paul

[www.poonen.org/zac](http://www.poonen.org/zac) has plenty of free messages and books to download.

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/9/17 15:14**

it strikes me every one of these messages i listen to, the one thing is, how little i know! what a book.... this bible we have, its so amazing it is unreal, along with other "in-takes" of spiritual food lately i stand with my mouth open with wonder and astonishment what treasure we possess. And these messages is like sending brother Zac into a goldmine and out comes these bits of Gold, every single time, even as i have read this before....when hearing this its like i never have....

May good open my ears even more... aleluja!

Christian

PS: I am already looking forward to the next series after this one

:-P

**Re: Isaiah, part 2 - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/9/17 21:50**

Quote:

-----I am already looking forward to the next series after this one  
-----

Here it is, brother:

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2590>) Isaiah, part 2

This is the "New Testament" section of Isaiah. I pray it is just as much a blessing as the first part.

Brother Paul

[www.poonen.org/zac](http://www.poonen.org/zac)

**Re: Intermission - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/9/20 17:42**

Brethren,

I'm needing to take a brief intermission from these commentaries. A recent situation has necessitated this, and I plan on resuming our noble thread on the evening of Monday the 24th. Please be in prayer for me between now and then, should the Holy Spirit lay it upon your heart.

Yours,

Brother Paul

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/9/26 15:11**

Quote:

-----  
PaulWest wrote:

Quote:

-----I am already looking forward to the next series after this one  
-----

Here it is, brother:

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2590>) Isaiah, part 2

This is the "New Testament" section of Isaiah. I pray it is just as much a blessing as the first part.

Brother Paul

[www.poonen.org/zac](http://www.poonen.org/zac)  
-----

I thought personally this was one of the best messages, to single out something would be to "*make less of*" this message...it is so good, so much rich content... so many precious verses lifted out, encouragement, holiness, salvation, good for young believers this sermon, some really "key" things to have a reality in our walk with the Lord. One thing that stood out to me and as I thought was there all along is we need not fear anything!

I want to say even if you haven't listened to one single message here so far, take the time to listen to this, it is a real blessing.

Christian

**Re: Book of Daniel - posted by Josiah777 (), on: 2007/10/1 15:06**

Quote:

-----I'm needing to take a brief intermission from these commentaries. A recent situation has necessitated this, and I plan on resuming our noble thread on the evening of Monday the 24th. Please be in prayer for me between now and then, should the Holy Spirit lay it upon your heart.  
-----

Hey brother Paul - I hope you are alright, being buoyed by the Lord in whatever deep waters you may find yourself in.

Zac's teaching from Daniel was outstanding! He really hit the nail on the head about what it means to be a man of God, patterned after the lives of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshech and Abed-Nego. I really liked the points about humility in seeking out other brothers and what can do with not numbers but a few whose hearts are totally His and unafraid of compromising. This was a really rich word.

Ken

**Re: - posted by vasilef (), on: 2007/10/15 11:32**

Quote:

-----I want to say even if you haven't listened to one single message here so far, take the time to listen to this, it is a real blessing.  
-----

I won't get in line with you here very soon. I've listened only to Genesis and I really need to listen each message at least 3 times.

But I shall continue to listen from Isaiah to share with you anything that the Lord uses to touch my heart.

There is not such a long time since I've decided to leave the church I attended the last few years so these studies really feed me with strong spiritual food.

As brother Zac mentioned in the beginning, may God help me (and everyone of you) that by these studies I may know His will for my life and my character will be transformed according to His will.

**Re: - posted by Santana (), on: 2007/10/15 16:48**

I just started Genesis 'going through the bible with brother Zac' and WOW...this is really changing my study time.

I won't be able to catch up with you guys but man, Oh man, what a Blessing these studies are.

**Re: Jeremiah and Lamentations - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/11/25 21:26**

Dear brethren and saints of God,

I wanted to bring this thread up to the surface once again. It's been a few months since I last updated it, and after a much-needed sabbatical, I now intend to continue in our blessed studies of God's Word with brother Zac leading the way.

I don't think the posting of new messages will be like clockwork as it was before, but I will endeavor to update this as regularly as I can, weekly. We've left off with the conclusion of Isaiah, and now we head into (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2591>) Jeremiah and Lamentations.

I'll be listening to this message in my car this week, processing it slowly and prayerfully. I look forward to reading your impressions.

Brother Paul

**Re:, on: 2007/11/28 13:38**

Quote:

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PaulWest wrote:

Dear brethren and saints of God,

I wanted to bring this thread up to the surface once again. It's been a few months since I last updated it, and after a much-needed sabbatical, I now intend to continue in our blessed studies of God's Word with brother Zac leading the way.

