

July 27, 2003

**Week Thirty-eight: "A Biblical Worldview"**

**Day One: Small Group Guide**

**Read: Daniel 10 (p. 974)**

**Read: Commentary (p. 975)**

**Reflect:** Are you aware that our media assumes a worldview? Just from what is NOT mentioned in most TV programs, where would you assume the worldview of TV places God? Or Satan?

**Dig:** Who is the person described in verses 4-6?

See Revelation 1:12-18 (p. 1484) for a cross-reference.

Carefully note what was going on "behind the scenes" in verses 12-14.

How does Ephesians 6:12 (p. 1363) help you understand the biblical worldview?

Take a look at the illustrations on pp. 1549-1552 to help you understand various worldviews.

**Apply:** Ask God to re-align your worldview so that you are not ignorant of the forces that are unseen. Then put on your armor (Ephesians 6:10-18 p. 1363) so that you can fight the fight today!

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**Day Two: "The Kingdom of God"**

**Read: Acts 28:31 (p. 1276)**

**Read: Commentary (p. 1275)**

**Reflect:** What images comes to mind when you hear the word "kingdom"? Is God the King of the earth?

**Dig:** What does the context teach you about the kingdom of God? for example, what does the quote from Isaiah 6:9-10 (verses 26-27 of Acts 28) tell you about who can see and hear this kingdom?

Also, Paul preaches about two things, according to this verse. Is there any difference between these two things? Why or why not?

How are the two kingdoms (of God and Satan) related?

See John 16:11 (p. 1223)

See I John 3:8 (p. 1468)

See Colossians 2:15 (p. 1376)

**Apply:** Pray that your heart would not become callous. Ask God to reveal his kingdom to you so that you see it and hear of it.

Use the "Daily Prayer and Declaration" on page 1523 to begin your day.

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### **Day Three: "The Presence of the Kingdom of God"**

**Read: Matthew 13 (p. 1094)**

**Read: Commentary (p. 1095)**

**Reflect:** Do you "see" God's kingdom in everyday life? Where? In what people? In which actions?

**Dig:** Taking a look at the parable of the sower (verses 1-23), what are the reasons, in each of the first three soils, that the seed did not take root?

Which soil best represents your weakness?

Notice that most of these parables begin with the phrase "the kingdom of heaven is like..."

Does Jesus mean "now" or "later" when he speaks this way? (In other words, what does this phrase "kingdom of heaven") refer to in terms of time: present or future?

What is your favorite parable of this chapter? Why?

**Apply:** Read verse 58 of this chapter and then seek God to increase your faith and open your eyes to see his miracles.

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### **Day Four: "The Establishment of God's Future Reign"**

**Read: Zechariah 14:9 (p. 1063)**

**Read: Commentary (p. 1064)**

**Reflect:** What do you imagine heaven to be like? What is your favorite image of heaven (grand meal, streets of gold, etc.)?

**Dig:** What part of this prophecy is not yet accomplished?

Notice the verses that precede our text (verses 6-7). What do they tell you about this kingdom?

Look up Revelation 22:1-5 (p. 1503). What similarities do you see here with the description given in Zechariah?

Read the "Freedom Point" on page 1065). What does that add to your understanding of the text and its meaning for us today?

**Apply:** considering the "Freedom Point" on page 1065, what new step is God calling you to make in terms of purity and holiness to anticipate his kingdom's coming in fullness?

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### **Day Five: "Good Versus Evil"**

**Read: Esther 3 (p. 543)**

**Read: Commentary (p. 544)**

**Reflect:** Do you sense a battle for your soul? When do you sense this battle? Is it more than a battle in your own conscience? What evidence do you have that there is a battle going on?

**Dig:** Where in this passage do you see God behind the scenes?

Where in this passage can you see Satan behind the scenes?

How does God frustrate Satan's designs?

Where is this battle first expressed in seed form? See Genesis 3:15 (p. 8) for a biblical answer to this question.

**Apply:** Again, as you begin this day, turn to Ephesians 6:13-17 (p. 1363) and prayerfully put on each part of the armor of God so that you can win the battles that come your way today.