**Session 3**

***Scripture Memory Challenge***

**25-26 September 2023**

**The Voice of the Lord –** Last week we read about all the awesome and terrifying things that surrounded God’s coming down to Mt. Sinai to speak to His people. There were many different ways that God’s power and authority were revealed in that encounter. Then in Brenda’s *Foundations* class, she, too, mentioned the awesome power of God’s voice, that He could bring the entire universe and all it contains into existence by merely (!) saying, “Let there BE\_\_\_!” Talk about a “Big Bang”! Psalm 29 is another place where scripture mentions the power of God’s voice, and I thought it would be good to read through that Psalm and just reflect again how awesome our God is.

***Psalm 29***

*1Ascribe\* to Yahweh, you heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
2Ascribe to Yahweh the glory due His name;
worship Yahweh
in the splendor of His holiness.*

*\* Ascribe* means “to attribute to someone,” i.e. to acknowledge that these qualities belong to God. It is, in essence, giving God His due.

*3The voice of the Lord is above the waters.
The God of glory thunders—
the Lord, above vast waters,
4the voice of the Lord in power,
the voice of the Lord in splendor.
5The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
the Lord shatters the cedars of Lebanon.
6He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
7The voice of the Lord flashes flames of fire.
8The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
9The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth
and strips the woodlands bare.*

*In His temple all cry, “Glory!”*

*10The Lord sat enthroned at the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned, King forever.
11The Lord gives His people strength;
the Lord blesses His people with peace.*

(Holman Christian Standard version)

**Practicing the Ten Commandments with Hand Motions –** Note that the characteristics of God corresponding to each commandment are highlighted on page 1 of your notes for Jen Wilkin’s lecture.

**Learning from Noah’s Example –** Look at 1 Peter 3:18-20 at the top of page 4 on the printout. Something struck me a few weeks ago as I was preparing the printout. I had never before considered the fact that God didn’t just speak the ark into existence in order to rescue Noah and his family. Instead, He had them do the actual work of building that huge ship. They spent over 100 years gathering lumber, cutting it, fitting the hull together, covering it with tar or some other substance to make it waterproof, etc. They also spent time and effort in collecting food and other supplies needed to live for a year or so on this ship they were building. In other words, they invested a lot of *work* into this project. Noah and his family were rescued, in part, because they had prepared their own “liferaft”. We do see God doing things that only He could do: giving Noah the exact plans for how to build the ship, bringing all the animals to Noah when it was time for them to start going onto the ark, shutting Noah’s family securely inside on the day they themselves entered the ship and God sent the Flood. But Noah and his family had to put in the work in order to be rescued.

**Similarly, our memory verses aren’t going to just memorize themselves.** *We have to put in a lot of initial work* (hopefully it won’t take *us* over 100 years!) so that the verses will be securely stored in the warehouse of our minds, ready for the Holy Spirit to recall them to us when we need them.

**VerseLocker Online App –** But once we have put in the initial work to gain some familiarity with our new verses, there are a variety of things we can do to practice them. One thing that may prove helpful to you is the VerseLocker app, which is totally free and offers several activities to review verses. It is found online at:

**https://scripturememory.com/verselocker/allverses**

Today we are going to do one of the activities together in class, using the first initials of each word as a memory prompt.

**What If I Can’t Get Online? –** You can still do this “first initial exercise” by writing all the initials for one of your verses or passages in order on a sheet of paper. Then test yourself to see if you can tell what each initial stands for. Use the sheet each day until you can say the verse with confidence.

**Parallels from 1 Peter –** There are no new ones this week. You should have three phrases from 1 Peter 2:9 highlighted in blue on page 2 of the text printout (“a royal priesthood…for his own possession.”) In the space above those phrases you can write, “See Exodus 19:5,6”