-----

Thank you, brother Paul, for taking this back up.

Quote:

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I'll be listening to this message in my car this week, processing it slowly and prayerfully. I look forward to reading your impressions.

-----

I too am looking forward to the renewal of discussion on this series of messages.

~Joy

**Re: Judah is Worse - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/11/29 11:06**

Did you notice Zac comparing the kingdom-split of northern Israel from southern Judah with today's separate assemblies splitting from the mainline, historic Protestant denominations? I really liked that...and, how, in the end, these assemblies often up even *worse* than the denominations they originally split from. Pentecostalism from Methodism is one that comes to mind. It is certainly true that the kings from the northern kingdom were almost all totally wicked, beginning with Jeroboam and the calves. Israel was a black sky for Judah to peer into and see the brightness of God's ways to light the path. It's significant that Israel was subjugated before Judah, but as Judah didn't learn from the wickedness and idolatry of Israel, God in the end said Judah was worse.

This shows me that God holds me accountable to not repeat the mistakes of others, a greater expectation of me to walk in the light that is a lamp for my feet. The darker the sky, the brighter the stars will shine; the greater the folly of others as a black example, the more brilliant the light of truth should be revealed in our souls if we continue to abide in Christ. If I see all these big name televangelists being audited by the IRS for shady financial dealings, and I later become embroiled in the same, I believe God shall hold me to an even greater measure of accountability and severity for my sin at a personal level. The more light imparted, the greater measure of responsibility we are held to.

The solemn warning: Read the Word of God at your peril, as it giveth light and understanding to the simple. This light of God is wisdom and life to the soul, but it also carries with it an increased measure of severity to the heedless. It is a double-edged sword.

Brother Paul

**Re: Bumping - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/1/14 11:07**

I am bringing this back to the forefront again. We are about to go into the book Ezekiel - one of the hardest books for me to read in the Bible. We all have our weak points in God's Word, and OT Ezekiel and NT Revelation are undoubtedly mine. The second half of Daniel also ranks pretty high on that list!

I've spent a considerable amount of time this morning going over the old posts in this thread, reading them with a refreshed mind, and I see there is so much to be acquired here, so much wealth. It's like a spiritual cornucopia, a horn of plenty. I think it is time to continue onward and add to the already-abundant mass of wealth. If you are new to these forums, please consider joining this discussion! The books we have gone through thus far are found on the very first post of this thread.

Brother Paul

**Re: Ezekiel - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/1/15 22:17**

Back again with an invitation to listen to (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2592>) Ezekiel and post your thoughts.

This was a sobering message, a real eye-opener for anyone that may deem him or herself a prophet of God. A good portion of this message shows that God often lays heavy hands on His prophets, as is seen with Ezekiel. There are also some wonderful interpretations pertaining to the visions of the wheels, the four-faced creatures, the dry bones, the increasing waters. Ezekiel, admittedly, is a tough book for me to read all the way through with unbroken focus...but brother Zac once again shows himself the intrepid tour guide, pointing out the highlights with anointed clarity and explaining some of the most seemingly abstruse and esoteric sections of prophecy with a vivid yet simple understanding.

I pray this book blesses you. Do share your impressions!

Brother Paul

**Re: Eating the Scroll - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/1/16 10:44**

"Before God can speak *through* a man, He must speak *to* a man."

This, of course, is regarding Ezekiel "eating the scroll" before God sent him out to preach his message. A wonderful parallel is found in the New Testament that warns about those who preach against adultery and theft - do the same preacher also commit adultery and steal? Do they lust with their eyes and commit adultery in the heart? You who preach against stealing, do you gossip and "steal" from other men's reputations? Before God brings a man into his fiery ministry, he must first "eat the scroll" himself.

Poonen says there are multitudes of preachers who are preaching the scroll without first having eaten it. I certainly know how convenient it is to merely absorb doctrine and knowledge and let it out at an opportune time (i.e. behind the pulpit, or during a group Bible study, or here in SermonIndex forums to accomplish a "smart" post) but all this can really amount to is the regurgitation of undigested scroll. I believe undigested scroll goes to the head, whereas *digested* scroll enters the heart, and goes forth to render nutrients to the entire body.

