

BIBLE READING LIST FOR APRIL 24-30

<p><u>April 24</u> I Samuel 25; Psalms 17, 35</p>	<p>As we get to the end of this week's reading, we begin to see the first instances of events that are recorded both in Samuel and Chronicles. Both I Samuel 31 and I Chronicles 10 deal with the death of Saul in battle with the Philistines. As you read the two chapters, you find great similarities and sometimes a verbatim repetition. But often details will be added or left out in the second telling of the account. Since God is said to have inspired all the Bible, do these differences cast doubt on the inspiration of the Bible?</p>
<p><u>April 25</u> I Chronicles 9; I Samuel 26; Psalms 54, 63</p>	<p>First, humanly speaking, the accounts written in the four Books of Samuel and Kings were recorded contemporaneously with the events. Often prophets or scribes who were there were giving eyewitness accounts (as God inspired them to write). The two Books of the Chronicles were written after Israel returned from their exile in Babylon, so the early events were being recounted after about four centuries. That would be like us telling something that occurred in the days of William Shakespeare. We are all aware of how our language has changed when we read an original work of Shakespeare. The Hebrew language had changed over the centuries too, and that accounts for difference in spellings, especially in names. For instance, the name we now commonly write as Jeffrey used to be written Geoffrey. When we take the Hebrew meaning of the names, they are generally identical, just spelled in the new way.</p>
<p><u>April 26</u> I Samuel 27-28; Psalm 18</p>	<p>Second, the differences in details in no way shows that the Bible is a human work without divine oversight. If men were just copying the accounts from before, they would have written the same things as the original writers. The differences in the accounts often provide added information or stress on another side of the story. It often seems that the accounts in the Chronicles are written from the way God sees things while the earlier accounts are written from the way man saw them. An example in this week's reading: I Samuel 31 tells how Saul died, what the Philistines did with the body, and how the men from Jabesh-Gilead brought the body back. But in I Chronicles 10, it not only tells all these facts about <u>how</u> Saul died but adds the information about <u>why</u> he died in verses 13 and 14.</p>
<p><u>April 27</u> I Samuel 29-30; Psalms 121, 123-125, 128-130</p>	<p>In reading through the parallel accounts in the coming weeks, notice the differences and ask God what He might be trying to relay by them.</p>
<p><u>April 28</u> I Samuel 31; Psalms 6, 8-10, 14, 16, 19</p>	<p></p>
<p><u>April 29</u> I Chronicles 10; Psalms 21, 43-45, 49</p>	<p></p>
<p><u>April 30</u> II Samuel 1; Psalms 73, 77, 84-85, 87</p>	<p></p>