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/1/18 10:23**

This was a good one, I found a theme of being "spirit lead" vs moved by our own power. Serving God by our own power. And also waiting upon God, and about people trying to drag us away from what God has called us to. Sometimes choosing God's "second" best. That we should stick with our calling.

also the part about "do not fear them"

the scroll eating part, brother Zac really put light on this, I find Poonen has a "wholeness" of the word. He can shine light upon a passage from so many different directions not only revealing some deep truth in that passage but at the same time making other parts of scripture clear as well.

and the part about spiritual harlots from a "system" of religion! that just went through me. How many "systems" do we have in Christendom?

this as all the other ones, deserves more than one listen, there really are so much and so many "gems" it is hard to digest it all.

**Re:, on: 2008/1/18 16:07**

This was indeed a rich message. A couple of things have already been mentioned that were very good. One was:

Quote:

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PaulWest:

Before God brings a man into his fiery ministry, he must first "eat the scroll" himself.

-----

That is an excellent lesson found in Ezekiel, and I'd never really thought of the eating of the scroll in that manner. But it is very true and evidenced in the lives of great men of God. Only a man truly broken can speak on brokenness in a way that will affect the hearers to seek God for brokenness in their own lives.

The part on being true to where God has called us to be was also very good,

Quote:

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Hmmhmm:

And also waiting upon God, and about people trying to drag us away from what God has called us to. Sometimes choosing God's "second" best. That

we should stick with our calling.  
-----

This ties in with Pastor Gareth Evan's message that he gave at the revival conference when he talked about the pastor in Haiti (I think) who was pastoring a church only because man had appointed him to that position, but it wasn't fulfilling the talents that God had given him in praise and worship. So the ministry of pastoring was a heavy burden for him; God hadn't designed this man to pastor, and he found it difficult to carry a burden that was placed upon him by man and not God.

The third thing that really struck me about this message was the part on deception. Brother Zac said that when we reject the truth that God brings into our lives we then become deceived. It is so dangerous to quench the voice of the Holy Spirit when He is telling us the truth about ourselves. It made me think of first myself, but also the Church here in America. For years and years godly men have risen up and declared the true state of the church; but the majority of Christianity here has rejected that and stubbornly pursued the path of a humanized Christianity. And now, rank deception is spread all throughout the church, and it is so tragic, but it goes back to a rejection of the truth of God's Word.

Oh, may God deepen within us a sensitivity to the truth that He gives us, and may we respond in obedience to His truth lest we become deceived and become a grief to His holy Name!

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/1/18 16:35**

Quote:  
-----Oh, may God deepen within us a sensitivity to the truth that He gives us, and may we respond in obedience to His truth lest we become deceived and become a grief to His holy Name!  
-----

Pure words, sister. I recall Arthur Katz saying something along the lines of this in one of his messages. That each time we compromise in any way to the pure calling of God, to the voice of the Spirit, and we willfully deafen our ears to reveal the truth, the invariable result is a deadness and hardening to further truth. We pay the price, and don't even realize it.

Quote:  
-----rank deception is spread all throughout the church, and it is so tragic, but it goes back to a rejection of the truth of God's Word.  
-----

Yes, I think that if we were to look closely at any measure of deception in the church, we would discover a paper trail leading back to a fundamental rejection of God's Word in some specific area.

**Re: Daniel - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/3/18 20:40**

Saints,

An invitation to continue on with (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2593>) Daniel and hear what the Spirit would say to us. I pray a fruitful discussion will result, as this is such an exceedingly rich book. Note, also, that Zac Poonen has a separate, more detailed teaching series on Daniel where he actually goes through the entire book, chapter by chapter. I plan on listening to this throughout the week.

Brother Paul

Re:, on: 2008/3/27 19:09

This is an excellent message on the book of Daniel. Here were a few thoughts I had as well as quotes from the message that struck me as being particularly good.

“The building of a pure church for God in any place always begin with at least one man who has a burden for prayer and who carries that burden for God, Lord, I want a pure church in this town for you...”

“The building of a church that happens by human wisdom, with human power, for man’s glory, whatever the doctrine, it is Babylon. The true work of God is done in accordance to God’s plans, as a result of waiting on God in prayer and it is done in the power of the Holy Spirit, with supernatural help from above...and it is done 100 percent for the glory of God.”

This is really good insight that brother Zac has about the starting of churches. It's so important that a church has a good foundation and wasn't formed out of wrong motives, rebellion against another church, or for the benefit of man.

Brother Zac made an excellent point about the benefit of not always having a godly man to lean on, and how we really grow during those times when we have to go to God and not man. Then I thought, with all the spiritual wealth we have in western Christianity (SI for example), it is so important not to replace our own studying in the Word for the teaching or preaching of godly men.

I really liked the part about Shadrach, Meshech, and Abednego. It was the ropes that were burned when the three men were put into the fire.

“If a fire has succeeded in freeing you from attachment to earthly things, most of us are like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego tied with ropes to earthly things and then God puts us into a fire, some difficult trial, and the attachment to earthly things goes, the ropes are burned and we come out free. Thank God for the fires, thank God for the trials.”

Thanks for bringing this series to the surface again, brother Paul. I hope to see more discussion about these messages that are full of wonderful insights into the passages studied.

:-)

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/4/26 15:24

Quote:

PaulWest wrote:  
Saints,

An invitation to continue on with (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid2593>) Daniel and hear what the Spirit would say to us. I pray a fruitful discussion will result, as this is such an exceedingly rich book. Note, also, that Zac Poonen has a separate, more detailed teaching series on Daniel where he actually goes through the entire book, chapter by chapter. I plan on listening to this throughout the week.

Brother Paul

I have been very blessed by this teaching by brother Zac. I HIGHLY recommend everyone to bite into the series in more depth of the book of Daniel.

I will just write some notes i took from these teachings.

The two great themes in the book of Daniel

### 1. Sovereignty of God

we see time and time again how God is in control of all things. Some examples are in 1:2 we see God gave juda into the Babylonian king. This was Gods judgment against Israel and we see God controls everything according to his will.



also we see 1:9 God had brought Daniel into favor with the prince of the eunuchs. So we don't need to work on bringing the "church" or the faith or ourselves in favor of politicians or so. God does this to them that follow him wholeheartedly.

## 2. Overcoming/overcomers

We see a man, Daniel overcoming in Babylon, it is possible to live in the middle of a backslidden and idol worshipping generation and still overcome and live for God in the midst of Babylon.

We see Daniel refusing to compromise the Word of God and stand fast.

Verse 8 is a key verse. If Daniel had not done this, had this attitude the rest of the book had never taken place. We read Daniel "purposed in his heart not to defile himself". He refused to compromise or "cut corners". He wanted to obey the "small" commandments in God's law. So we see the importance to obey all of scripture.

Daniel refused to eat the meat and drink the wine.

This shows he was a man of scripture, he knew them very well, and not only the "big" commandments but the small ones as well.

It's interesting we see Daniel tested in the area of food. So we see the first temptation to Eve was with eating, and also with Jesus in the desert. So we see that an overcomer must be a man of diligent study in the scriptures, and a master over his body and desires. And not a slave to food, and other desires. An overcomer must be disciplined in all these "fleshly desires".

Also the history to why Israel was sent to Babylon is interesting.

some of the reasons why God judged his chosen people

1. The priest was unfaithful, and when the priest and leaders are unfaithful the people will be also. They became like the heathen 2 Chr 36:5

2. Eze 8:8-16 shows there was much idolatry in the land and acceptance of false gods

3. Manasse's sins 2 Chr 33:16-

4. Did not keep the seven year sabbath.

5. For 115 years God spoke through the prophets, and they listened not to them. Instead they mocked God's messengers. Therefore God judged them. Jeremiah preached one message for 40 years, it was a hard message but they still did not listen. In Jer 5:1 we read if God had found one! righteous man who did justice and did right. Israel would never have gone to Babylon.

But there was none among God's children. No not one. So we see what difference one man can do to a nation.

We also see that the super nation of the time being Babylon, as let's say America today. It took Daniel and three wholehearted friends to change and impact the entire nation. We are today 100,000 Christians and accomplish nothing or very little in our nations, the only reason is we are not wholehearted. This is a lesson we can learn from the first chapter in Daniel.

**Re: Through the Entire Bible with Zac Poonen - posted by mackaymarsh, on: 2008/8/30 14:53**

I just finished with the Old Testament (except Psalms - Ecclesiastes) and just starting with Matthew in New Testament. I'll go back and pick up those four in the OT later. I cannot thank Zac Poonen enough for doing this. I have been amazed at his points he continually brings out that are so relevant today. I have listened to many 3 or 4 or more times to glean as much understanding as I can. To say I have been challenged and changed would be an understatement.

After each lesson, I thought he must have done this over a long period of time with much study time in between. Then I read in his book, *"The Day Of Small Beginnings"* that he did all seventy lessons in 14 days taking 5 books each day, one hour per book. Think about it, that is one incredible feat. The bar has been raised.

I encourage all to take the time to go through this life changing series. You will not be sorry.

I would also recommend the series *"From Babylon to Jerusalem."* I have listened to these over and over; so much life.

Wayne